

Kealahou Bay

Kealahou Bay

, a dozen miles south of Kailua, was where Captain Cook was killed on his second voyage to Hawaii. One of ancient Hawaii's major population centers, it's now barely inhabited, and the white obelisk on the death site - legally a small piece of England - is all but inaccessible. You can only get to within a mile of it by car, to the beach at Napoopoo across the bay, though you'll glimpse it from the road on the way down. The bay itself is the best place on the Big Island for snorkeling, even if there are sharks further out. It's also possible to hike down to the monument, but it's a grueling four-hour round-trip, for which you need to carry all your water and supplies. The trail starts just before the town of CAPTAIN COOK, which is also home to the bargain

Manago Hotel

(tel 808/323-2642,

; up to \$35/\$35-50), offering comfortable ocean-view rooms amid flowering Japanese gardens.

This region, South Kona, is the prime source of

Kona coffee

, which sells here for around \$20 a pound (including shipping). A mile south of Captain Cook, the Coffee Shack

(daily 7am-3.30pm; tel 808/328-9555) serves wonderfully fresh coffee and smoothies on a terrace that enjoys staggering views all the way down to Kealahou Bay.