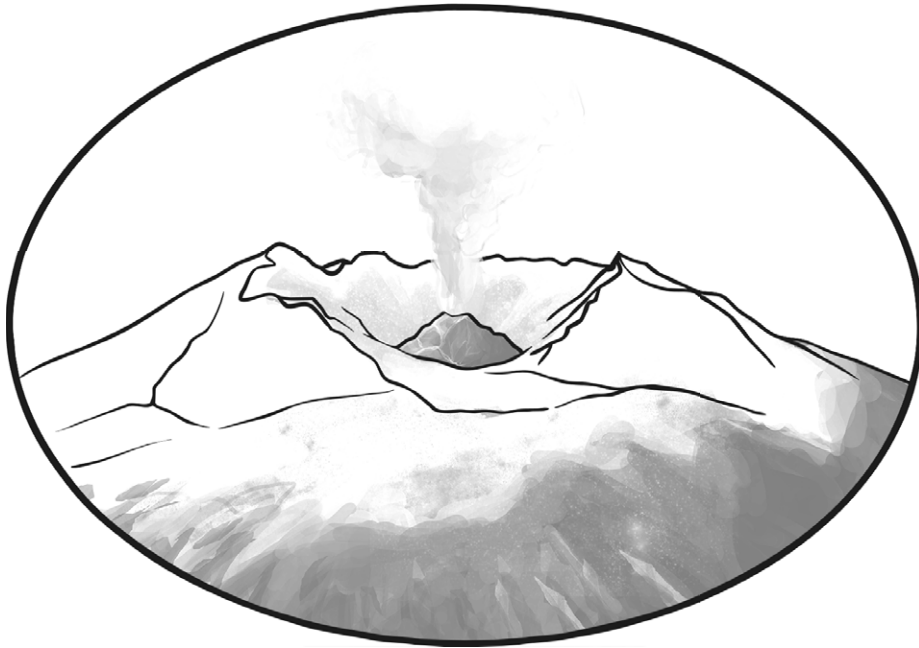


Volcanoes of the World



Mount Hood

Mount Hood can be located in the Mount Hood National Forest, Oregon, USA. It is found in the Cascade mountain range and is a dormant volcano which had its last significant eruption in 1865. Mount Hood has a cone shape because it is a stratovolcano made up of hardened layers of ash and lava. Its height isn't that great compared to other volcanoes – the highest on earth is well over 6000 m whereas Hood is 3426 m.

During the warmer months, tourists come here to hike, bike, climb, camp and fish. During the colder winter months it becomes a skiing haven.

Mount St Helens

Mount St Helens is an active volcano which is located in the Cascade Mountain Range, Washington, USA. This mountain range contains many dormant and active volcanoes because it is part of the Pacific Ring Of Fire. The base of Mount St Helens is 6 miles wide. A tragic eruption took place here on May 18th 1980, where 57 people were killed, or declared missing, and many roads and homes were destroyed. The eruption was so powerful that it caused an avalanche resulting in the top 400 m of the volcano disappearing. Since then, the volcano was actually erupting from September 2004 to January 2008, creating a second lava dome.

Today the volcano is closely monitored by geologists who can predict whether another eruption may occur in the near future.

Mount Kilauea

This is a shield volcano which can be found in Hawaii. It is one of the largest active volcanoes in the world and has erupted over 60 times. It is 1247 m above sea level and the summit is made up of a lava lake which is believed to be the home of the Hawaiian volcano goddess, Pele.

Mount Kilauea has been erupting continuously since 1983! Most of the lava enters the sea but has been known to flow in other directions, destroying many homes.

Popocatépetl

This volcano is nicknamed 'El Popo'. After 50 years of being a dormant volcano, it burst back to life in 1994.

In April 2012, rock fragments, ash and water vapour were thrown up high in the air creating an ash cloud. This cloud was launched 2 km into the sky and caused huge transportation problems. A similar situation occurred again in both 2013 and 2014.

Popocatepetl is found in Mexico and is 5426 m tall. The name means 'Smoking Mountain' in Aztec.

Mount Vesuvius

Located near Naples, Italy, this volcano has a very famous history. It is 30 miles wide at its base and is estimated to be about 17,000 years old. In the last 2000 years it has erupted a total of 50 times, with the last eruption taking place in 1944 during World War 2. It has two cones which are 3 miles apart and is known as a stratovolcano because of its cone like shape.

The most famous eruption took place in 79AD, when Vesuvius erupted for an entire day, killing thousands of people and burying the nearby city of Pompeii. Archaeologists returned to Pompeii to discover that bodies and other items had been well preserved by the hardened ash.

Visitors can climb the volcano to almost reach the summit where they can see ash being released from the crater.

Krakatoa

Krakatoa sits on the Ring of Fire and is located in Indonesia. The 1883 eruption generated the loudest ever sound in history and could even be heard in Australia (nearly 2000 miles away). Thousands of people died and entire villages were decimated mostly due to the tsunami which followed the powerful explosion.

Mount Fuji

This is the highest mountain in Japan, standing tall at 3776 m, and is also an active stratovolcano. It last erupted in 1707 and many people believe it to be a very sacred place. This volcano is actually three volcanoes piled one on top of the other with Fuji being the very top layer. Mount Fuji is very popular for climbers in July and August who trek up the mountain to witness the spectacular sunrise.

Volcanoes of the World

Comprehension Questions

1. How many metres above sea level is Mount Kilauea?
2. What does Popocatépetl mean in Aztec?
3. Name two volcanoes which can be found in the Cascade Mountain Range.
4. Which record was made during the eruption of Krakatoa in 1883?
5. What kind of a volcano is Mount Vesuvius?
6. Compare Mount Hood and Mount Fuji.

Challenge Questions

1. Which of these volcanoes is the tallest?
(Tip: you will need to do some of your own research to answer this question)
2. Find out more about the Ring of Fire and write down what you have discovered below.

