



Things You Should Know

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park offers adventurous bicyclists dramatic views of volcanic landscapes and lush rainforests. Pedal through deserts, rainforests, past craters and rift zones. Biking in the park provides exciting opportunities for everyone—old or young—experienced or novice. Protect the fragile lava features, rare plants, and unique culturally significant archeological sites by riding only on designated bike routes.

Plan Ahead

Planning is important to ensure a safe and enjoyable bicycle trip. Use your official park map in addition to this guide to help plan your trip. Stop at the Kīlauea Visitor Center for current road, weather, and eruption updates. Note that traffic is often heaviest between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Supplies

The nearest bike shops are located in Hilo, 30 miles (50 km) from the park. Secondary bike supplies, including food and snacks, can be found at the Volcano House Hotel and in Volcano Village, 1.8 miles (3 km) from the park entrance. Drinking water and restrooms can be found at various locations throughout the park. Check your official park brochure for locations.

Fees and Permits

Park entrance fees are \$5 per bicyclist or \$10 per vehicle and valid for seven days. Groups participating in commercial bike activities require a Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) before doing business in the park. Contact 985-6027 for more information on commercial use authorization permits.

Overnight Camping

Camping at either Nāmakaniipaio or Kulanaokuaiki campgrounds is on a first-come basis. For additional water and camp fire information contact (808) 985-6011 or inquire at the visitor center.

Weather

Expect extremely varied weather in the park—everything from cold, rainy, and vuggy to hot, windy, and sunny. Depending on what part of the park you access, the weather will often vary greatly throughout your ride. Come prepared.

Volcanic Gasses

Be aware of volcanic air pollution (VOG) and elevated levels of sulfur dioxide gas fumes in the park. Check at Kīlauea Visitor Center for current closures, conditions, and hazards as they are important for a safe trip. People with heart or breathing problems, pregnant women, and young children and infants should avoid these fumes.



Health and Safety Concerns

Know your biking abilities before beginning any trip in the park. In some areas, you will climb as much as 2,000 feet in 6 miles (600 m in 10 km).

- **Stay on designated bike routes and beware of steam vents, earth cracks, and cliffs.** Serious injury or even death could occur.
- **Be alert—narrow winding roads limit visibility and pose a hazard to bicyclists.** Always wear a bicycle helmet and reflective clothing. Be aware of oncoming traffic.
- **Take and drink plenty of water.**
- **Avoid overexposure to the intense sun.** Wear sunglasses, sunscreen, and protective clothing.
- **Carry spare equipment for minor repairs as many of the park's bike routes are in remote areas.**
- **Carry a cellular phone and dial 911 for emergencies.** Please note that service is often spotty or not available in many areas of the park.
- **Stop at all stop signs and follow all speed limits when traveling throughout the park.**
- **Watch out for and yield to nēnē (Hawaiian geese).** It is a violation of federal law to approach or harm these endangered species. Do not feed or leave food scraps for animals to forage.
- **Always ride single file on the right side of the road.** Don't weave in and out of the roadway. Adjust your spacing to allow all vehicles, including large passenger busses, to pass safely.
- **Bike out what you bike in—Leave No Trace.**
- **Dogs are not allowed on non-paved trails.**
- **Do not pick plants or flowers in the Park.**

Easy to Moderate Rides

Please Note: The black numbered circles refer to the trailhead locations indicated on the included map.

1 Kīlauea Visitor Center to Waldron Ledge

Ride along a stretch of the old Crater Rim Drive closed in 1983 due to a damaging 6.7 magnitude earthquake. Notice the many cracks in the road along with the ripped and tilted sections. Look and listen for the red 'apapane birds flying above the caldera rim and peer into the sacred home of Pelehonuamea (Pele).

- **Distance:** 1 mi / 1.6 km one way

Park in Kīlauea Visitor Center's parking lot. Bike directly across Crater Rim Drive along a road marked "service vehicles." Proceed through a stone wall gap and continue along the Earthquake Trail to Crater Rim Drive.

2 Kīlauea Visitor Center to Jaggar Museum

Experience a steamy lava landscape with breathtaking views into the active Kīlauea Caldera and Halema'uma'u Crater; the "heart" of Kīlauea volcano. Please respect this sacred landscape as it is considered by native Hawaiians to be the home of Pelehonuamea (Pele).

- **Distance:** 2.5 mi / 4.0 km one way from Kīlauea Visitor Center
1.2 mi / 1.9 km on way from Kīlauea Military Camp

Park at either Kīlauea Visitor Center or Kīlauea Military Camp (KMC), near the flag pole, to start this ride. From the visitor center, bike Crater Rim Drive to KMC. Once at KMC, cross Crater Rim Drive to connect to the paved section of Crater Rim Trail heading westward to Jaggar Museum.



Mauna Loa Road

Discover the varied mountainous environments of Mauna Loa volcano. Looming over Kīlauea at a wondrous 13,677 ft (4.2 km), biking Mauna Loa volcano provides for a very different experience. Each short ride (3a-3d) will meander you through grasslands, shady dense koa groves, or open lava fields. Stop at or call the Kīlauea Visitor Center, 808 985-6017, to check on road status as this road is seasonally closed.



3a Mauna Loa Corral

- **Distance:** 1.5 mi / 2.4 km one way

Begin this ride at the Kīpukapuulu picnic area. This maintained, fairly flat, grassy truck trail will take you to the tree molds area. Tree molds are depressions where trees once stood prior to being surrounded by lava and burning away. You can return to your vehicle via the same route or along the Mauna Loa Road.

3b Mauna Loa Spur Road

- **Distance:** 0.8 mi / 1.3 km one way

This quaint dirt and rock trail starts at a boulder-lined pullout 4 miles (7 km) from Highway 11. Enjoy this short down and back ride.

3c Mauna Loa Six Tanks Road

- **Distance:** 0.3 mi / 1 km one way

This difficult-to-find road begins 0.4 mi (0.7 km) above the spur road on the right. It is often overgrown with thick grass making biking difficult.

3d Mauna Loa Powerline Road

- **Distance:** 1.5 mi / 2.4 km one way

Prepare for a technical, but fun downhill ride. Start this route at the second cattle guard (5.8 mi, 9 km from Highway 11). The north spur is 0.25 mi (0.4 km) while the south spur is 1.5 mi (2.4 km) long. Both routes traverse a rough, bumpy road that requires your full attention.

Please Note: The black numbered circles refer to the trailhead locations indicated on the included map.

4 Escape Road to Mauna Ulu

This grassy, sometimes rough and slippery, truck trail descends through a dense rain forest, across a 1973 lava flow to the Mauna Ulu parking lot. Start either at the Thurston Lava Tube or one mile east of the park entrance on Highway 11, opposite Old Volcano Road.

Distance: 12.5 mi / 20 km loop

Note: Close the gate near the Thurston Lava Tube. It is used to keep pigs from entering and damaging the rain forest. Rain gear is highly recommended.



5 Overlook Hilina Pali

This narrow one-lane paved road winds over fault scarps, lava flows, and through lowland 'ōhi'a woodlands to the Hilina Pali Overlook. Explore a much drier and hotter portion of the park. Enjoy this seemingly desert like landscape. Stop and enjoy the Kulanaokuaiki campground along the way.

Distance: 18 mi / 29 km loop

Start this ride either at the beginning of the Hilina Pali road or at the campground 4 miles down the road (if you are interested in a shorter ride). There is a shelter, for resting, and a restroom at the overlook. The campground provides restrooms and picnic tables. There are no food and water services along this road. Check with rangers first—this road is sometimes closed due to high fire danger.



6 Ride the Rim

Bike the open sections of Crater Rim Drive. Bike through lush rain forest, to the Jaggar Museum, or to the Devastation Trail parking area all the while stopping along the way for short walks or incredible views of Kīlauea Caldera and Mauna Loa Volcano.

Distance: 11 mi / 17.6 km loop

Visitor Alert: Due to high amounts of dangerous sulfur dioxide gas, Crater Rim Drive and Trail are closed from Jaggar Museum to the Chain of Craters Road intersection.

Prepare for variable weather conditions. The best time to make this ride is early morning or late afternoon when vehicular traffic is light.

7 Summit to Sea

Descend 3,700 ft (1.1 km) from the summit of Kīlauea to the sea where the road was covered by 2003 lava flows. Stop at the many overlooks along the way. Be aware of gusty winds and volcanic air pollution along sections of the Chain of Craters Road. The ascent may be challenging; consider arranging for transportation part way up the hillside.

Distance: 36 mi / 58 km round trip

Prepare for a long day—bring water and food. Consult your park map for restrooms, overlooks, and short walks along this roadway. Reflective vests and helmets are highly recommended as roadways are often busy.

Visitor Alert: During trade wind conditions, high amounts of dangerous sulfur dioxide gas may cross sections of this road.



8 Ascend Mauna Loa Volcano

Ascend 2,600 ft (0.8 km) up the slopes of Mauna Loa Volcano along a historic roadway through koa woodlands and over prehistoric lava flows. Start this bike ride by parking at Kīpukapuauulu, 1.3 miles (2.1 km) up the Mauna Loa Road. Check with rangers first—this road is sometimes closed due to high fire danger. Watch your speed as you descend this narrow, curvy road as cars often cut blind corners.

Distance: 11.5 mi / 18.5 km loop

Prepare for a steep ascent and descent with variable weather. Reflective vests are recommended as roadways are narrow. A gated road spur on Crater Rim Drive just after Kīlauea Military Camp provides a shortcut to the Mauna Loa Road. Consult your park map for restroom locations.

