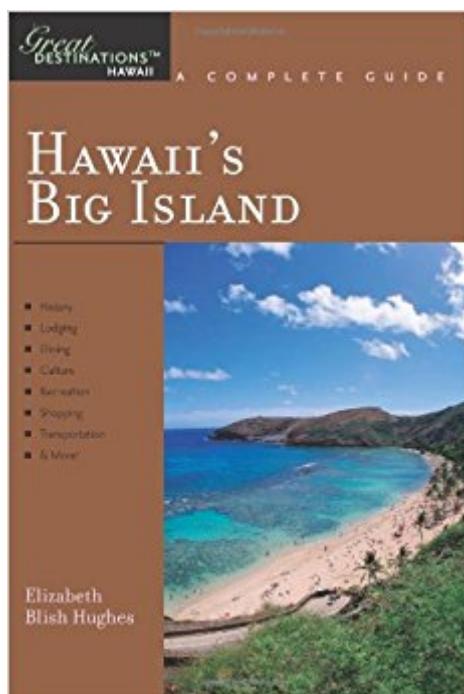


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Explorer's Guide Hawaii's Big Island: A Great Destination (Explorer's Great Destinations)



Synopsis

A complete guide to this increasingly popular Hawaiian paradise known for its simmering volcanoes, sugary beaches, and exotic landscape. As with all Explorer's Great Destinations guides, the author provides unbiased critical opinions and candid reviews about lodging, food, attractions, culture, and recreation. With up-to-date maps and photos throughout, this is an invaluable guide for your next trip. Black-and-white photographs and maps

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Elizabeth Blish Hughes is an award-winning writer whose work has appeared in magazines and newspapers across five continents. She lives in San Francisco, CA.

My bride and I have planned a trip to the Big Island of Hawaii for the upcoming summer. After receiving "Hawaii's Big Island," however, I made several changes in my plans based on this book. It's extremely easy to read, well written, and contains very sensible recommendations that, unless you had been to the Big Island before, you wouldn't know about. For instance, there is only one vehicle rental company whose vehicles you can take to the top of Mauna Loa or on the Saddle Road. I had already booked a rental car, but after reading this book, I changed companies and vehicle types. You might find thicker books on the Big Island, but I doubt you'll find one that provides more tips on what to see and what to avoid. There are also numerous maps included in the text that you will find helpful.

No subchapters in Table of Contents, which makes a travel guide much less useful. I don't want to read a whole chapter on restaurants, I want to look at restaurants where I am.

There's nothing like a guidebook that's beautifully written and a pleasure to read. I expect to find lots of info in any guidebook I pick up, but it's a real bonus to find, as I did here, lots of insider tips and details about the kinds of things a first-time visitor would want to know. I picked up this book because it was the newest available -- a good choice, because it helped me plan my days. It's packed with necessary nuts-and-bolts info plus the kind of stuff that makes you treasure a guide: intriguing background details and suggestions for interesting [not generic] activities and destinations.

This is a superb travel guide to a wonderful place. The guide is very well written, organized and researched. It is informative and entertaining and really gives you the feel that the author knows these places first hand (very much unlike most of the travel guides out there). It's almost as if you have your own travel advisor that you can call up at will... and she's always ready with an excellent suggestion. Who wouldn't want a travel partner like that?! I've been to the Big Island a few times and this guide opened my eyes to a host of new places and ideas. Great stuff! I highly recommend this guide.

Before I went to the Big Island for the first time in early 2009, I knew I wanted to take only one guidebook. I wanted a real book so I didn't have to worry if it got wet or sandy. I decided to order the newest guide listed. It turned out to be a good choice to help me plan because the author stressed that the island is BIG so I knew to expect longer drives than I had experienced on other Hawaiian islands. It provides suggested daytrips and itineraries based on how long you will stay. So before I landed, I knew what I wanted to see and do. I did everything and had time for extra exploring. On the plane, I read the background material on the island's history. I bought several of the books the author suggested because I wanted to learn more. The guide to Hawaiian music in one chapter was helpful. I bought two CDs to play in my hotel room. The books and the CDs made good souvenirs. I think this book is good for people who are going for the first time and want to make the most of their visit because they may not return. Before I first visited, I thought I would go to the Big Island only once. I am writing this review now because I have just returned from my second visit. I used this guide again, and it continued to be helpful because it suggests out-of-the-way places but

not ones that are difficult to access.

This is by far the best guide book I have found on the Big Island. It is far superior to the Hawaii Revealed which I found nearly useless as well as several others I have bought over the years. This will be our 5th trip to Hawaii and we will no doubt find new parts of the island we have missed in prior trips. The author's advice can be relied upon.

Fantastic well-written guide book for our first time to Hawaii, very useful for our family trip to the big island. We were able to plan a nice affordable dinner one night and then given great advice for a resort for my wife and I when we wanted to splurge. Obviously written by someone who knows and loves the island and as a nice bonus is very well written. We feel you can really trust the writer's recommendations.

This book doesn't even compare to "The Big Island Revealed". The author spends a lot of pages on where to shop and where to eat, and not enough on details of what to see and do. Just get the other book instead.

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