Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park
U.S. Department of the Interior

Aloha mai kākou i nā ‘āina o Kahuku
Welcome to the lands of Kahuku

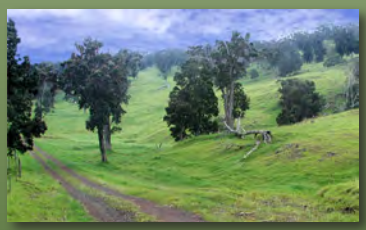
Kahuku is a place of dynamic volcanism, rich Hawaiian traditions and a fascinating history of ranching. It is a site of struggle and restoration for many unique plant and animal species of Ka‘ū. Share in the wonders of this 116,000 acre unit of Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park.

Kahuku o ka likoliko lehua
Kahuku of the fresh lehua
Pōhaku ‘ele‘ele, pōhaku ‘ula‘ula
Black rocks, red rocks
Ke ha‘a la i Kahuku waena
Dancing in the midland of Kahuku

-Pualani Kanaka‘ole-Kanahele

Enjoy the Scenic Drive
12 miles (19 km) round-trip drive
2,145 feet (654 km) elevation gain

1 Journey the first 2.5 miles (4 km) along a graded gravel road. This comfortable drive will pass steep, open pastures and alongside fissures, channels and lava flows from the epic eruption of 1868.



2 Past the upper trailhead of Palm Trail, the road climbs steeply and a high clearance, four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended. Here, the landscape becomes wooded, and abandoned water tanks and cattle corrals serve as reminders of the paniolo (ranching) days at Kahuku. Stop at the picnic area where its possible to discover sweeping views down Mauna Loa to Ka Lae, “South Point.” Keep an eye out for native forest birds and rare yellow-flowering ‘ōhi‘a lehua trees.

Hike to amazing destinations

1 Pu‘u o Lokuana Cinder Cone

0.4 mile (0.35 km) loop, 130 feet (40 m) elevation change

Hike this short, but strenuous 130 foot (40 m) climb to the top of Pu‘u o Lokuana cinder cone. Walk up the trail to the left of the hill. On the uphill side, you will find the route to the top through the historic cinder quarry. At the summit, stay back from the edge as you enjoy the view across lower Ka‘ū.

2 Pu‘u o Lokuana Trail

2 miles (3.2 km) loop, 130 feet (40 m) elevation change

“Pu‘u o Lokuana Trail Guide” available at Trailhead

Take the trail along historic ranch roads to a hidden pasture surrounded by trees. Walk to tree molds and the lava flows 1868. Follow the old airstrip back to the main road and climb the cinder cone before returning to your vehicle.

3 Palm Trail

2.6 mile (4.2 km) loop, 310 feet (95 m) elevation change

Hike or bike through scenic pastures for one of best panoramic views in Kahuku. See volcanic features along the 1868 fissure. Begin at the lower trailhead and hike up the trail. Once you arrive at the upper trailhead, follow the road downhill to your vehicle.

4 Glover Trail

3.0 miles (4.8 km) loop, 320 feet (98 m) elevation change

“Kahuku Forest Trail Guide” available at the lower trailhead

Hike to the edge of a huge pit crater and see a pristine Hawaiian rain forest protected within its sheer walls. Park at the lower trailhead and walk to the forested pit crater. Return by way of the upper Glover trail for a serene forest excursion you’ll never forget.

5 Kona Trail

4.7 mile (7.6 km) loop, 520 feet (158 m) elevation change

This hike requires an early start. See relics of the ranching era and voyage to the west edge of the 1887 lava flow.

Help Protect Your Fragile Resources and Each Other

- Entrance gate opens at 9am and closes at 3pm
- Clean your boots, bikes, and cars—introduced species will devastate this fragile environment
- Do not remove or damage any natural, cultural or geological resources
- Driving is restricted to the main road—yield to uphill traffic, bikes and pedestrians
- Use of all-terrain vehicles are prohibited
- Bikers must use caution on roadways, yield to pedestrians, and bike single file
- Emergency services are not available in the Kahuku Unit—cell phone coverage is spotty
- Smoking is only allowed in your vehicle
- Water, services and gasoline are available in neighboring communities
- Stay on designated trails and bike routes to avoid volcanic hazards or damaging sensitive resources
- Stay back from crater edges and quarry cliffs
- Beware of honey bees and wasps and carry a first aid kit
- Dogs may be walked on leash from the park entrance to the air strip only.
- Open fires and barbecues are prohibited
- Hunting is not permitted—call (808) 985-6084 for information on the public ungulate control program

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