

ISLAND OF HAWAI'I - KĪLAUEA QUICK FACTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR A STATE OR ISLAND MAP

www.hawaiiourismauthority.org/news/special-alert

KĪLAUEA VOLCANO

- An active shield volcano, erupting nearly consistently for the past 35 years (since January 1983).
- 90 per cent of the volcano's surface is covered by lava flows younger than 1,000 years.
- About 20 per cent of those flows are less than 200 years old.
- The summit, located within Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is home to Halema'uma'u Crater. Halema'uma'u filled with magma in 2008, its glow a popular visitor attraction for 10 years (the magma retreated this year).
- The island of Hawai'i is the youngest and largest (4,028 square miles) in the Hawaiian Island chain and still growing!

CAN I VISIT THE ISLAND OF HAWAI'I?

- All airports and flights are operational.
- Local businesses and tour companies, outside of the active areas (summit and lower east rift zone/Lower Puna) are open.
- 2/3 of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is closed, the Kahuku Unit remains open.
- Park rangers are available at the Mokupāpapa Discovery Center in Downtown Hilo.
- No other island in the Hawaiian Islands is affected.

IS LAVA EVERYWHERE?

- The total lava flow area is less than 10-square miles, about 0.2% of the entire island.
- In early May 2018, new fissure eruptions began in the Lower East Rift Zone (LERZ) of Kīlauea Volcano.
- The LERZ fissures are producing lava flows which are locally destructive, however, the flows and fissures themselves, are not directly affecting any other part of the island or State.
- At Kīlauea's summit, the level of the lava lake within Halema'uma'u Crater has dropped. Intermittent ash emissions are occurring.

SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT VOG OR LAZE?

- Consider Kīlauea has been erupting for 35+ years - with ocean entries on several occasions. Vog, is therefore, not something new. However, with the current increased activity, may be more pronounced than usual depending on wind strength and direction.
- **VOG:** also known as volcano smog, reaches different areas of the island depending on wind direction and speed.
- **LAZE:** a byproduct of lava-ocean interaction; forms as hot lava boils seawater to dryness. This process results in a localized white plume of laze. Laze is dangerous at the site; however it does not travel around the island or float to other areas.
- **SO₂:** sulfur dioxide occurs in concentration near active lava flows. Anyone working near the vents (e.g. scientists) must wear gas masks to protect themselves from the concentrated fumes.
- **ASH:** generated by steam- and/or gas-induced eruptions as magma drops and interacts with the water table.
- Persons with compromised respiratory disorders or cardiovascular disease can learn about the possible health impacts and who is most likely to be affected at: <https://vog.ivhnh.org/health-effects-vog>.
- Interagency Vog Information Dashboard: <http://www.ivhnh.org/vog>
 - ▶ [EPA Air Monitoring Viewer](#)
 - ▶ [Current conditions](#) (statewide)
 - ▶ [Vog forecasts](#)
 - ▶ [Ashfall forecast](#) (model)

HOW CAN I SEE THE LAVA?

- **BY LAND** - No Access. Road blocks are in effect for everyone's safety. Violators risk fines and arrests. Please respect the residents of the Lower Puna area who are going through difficult times.

As no one can guarantee what the lava will be doing at any given moment (e.g. it could stop in an hour, a day, a month, a year, etc.), it is best to contact your preferred activity partner directly to check availability, pricing, cancellation policies, etc.

- **BY AIR** - please check with helicopter and air tour companies for availability and more information. FAA flight restrictions are currently in place. Absolutely no drones are allowed. A few options can be found [here](#).
- **BY SEA** - there are four permitted / Coast Guard approved operators; but not all are in operation at this time. Please contact them directly.
 - ▶ Lava Ocean Tours: www.seelava.com 808-966-4200
 - ▶ Moku Nui Lava Tour: www.mnlavatour.com 808-938-1493
 - ▶ Kalapana Cultural Tours: www.kalapana-cultural-tours.com 808-345-4964
 - ▶ Hawaiian Lava Boat Tours: www.hawaiianlavaboattours.com 808-640-0806