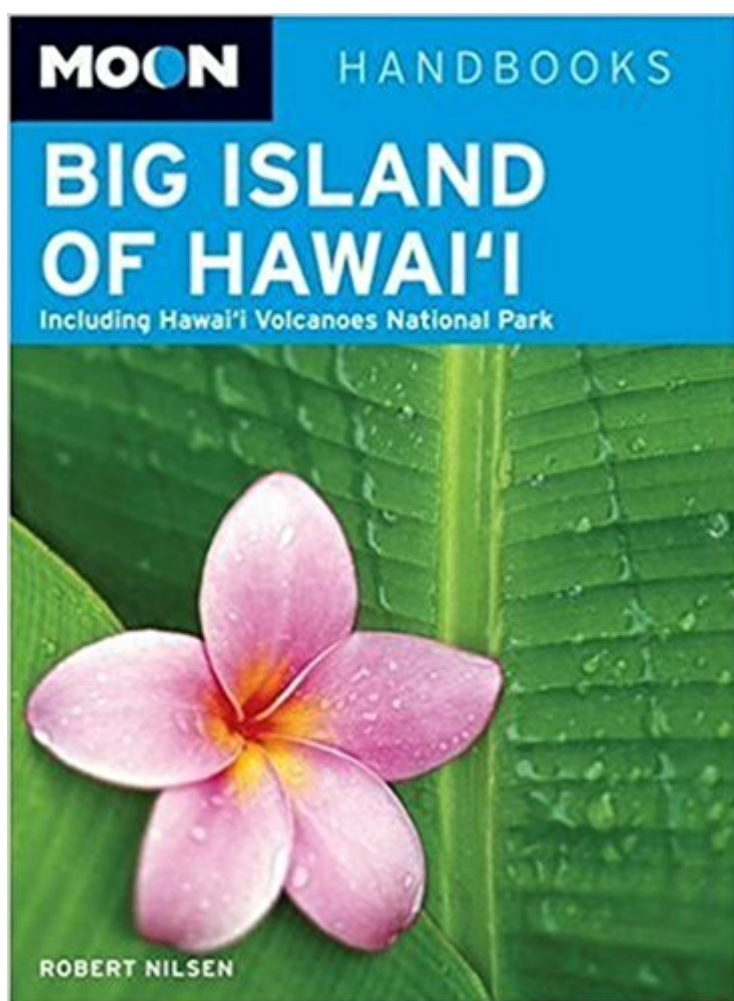




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# Big Island Of Hawai'i: Including Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (Moon Handbooks)



## Synopsis

Like a mini-continent on its own, Hawaii's multi-faceted land boasts parched deserts, jet-black sand beaches, snow-covered mountains, lush valleys, and countless waterfalls. With special emphasis on leading destinations such as Waipio Valley, Kilauea Volcano, Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa, the north coast of Hilo, Waimea, and the beaches of Kona-Kohala coast, Moon Big Island of Hawai'i provides you with the essential details needed to discover all the can't miss sights, attractions, and restaurants on this stunning island, while including lesser-known and local hotspots. With firsthand experience and honest insight, expert author Robert Nilsen provides you with all the tools you need to create your own unique experience. Robert's fun and creative travel suggestions can help you plan your perfect trip:

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you're keen on delving into Hawaiian culture and history, you'll do well with the Moon Handbooks' guide to the Big Island (which also includes a chapter on Hawaii Volcanoes National Park). Moon offers an amazingly thorough look at this Polynesian island--from the arrival of the first settlers to Captain James Cook's landing, all the way up to Pearl Harbor and statehood in 1959. The body of the book discusses what to do and see, and where to stay and eat in the major tourist areas, including Kona (with its vast coffee plantations and palm-studded beaches), Hilo (with lush botanical gardens), and Puna (rich in lava fields spewed from the still-active Kilauea Volcano). Throughout, you'll find descriptions of Hawaiian hallmarks (hula dances, leis, luaus) as well as a chapter on

sports and recreation, including where to hike, canoe, snorkel, surf--even ski (Mauna Kea is snow-capped in winter). The "Flora & Fauna" chapter identifies indigenous animals such as the Hawaiian thrush and the endangered monk seal. There are also plenty of tips to make your trip as seamless as possible, from a list of common Hawaiian words (think lots of vowels) to favorite tropical drinks such as the Chi Chi (vodka with pineapple juice and coconut syrup). --Jill Fergus  
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"The most complete, most trustworthy, least gushy guide to Hawaii. If you take only one book, take this one." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This guidebook is the best I've found for the big island, since it really teaches you about the geography, history, culture, local spots, and small businesses not normally found in a tourist guidebook. This book is like having a best friend who grew up on the island and knows it, and the people, inside and out. This is the book I give as a gift to my friends who want to visit the big island. It's a few years out of date so I hope there will be an update soon... the important stuff is still the same however so don't hesitate to get it.

This book was a gift to me. I would never have purchased such a stodgy looking guide if I saw it in the bookstore. I actually got the larger Hawaii Handbook covering all of the Hawaiian islands. This book is the Big Island section of that book and includes comprehensive general Hawaiian island information as well. If someone is planning a multiple island trip they should go for the bigger book. Even if you are not going to Hawaii but want to know about Hawaii get this one. I devoured this book during the long flight to Hawaii and must say it was by far the very best travel guide that I have ever read and used to any destination. (And I have read them all.) It is so comprehensive and the writing is so well done that reading all of the information was almost like reading a page turner novel for me. I could not get enough. Once we were in Hawaii we found this guide totally indispensable. We traveled with a few other nice guides but, with all of their color photography and fancy maps, eventually this one was the only one we felt was worthwhile. (You can get all the maps you will ever need once you get there.) After touring extensively I read it with even more interest on the long flight home. We plan to return to tour just the Big Island and this is the one we will bring. It is not glitzy it is the real thing. Enjoy.

Big Island of Hawai'i Including Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is the Moon Handbooks guide for

tourists and travelers, and like all books in the Moon series, is packed cover to cover with absolutely everything one needs to know to make the most of a Hawai'i vacation or business trip. Focusing specifically on Hawai'i's Big Island rather than the rest of the chain, chapters cover Kona, South Kohala, North Kohala, The Saddle Road, Hamakua Coast, Hilo, Puna, and Ka'u and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. From tips for getting around to health and safety advice to extensive directions, maps, black-and-white photographs, recommended hotels, hours for ideal eateries and gift shops, sports and recreation facilities, and much more, Big Island of Hawai'i is a compact, information-laden guide that no traveler to Hawai'i's Big Island should be without.

Obviously, from the reviews here, people want/expect different things from their guidebooks but my wife and I have done a lot of traveling to a lot of places and found this one of the best we've ever used. This book covers everything a traveler could need -- where to stay, where to eat, where to shop; and whatever your taste in activities, from museums to water sports, from golf to horticulture, it's well covered here, with full details of the where, the when, the phone number, and any little quirky info like "avoid Tuesdays," or "be aware of the riptides." (Is there anybody out there who WOULDN'T want to know there are riptides?) It's also very comprehensive -- not too surprising, of course, when it only has to cover a relatively small island - some books this size cover a whole country!

I have found on 3 previous trips to the Big Island, in recent years that, Robert Nilsen's "Moon Big Island of Hawai'i" is vastly superior and is "The Best of the Best" when comparing the many others that are on the market, including some well known ones. This being the 3rd updated edition that we have used, we find it to be very up to date and that is sometimes very hard to do, when business's seem to change overnight, at times on the Big Island. His writing skills allow for easy reading and enjoyment, while showing his knowledge and love for the Big Island. Mr Nilson takes pride in the work that he does and when there seems to be an issue, with one of his recommendations, he takes the time to acknowledge your letter and sees to it that, if the issue is true, his recommendation will change in the next updated edition. My recommendation: This is a needed book on any venture to the Big Island of Hawai'i, whether your 1st, your 10th or more, as it is "The Best of the Best!!!!" You will find it well worn, upon your return, and may have friends and family wanting to borrow it for their trip, as well!

What I like about this one is its emphasis on local specialties and culture. This is a hallmark of

Moon's guides in particular, and this one is no exception. The only thing missing is color photos. Buy it!

I bought this book thinking that it would give me a good idea of what to do and where to go. After reading this book, I almost don't want to go to the big island! It's not only is hard to use, but almost every section I read told about how you couldn't get to some place it was talking about or that the place was too dangerous because of tide or locals. I suggest looking for another guide.

I used J.D.'s guidebook to all of Hawaii last trip in '92 and I'm glad that he's written one specifically for the big island. I've bought this one in preparation for this year's trip to the big island. If you want to know more than which of the big resorts are the best then this guidebook is great!

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