

A surfer takes advantage of a secluded stretch of black sand beach at Kalapana south of Hilo, Hawaii. (Photo by Iris Sanderson Jones)

<u>Hawaii</u> Land of earthly delights

The Island of Hawaii — They don't use earthly directions like north, south, east and west here on the Big Island. Here, you go mauka, up the mountain, or makai, towards the sea.

On the Kona side of the island, where resort hotels are built on the black lava seashere and around picturesque bays you might "go Kohala," which means that you are going north towards the town where King Kamehameha the Great was born.

On the Hilo side of the island, where the first Polynesian settlers landed 12 centuries ago, you might "go Ka'u," which means going south towards the black sand béaches and Volcanos National Park.

Finding your way according to mountain, sea and history seems perfectly appropriate here on the largest and youngest of the Hawaiian Islands. It seems very much like a separate planet, affoat in a vast sea of space.

THE WORLD IS still being born here every day on this fragile mountaintop six miles above the ocean floor, and six miles above the ocean floor, and everything that has happened to the islands seems to be capsulized and visible somewhere, in a deep valley, on a high cattle plain, against a new volcanic flow.

That historical innocence may not be here long. The island has been generally bypassed by the tourist torrent that makes high-rise skylines on Waikiki, Honolulu, and on the island of Oahu still the main trend of the future here is tourism.

future here is tourism. If you cross the thousands of miles of blue Pacific by air or sea, you see exactly what the first Hawalians saw when they crossed 2,500 miles of water in outrigger cances in the eight the century; an island that rises in folds of black lawa add green foliage to the 14,000-foot volcanic mountain tops of Mauna Kea and Moana Los. Mauna Kea and Moana Loa.

HAWAII'S DIAMOND SHAPE stretches 93 miles north and south and 76 miles east and west.

Boiling lava from the center of the earth built that cone over millions of years, and it redesigns the island as the volcanoes erupt adding new fingers of land and wipe out roads every year.

Herbert T. Matayoshi, mayor of the County of Hawaii (the only state zoned in counties and with no incorporated cities) wants you to know, however, that the biggest problem during an eruption is traffic to and not away from the volcanoes.

"The Big Island may be 4,000 or 4,036 square miles, depending on whether the volcanoes are erupting or not, but please tell your readers that it is not dangerous to be here during an eruption," he said.
"It's not like Vsuvius. The island won't blow up."

The idea was reinforced by a national park ranger who said cheerfully. 'I though we'd have a nice eruption for you today because the earthquakes and the mountain mass increased 15 percent last week, but now we're back to our normal 150 earthquakes and w." earthouakes a day.

His measurement is made by delicate instruments designed to predict volcanic behavior. Ordinary mortals who walk around the island don't feel those tremors.

THE BIG ISLAND experience is definitely dominated by mountain and sea. It is not an easy place for which to plan a trip because there are so many diversions and because the various parts of the island are so different.

Half of the 80,000 people who live on the island live in Hilo, which curves around a crescent-shaped bay at the foot of Mauna Kea. Hilo, which means new noon, still has some of the flavor of the 19th-century missionary period, despite the luxurious hotels which now despite the hextiline alone. te the skyline along the

Its main tourist attractions, apart from splendid views and an interesting diversity of cultures and people, are the oriental gardens at Liliuokalani Park and an impressive display of Hawaiian history and culture in an old mission house called Lyman House Memorial Museum.

Most people use Hilo as a jumping-off place for the lush scenery around Akaka Falls, north of Hilo, and the spectacular Hawaii Volcanos National Park south of Hilo.

Kailua-Kona, on the western side of the island, once was the royal residence of King Kamehameha, the Hawaiian

islands and eased their transition into the modern world. It is now a resort town where shops surround the Hulihee Palace and the famous Hawaiian roast pig is usually served at hotel luaus.

You can drive between the two towns by taking the lush scenic route north, with a trek across the high cattle country around the Parker Ranch by braving the high and supposedly haunted Saddle Roa around Mauna Kea, or by taking the volcanic route south through fishing villages and Hawaii Volcanos National Park. One of the bibliblish cof the southour rout is a the highlights of the southern route is a visit to the petroglyph fields, where ancient carvings have been cut into the lava.

The county, state and national park services have done a remarkable job of preserving both natural and historical sites on the island. Several ancient Hawaiian village sites have been restored to the point where you can at least imagine the old traditional life.

NATURAL SCENIC sites have been NATURAL SCENIC sites have been preserved and sometimes restored to wilderness. Hawaii Volcanos National Park preserves the natual setting of the usually peaceful Moana Loa, which erupted in 1975 after a 25-year rest, and the always active Kilauea, which has erupted 27 times in 20 years.

Kilauea is the home of Pele, the Hawaiian goddess of fire, and a scientific delight to those who study

scientific delight to those who study volcanoes. For tourists, it is a spectacular lesson in the birth of a land mass.

Chain of Craters Roads, which ties Kilauea to the coast when Pele doesn't cut the road off with a lava flow, reinforced the idea that you are on another planet.

Landscapes of black lava hump and swirl in a wide swath down the slope, forzen in the position in which the lava cooled. A new small mountain, formed in a spectacle of fire from 1969 to 1974, rises beside the road.

Tiny pink and purple flowers hang in the fern forests above Thurston Lava Tube, but only steaming cinder cones mark the hot desolate path along Crater Rim Road and the Halemaumau fire pit.

On the mainland it is easy to scoff at legends, but here in the black wonderland of volcanos, it is easy to believe that Pele rules the world.

Unfortunately, most people see the volcanos and move on.

Next week: a recreational vehicle around some of the other byways of the Big Island. We'll go mauka, up the mountain, and makai, down to the sea.

Homespun advice for when you go

TRAVEL **LOG** of Iris Jones



WAIPIO VALLEY, Hawaii — According to Jimmy Rice, there are four important rules to remember when you are on the Big Island of Hawaii.



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1. Never sleep on the beach, because a tidal wave

may get you.

2. Never sleep against a hill because an earth-quake may cause a landslide over your head.

3. Never sleep under a coconut tree, because sev-eral people are killed every year by falling coco-nuts.

4. Watch the Hawaiians. If they don't do it, you

JIMMY TALKS LIKE a Hawaiian, and he lives in an isolated valley where some of the ancient Hawaiian traditions are still practiced every day, but he was a malahini, a newcomer, when he first came here a half a century ago.

He was born of German parents in New York City, and was living in an orphanage when he decid-ed to run away at age 14. He bopped on a ship in California, and jumped off the ship at Hilo, where he met a beautiful Hawaiian girl who was working he met a beauti in a restaurant.

in a restaurant. He followed her home to this deep mystical val-ley, married her when he was 15 years old and now runs the four-wheel drive service you need to get in and out of the valley.

It is worth the \$5 he charges you for the return trip into the valley. According to Jimmy, it's an 1,887-foot drop on a one-mile long road, with an average grade of 29 percent.

THE SCENERY IS spectacular, but the experience of being with Jimmy Rice is even better. He gives you a running commentary on Hawaiian life in the valley as he drives along stream beds and on rocky roads.

"The Hawaiians found this valley 1,500 years ago," he says. "There was no way in or out except by sea, so everybody around here is related to one another.

"A white man found the valley in the 19th century, and now the footpath down the side of the mountain is a road."

Don't try to drive the road yourself. Jimmy owns the only tow truck in the valley and he loves to tow people out.

It's beter not to be in a hurry, because Jimmy likes to stop and talk to all his relatives as he drives you through this deep cleft in the island shoreline, and he thinks that too many tourists "go wikiwiki through Hawaii, in a hurry."

HE WILL INTRODUCE you to the young men working in a water-filled field among the taro plants. He will stop to chide the tourist who has driven his rented four-wheel drive in the ditch, and to give him a little advice for getting out.

You will meet his nephew, who is selling an outrigger canoe and his friend who has been having trouble with his refrigerator.

If you have an appointment at the lookout atop the high hill, you will squirm because you are used to going wikiwiki-in-a-hurry through life, but after a while you won't care.

You'll just learn to say hoomanawanui, which means "never worry, never fear, no huhu," and let them wait.







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