

ISLAND OF HAWAII - KĪLAUEA QUICK FACTS

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 Hawaii 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 late April 2018).
- The island of Hawaii is the youngest and largest (4,028 square miles in the Hawaiian Island chain and still growing).

CAN I VISIT THE ISLAND OF HAWAII?

- 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 Hawaii 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 begin 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 lake within Halema'uma'u Crater has dropped. Intermittent ash emissions are occurring.

SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT VOG OR LAZE?

- Kīlauea has been erupting for 35+ years. While vog is not new to residents and some visitors, with the current increased volcanic activity, it may be more pronounced. The level of vog also depends on wind strength and direction.

VOG: also known as volcanic 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>.

[EPA Air Monitoring Viewer](#)

[Current Conditions](#) (statewide)

[Vog Forecast](#)

[Ashfall Forecast](#) (model)

HOW CAN I SEE THE LAVA?

- No one can guarantee what the lava will be doing at any given moment. The eruption could stop abruptly or go on for months. It is best to contact an activity provider directly to check on current conditions, availability, pricing, cancellation policies, etc.

BY LAND: Currently 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.

BY AIR: Please check with air tour companies for more information. A few options can be found [here](#). FAA flight restrictions are currently in place. NO DRONES ARE ALLOWED.

BY SEA: There are four Coast Guard-approved and permitted boat operators. Please contact them directly or visit their websites for more information.

Lava Ocean Tours: www.seelava.com 808-966-4200

Moku Nui Lava Tours: www.mnlavatour.com 808-938-1493

Kalapana Cultural Tours: www.kalapanaculturaltours.com 808-345-4964

Hawaiian Lava Boat Tours: www.hawaiianlavaboattours.com 808-640-0806

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR A STATE OR ISLAND MAP, VISIT www.hawaiiourismauthority.org/news/alerts