

Liberty Call

THE BIG ISLAND

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MWR OUTDOOR RECREATION

Right: At the end of the Chain of Craters Road in the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, hikers begin their adventure to the lava flows. The road soon disappears as it has been covered by older lava flows.

Far Right: North of Hilo, Akaka Falls tumbles 420 feet to the valley below.

Below: The unique Green Sand Beach owes its name and color to the semiprecious gem called Olivine.

Bottom: Hawaii's highest point, the summit of Mauna Kea at 13,796 feet is a perfect location to observe the heavens above.



PARADISE ON EARTH

The Hawaiian Islands are a heavenly paradise living in the dreams of countless travelers from all corners of the globe, and rightly so. These precious gems of the Pacific offer glorious weather year round, spectacular scenery and outdoor recreation opportunities beyond compare.

Each island is a world within itself and to visit just one island would not do justice to the string of pearls we call Hawaii. If there were one exception to this premise, it would be Hawaii's youngest island, the Big Island.

The Big Island, which is the size of Connecticut, has it all. Nowhere else on this planet is there such diversity. There are pristine rain forests, lava deserts, world-class beaches, snow-covered mountains, an active volcano, beautiful sunsets and just about every activity you can think of. If you want your bang for buck, then the baby of the family we call the Big Island is your paradise on earth.

The outdoor recreation programs available to the community at Pearl Harbor include trips to the Big Island and we certainly encourage you to join us. We know, of course, that there are many of

you that for whatever reason cannot.

So, after much consideration of the many hours spent planning, preparing and implementing our Big Island Adventures, we have now fine tuned our programming priorities and decided to share them with you.

The following is a guide which we hope will help to fulfill the dreams of countless travelers from all corners of the earth.

There is so much to do and see on the Big Island, but we've narrowed it down to six superb activities that can be accomplished over the course of a weekend.

Before you begin your fun, you must first arrange for your transportation and lodging. Hawaiian and Aloha Airlines will get you to the Big Island in approximately 45-50 minutes and once you've arrived, you need to simply walk across the street to pick up your rental car.

Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) is the place to be when it comes to overnight lodging. It is located in the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park where they have a variety of cabins and room sizes and they are all very nice.

You must be sure that your flight and rental car arrangements are made prior to departure and especially make certain that your KMC reservations are made well in advance.

From this beautiful location, you can

easily access the majority of the activities. Be sure to use a map and plan ahead.

The Green Sand Beach

You've probably seen white and golden sand beaches and maybe even a black sand beach, but when was the last time you sat on a sandy beach colored green?

This unique beach owes its name and color to the semi-precious gem called olivine which is abundant and mixed with black sand. This rare color for a beach is a must see and requires only a quick two-and-a-third mile walk on a trail (each way) from Kaulana boat launch.

The Punalu'u Black Sand Beach

This is the most easily accessible black sand beach on the island and a favorite spot for the green sea turtle. It is often crowded with turtles that come to feed on the limu that clings to the rocks.

Please be courteous to this endangered species. Cold water springs bubble up from just off shore so if you plan on swimming, be prepared, as the top foot of water is very cold.

South Point

This is the furthest point south in the United States, but if you are up for taking it a step beyond, you can jump even

further south from a cliff approximately 40 feet high into the ocean below. This will surely get your adrenaline pumping.

Kilauea lava flows

If you had to name one thing the Big Island was famous for, it would undoubtedly be Kilauea Volcano. To hike to where the lava flows into the sea, you must drive to the end of the Chain of Craters Road in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and begin a 3.5-mile hike (each way).

The flows may appear anywhere along the way so it is best to call the park at 985-6000 before you begin.

Mauna Kea Crater: To reach the summit involves an exciting drive to the highest point on Hawaii at

13,796 feet. There are a number of telescopes at the summit, as it is a great place to observe the heavens above. The summit also collects enough snow to attract both skiers and snowboarders.

Diving with the manta rays at Kona

If there was ever a visual expression of poetry in motion, then witnessing the Manta rays glide through the night water at Kona would be it.

You can snorkel or dive to observe this underwater ballet, and be prepared for the greatest show beneath the sea.

