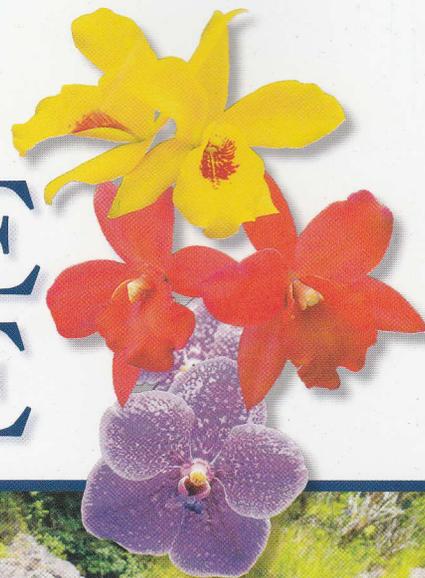


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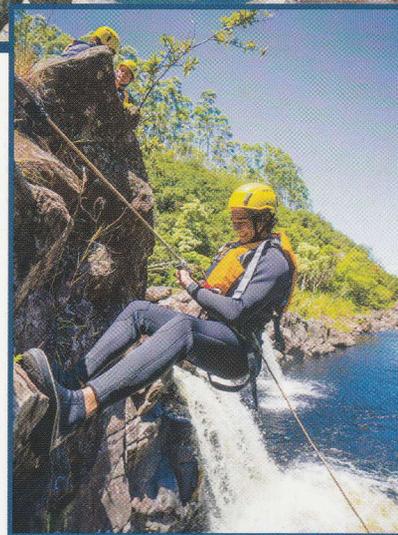
Winter 2017 - Spring 2018

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Historical Hamakua

Lauapahoehoe & Papaaloo



Photo: PatrickSmithPhotography.com

There is something for everyone in the heart of the Hamakua Coast.

It's all in the name Hamakua, Hawaiian for "Breath of God," green, lush and blessed with abundance, the Big Island's very own Garden of Eden. This often overlooked North East corner of the Big Island, holds a unique distinction as one of the last coastal agricultural tracts in the State. The Hamakua Heritage Corridor, is a beautiful drive stretching the coast from Hilo to Waipio Valley. This coast was once the jewel of the Plantation Era and "king cane," but has now evolved away from mass produced monoculture and given way to dozens of thriving small scale farming operations. Smack in the heart of the Hamakua lay the rural communities of Laupahoehoe and Papaaloo. Once thriving mill towns, they now cater to those seeking a mellow country life, with dozens of vacation rental havens for tourists escaping the bustle of the more crowded Hawaiian destinations. Laupahoehoe (leaf of lava), was established on an ancient lava flow that formed a small peninsula out into the ocean, now the site of the Laupahoehoe Beach Park, famous for its amazing rugged coastal vistas and tragic past (c. mile 27). In 1946 the "April Fools Day Tsunami" swept the lower reaches of town into the sea, crippling the mill's rail line and taking 23 children and 4 teachers with it. The rich history of this coast is well documented at the Train Museum in town (c. mile 25).

A mile down the road off the highway, is the unique Papaaloo Country Store (c. mile 24). A must stop from a respite of the road or a refreshment break. This restored plantation era store is a must. Serving the growing community, the store champions local produce and farm to table dining, with most of their produce, fish and meat coming from the surrounding farms, highlighting seasonal specials. The building was built in the 1800's and has quaint local charm and plenty aloha for visitors. ☺

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Photography and Images: Big Island Visitors Bureau, G. Brad Lewis, Hawaii Forest & Trails, Safari Helicopters, Michael Summers, CJ Kale & Nick Selway - Lava Light Galleries, and Jon Mikan

Contributing writers: Hawaii Oceanic, Jane Jovellanos, Captain Zodiac, Selma Kettwich - Kalapana Cultural Tours

Front Cover Photos: Umauma Falls Adventures

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Psalm 11:14 *God watches closely everything that happens on the Earth.*