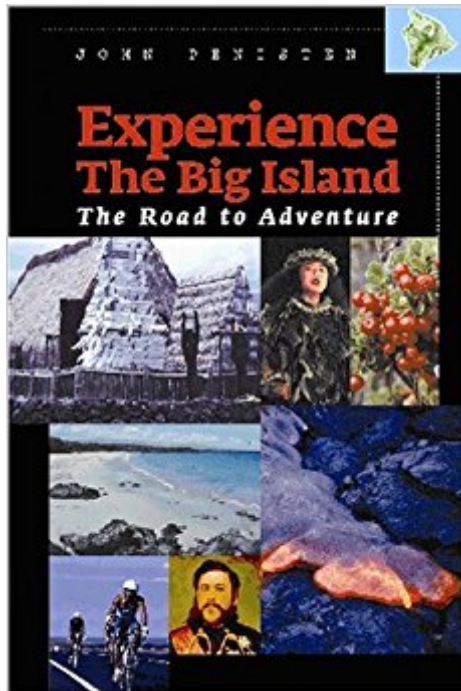




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Experience The Big Island: The Road To Adventure



Synopsis

Tour the Hawaiian chain's largest island, visiting the secret, the not-so-well-known and the well-known spots. Enjoy the myriad of adventure ranging from the easy to the difficult, including sightseeing, volcano watching, hiking, snorkeling, fishing, horseback riding, trail running, nature exploration, skiing and water sports. Experience the Big Island includes maps, photos, early history and much more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

John Penisten is an English Professor at Hawai'i Community College in Hilo, Hawai'i. A 30-year resident of Hawai'i, he is an avid traveler and photographer. His articles and photographs have appeared in numerous local, national and international magazine, newspaper and online publication outlets. He lives in Hilo on the Big Island with his wife, Susan, and two daughters, Janelle and Joelle.

My wife and I bought and read this book before planning our trip to the Big Island back in 2007. It was extremely useful in helping us narrow down what we wanted to see and where we wanted to stay. Filled with invaluable tips from a long time resident of the island, it provides some historical/cultural information alongside very good maps, descriptions of attractions, and ideas on where to stay. After having traveled to the Big Island twice now, here are a few recommendations: 1. Look into renting a condo instead of staying at a hotel for at least part of your trip. Condos can be had for \$65-\$200 a night depending on size and location, and will give you more privacy and the ability to cook some of your own meals. 2. Go to a local fish market and buy some fresh sea food!

There is a marina near Kona where you can get fresh fish for very reasonable prices (at least by mainland standards). Some of the best meals we've had were comprised fresh fruit and fish straight out of the ocean.³ You must, I repeat **MUST** go see Waipio Valley. It is stunning, and was the highlight of our last trip. If you get a rental car without 4X4, be prepared to walk down about a mile of steep switch back road to get to the bottom and the ocean, but it is **VERY** worth it. There is an overlook that doesn't require anything more than pulling your car over, but the best views are in the valley itself.⁴ If you can, stay part of your time in Kona, and part of your time in Hilo or Volcano. Because of the size of the Island, it's really helpful to have a bit of time on both the east and west side as it will cut down the amount of driving you do and give you more time to explore Volcano National Park, etc...⁵ If you can, take the helicopter circle tour. It's a bit pricey, but honestly you won't be thinking about the money you spent years later. The view of the lava flowing into the ocean (assuming it's active) is so worth the price.⁶ If you want to hike to see the lava flow, get to Volcano National Park early (2-3 hours before sunset) so that you can park closer to the ranger station that leads to the active lava flow, as well as so you have plenty of time to hike out there. There are very many signs that talk about how dangerous this hike is, how you better be prepared, etc. These are intended to scare away those who really shouldn't be out there. If you are in reasonable health, the hike is not really taxing at all. Just make sure you have a couple high powered flashlights for the return trip. I recommend getting LED versions because they very bright, and will run on AA batteries meaning you don't have to lug a heavy 3-4 D cell version around, or carry it in your luggage. I recommend you get a [Inova 5.8-Watt LED Flashlight](#). It is very light and produces an amazing amount of light for the size!⁷ Bring "Experience the Big Island" with you on your trip! You might think you'll remember everything you want to see, and maybe you will, but having this excellent resource at your disposal in case something you planned doesn't work out is invaluable. Enjoy your vacation to the Big Island!

I live in Hilo, on the Big Island. I have a copy of this book in our guest rooms, along with a book called, "The Big Island Revealed". Experience the Big Island... is superior in that it was published more recently and it has several useful lists in the back with all of the info you need to make reservations for any activity you plan to do here. I sent a copy of this book as well as the big island revealed (wizard publishing), to our friends and family planning to visit the big island this summer. Each book has a slightly different perspective as the author of "revealed" lives in Kona, while the author of "experience" lives in Hilo. Enjoy!

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