Gary Lewis, geologist, educator leads.....

Geocache on Hawaii's Volcanoes

5-11 November 2025

Join an enthusiastic group and discover the wonders of the active volcanoes on the Big Island of Hawaii while we hunt for geocaches

The Big Island of Hawaii has remarkable landscapes - from tropical rainforests, to deserts, to palm-lined coastlines, to barren lava fields to snow-capped mountains. What better place to hunt for caches - traditional and EarthCaches! We will spend time caching on all the active volcanoes (there are three of them) as well as seeing some amazing sites including green sand and black sand beaches, lava tubes, lava fields, coral reefs and more.

Potential Caches

Traditional: 55 EarthCaches: 15 Other: 2

GEOetc
Geoscience Education & Outreach

US$2095*

Price does not include airfares to/from Hilo, HI.

***. Early bird special. The full price is US$2295 which starts in 2025.**

Trip Plan*

Day 1. - fly into Hilo airport before 5.00 pm. Meet group in airport and be transported to Ken's House of Pancakes (Hilo institution) for dinner at your expense. Drive to accommodation.
Day 2. - Morning talk : Introduction to Big Island of Hawaii. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park visit - see Kilauea volcano.. Earthcaches 6, Virtual 1, Traditional 2. Short hiles - 2 miles on trails.
Day 3. - The Saddle Run - See Mauna Loa (Earth's largest volcano) and Mauna Kea (Hawaii's tallest volcano) - Traditionals 20+, Earthcaches 3 . This is a stop and grab day.
Day 4. - South Point Day. Hike to Green Sand Beach (swim). (Lunch). Dinner on a black sand beach and see turtles. Tradionals 4, Earthcaches, 3. 3 mile hike on easy trail.
Day 5. - Hilo day - cache around the town of Hilo and some waterfalls. Traditonals 20, Earthcaches 4.
Day 6. - Snorkeling (bring your own gear) and swimming at Ho'okena Beach Park and visit Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historic Park. Dinner in Kona. Traditionals 10+, Earthcaches 2
Day 7. - Last Hilo cache run. Flights home (no flights before noon please).
* Itinerary may change due to weather and other factors.

Trip Details (the fine print)

- Price does not include flights to/from Hilo airport.
- Please do not book any flights or make any travel arrangement until the trip and your place on it has been confirmed. We will send you details of arrive and departure dates and time as early as possible.
- Transport is in air-conditioned vans.
- Accommodation is in shared lodge rooms.
- Four Dinners are not included, but will be held in restaurants in Hilo and Kona. There will be some options on most nights. Other nights options will be limited. 3 Dinners are included.
- Price does not include snorkeling equipment.
- Price includes breakfasts. We will expect folks to make their own picnic lunches for each day - we will visit stores to get supplies.
- The trip is open to all 18 years and older. Use of private or hired vehicles by participants during trip is not allowed.
- Be aware that this trip involves some hiking (as noted in the Trip Plan) you should be moderately fit and have no medical condition that precludes you from participating. Be aware that at times we will be in areas with high sulfur content which can trigger asthmatic and other responses.
- We will be staying on an active volcano and we will always attempt to provide you the very best opportunities to view volcanic processes on this trip. However, we heed all warnings provided by the local authorities and do not venture out onto active lava flows unless with a guide.

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Accommodation

We will be staying in a delightful lodge in Hilo. It has a 'funky-hippie' feel, but is a fun and relaxed place to stay. The rooms have access to a kitchenette, bathrooms etc. There is a coin-operated laundry on site. The staff and friendly and helpful...its very much an 'aloha' place.

Transportation

We will use 15 seater air-conditioned vans to travel around the Big Island. There is plenty of room which provides everyone with a great opportunity to take photos as well as spend time with fellow participants between stops.

Trip Leader (Geoaware)

Gary Lewis , the creator of EarthCaching, is the President of GEOetc. His speciality is the communication of geological processes to teachers, students and the general public and the operation of programs that raise the awareness of Earth science at an international level. He is a trained geologist - with an honors degree in Geology from the University of Sydney - and a K-12 teacher. He has worked in Earth science outreach in Australia and the USA and run trips for people to Hawaii, Iceland, Australia and other destinations since the 1980s.

GEO etc LLC

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Want more information?

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