

Sakurajima Volcano

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Sakurajima Volcano Latest News

Recently, the Sakurajima volcano has erupted, sending huge plumes of ash billowing kilometres into the sky.

About Sakurajima Volcano

- **Location:** It is located on the **southern tip of Kyushu island** near the city of Kagoshima, Japan.
- It is one of **Japan's most active volcanoes** and eruptions of varying levels take place on a regular basis.
- Sakurajima **is a stratovolcano** formed from layers of lava and ash.
- It is situated on a **convergent plate margin**.
- It is an **andesitic volcano** (meaning it has a high gas content and is very viscous) located at the southern edge of the Aira caldera.
- It is formed by the **central cones of the Kitadake** (northern peak) and the **Minamidake** (southern peak).
- Sakura-jima formed an island until 1914, when an explosive eruption produced enough material to join the island to the peninsula on the east.

Key Facts about Stratovolcanoes

- These are also known as composite volcanoes which are **tall, steep, and cone-shaped types of volcanoes**.
- Unlike flat shield volcanoes, they have higher peaks.
- They are built of **successive layers of ash and lava**.
- The **magma** (molten rock) **within the volcano is viscous** and often contains trapped gas, causing explosive eruptions.
- Stratovolcanoes occur at the **margins of tectonic plates**, large sections of Earth's crust that move together.
- The continental plates, composed of less dense material, override the oceanic plates.
- Magma generated from the subducting plate rises and squeezes into cracks, eventually reaching the surface in a volcanic eruption.
- They comprise the **largest percentage** (~60%) of the Earth's **individual volcanoes**.

Source: **TH**

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