

Mauna Kea Visitor Area Mini Guide

Before You Drive

- Rental cars must follow 4×4 restrictions; check rental agreement
- Ensure vehicle is mechanically sound, fuel topped off
- Download offline maps; cell service is limited
- Dress in layers; temperatures drop quickly at altitude

Altitude Health Considerations

- High altitude can affect visitors differently; symptoms may include shortness of breath, dizziness, nausea
- Children, elderly, and those with heart or respiratory conditions should exercise extra caution
- Move slowly, stay hydrated, and rest if needed

Visitor Center Essentials

- Purchase water, snacks, and sunscreen if needed
- Bathrooms are available; plan ahead for restroom access along the route
- Secure personal belongings; leave valuables in the vehicle or take them with you

Parking & Safety

- Park only in designated areas
- Lock vehicles and secure belongings

- Watch for icy or slippery surfaces at higher altitudes

Emergency & Assistance

- Emergency (Police, Fire, Medical): 911
- Visitor Center / Ranger Assistance: 808-961-2180
- Roadside assistance via your insurer or auto club

Note: Cell service may be limited. Stay with your vehicle when safe and conserve battery power.

If Something Feels Wrong

- Turn back if conditions are unsafe
- Descend slowly if experiencing altitude symptoms
- Follow ranger instructions immediately

Calm guidance for real Hawai'i travel — BigIslandCopilot.com

This mini guide is for general guidance only and does not replace official park advisories, medical advice, or emergency services.