Largest Volcanoes in World, List, Locations, Heights

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Volcanoes are natural geological structures formed when molten rock, gases, and ash escape from beneath the Earth's crust and erupt onto the surface. They occur primarily along tectonic plate boundaries or at mantle hotspots, where immense pressure forces magma upward. Volcanoes play a dual role in shaping our planet while their eruptions can be destructive, causing loss of life, property, and environmental damage, they also create fertile soils, new landforms, and contribute to the recycling of Earth's crust. In this article, we are going to cover the Largest Volcanoes in the World.

Largest Volcanoes in the World

Volcanoes are natural landforms created when molten rock, volcanic ash, and gases from the Earth's mantle escape through cracks in the crust and reach the surface. They are commonly found along tectonic plate boundaries, where lithospheric plates collide, diverge, or slide past one another. Volcanic activity manifests in various ways, from violent explosions that release ash and pyroclastic material to slower outflows of lava that build new landmasses. Volcanoes differ greatly in their size, structural form, and eruptive behavior. The main types include:

- **Shield Volcanoes:** Characterized by wide, gently sloping profiles formed by the flow of fluid, low-viscosity basaltic lava. A classic example is *Mauna Loa* in Hawaii.

- **Stratovolcanoes (Composite Volcanoes):** Built from alternating layers of lava, ash, and rock debris, these steep-sloped giants are known for explosive eruptions. *Mount St. Helens* in the USA is a prominent example.
- **Cinder Cone Volcanoes:** Small, conical volcanoes that arise from the accumulation of volcanic fragments around a central vent.
- **Calderas:** Enormous depressions formed when the summit of a volcano collapses after a cataclysmic eruption.
- **Submarine Volcanoes:** Underwater volcanoes that play a vital role in shaping the seafloor, particularly along mid-ocean ridges.

The effects of volcanic eruptions differ in magnitude and consequences. They emit gases like water vapor, carbon dioxide, and sulfur dioxide, which can alter climate patterns and impact life. Despite their destructive power, volcanoes are essential to Earth's geological evolution, contributing to fertile soils, mineral resources, and even the formation of new islands and landforms.

List of Largest Volcanoes in the World

Studying the Largest Volcanoes in the World and their formation not only strengthens understanding of physical geography but also offers insights into natural processes that have profoundly shaped Earth's landscapes and human civilizations over millennia.

Largest Volcanoes In the World			
Feature & Location	**Volcanoes in the World**	**Feet**	**Metres**
Hawaii, U.S.A	Mauna Loa	3085	9170
Canary Islands, Spain	Teide	24066	7500
Hawaii, U.S.A	Haleakala	30000	9144
Reunion, France	Piton des Neiges	23199	7071
Argentina/Chile – Highest active volcano on Earth	Ojos del Salado	22615	6893
Argentina/Chile – Second highest active volcano on Earth	Llullaillaco	22110	6739
Ecuador – Second highest in Ecuador	Cotopaxi	19347	5897
Ecuador – Farthest point from Earth's centre	Chimborazo	20561	6267

Bolivia – The highest peak of Bolivia	Nevado Sajama	21463	6542
Tanzania – Highest volcano outside South America; the highest peak in Africa	Kilimanjaro	19341	5895
Russia – Highest volcano in Eurasia; the highest peak in Russia	Mount Elbrus	18510	5642
Ecuador – Third highest in Ecuador	Cayambe	18996	5790
Mexico – Highest volcano in North America; the highest peak in Mexico	Pico de Orizaba	18491	5636
Iran – Highest volcano within Asia; the highest peak in Iran	Mount Damavand	18406	5610
Kenya – Second highest volcano in Africa; the highest mountain in Kenya	Mount Kenya	17057	5199
Mexico – Second highest volcano in North America	Popocatepetl	17802	5426
Mexico – Third highest volcano in North America	Iztaccihuatl	17559	5230
Turkey/Armenia – The highest mountain in Turkey	Mount Ararat	16854	5137
Georgia – Highest volcano in Georgia	Mount Kazbek	16558	5047
Alaska – highest volcano in the United States	Mount Bona	16421	5047
The Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia – highest active in Eurasia; the highest mountain in Siberia	Klyuchevskaya Sopka	1584	4750
Rwanda/Democratic Republic of Congo – highest mountain in Rwanda	Mount Karisimbi	14787	4507
Guatemala – highest mountain in Central America	Volcan Tajumulco	13845	4220

Papua New Guinea – highest volcano in Australasia and Pacific islands	Mount Giluwe	14331	4368
Washington – highest volcano in the contiguous United States	Mount Rainier	14409	4392
Hawaii, United States – World’s tallest mountain from base to summit	Mauna Kea	13796	4205
Antarctica – Highest volcano in Antarctica	Mount Sidley	13717	4181
Armenia – highest mountain in Armenia	Mount Aragats	13435	4095
Cameroon – highest mountain in Cameroon	Mount Cameroon	13435	4095
Sumatra, Indonesia – Highest volcano in Indonesia; the highest mountain in Sumatra	Mount Kerinci	12484	3085
Chubu Region, Honshu – highest mountain in Japan	Mount Fuji	12388	3776
Lombok, Indonesia – Second-highest volcano in Indonesia	Mount Rinjani	1224	3726
Tenerife, Canary Islands – the highest peak in the Atlantic Islands and Spain	Teide	12198	3718
Java, Indonesia – highest mountain in Java	Semeru	12060	3676
Chad – the highest mountain in Chad & the Sahara	Emi Koussi	11204	3415
Sicily – active; highest volcano in Western Europe; the highest peak in Italy south of the Alps	Mount Etna	10922	3329
Maui, Hawaii – the highest peak of Maui	Haleakala	10023	3055
Bali, Indonesia – highest mountain in Bali	Mount Agung	9944	3031

Bioko, Equatorial Guinea – the highest mountain in Equatorial Guinea	Pico Basile	9879	3011
Mindanao – highest mountain in the Philippines	Mount Apo	9692	2954
Oromia Region – highest volcano in Ethiopia	Mount Zuqualla	9806	2989
Unimak Island, Alaska – highest mountain in the Aleutian Islands	Mount Shishaldin (Sisquk)	9373	2857
Heard Island – the highest mountain in Australia	Mawson Peak	9006	2745
Azores – highest mountain in Portugal	Pico	7713	2351
Jan Mayen, Norway – highest volcano in Norway	Beerenberg	7470	2277
Argentina–Chile border region	Pali-Aike volcanic field	591	180
Batangas, Philippines – – Smallest volcano on earth	Taal Volcano	1020	311

Volcanoes Distribution in the World

Volcanoes are not uniformly distributed across the planet; rather, they occur in specific zones influenced by tectonic plate interactions and mantle hotspot activity. Below is an overview of the global distribution of volcanoes:

- **Ring of Fire:** The Pacific Ring of Fire remains the most prominent volcanic belt, surrounding the **Pacific Ocean**. It is marked by a dense cluster of active volcanoes and intense seismicity. Nations such as Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, along with the western margins of North and South America (United States, Canada, Mexico, Chile), and several Pacific islands lie within this region.
- **Mid-Atlantic Ridge:** This submarine volcanic chain extends along the **Atlantic Ocean**'s center. Here, the North American, Eurasian, South American, and African plates diverge, allowing magma to rise and solidify, giving birth to new oceanic crust.
- **Iceland:** Located directly atop the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Iceland exhibits vigorous volcanic activity due to the rifting of the Eurasian and North American plates. The island frequently experiences eruptions and geothermal phenomena.
- **East African Rift:** Stretching from Ethiopia's Afar Triangle to Mozambique, this rift represents a continental divergence zone. Volcanism is active here, with renowned peaks such as Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya.

- **Andes Mountains:** Extending along western South America, the Andes owe their origin to the subduction of the Nazca Plate beneath the South American Plate. This tectonic process has fueled numerous volcanoes across Chile, Peru, and Colombia.
- **Mediterranean:** Around southern Europe, particularly Italy and Greece, volcanic activity has historical significance. Famous examples include Mount Etna in Sicily and Mount Vesuvius near Naples.
- **Indonesian Archipelago:** Situated at the confluence of the Indian-Australian, Pacific, and Eurasian plates, Indonesia is one of the most volcanically active nations. Notorious eruptions like Krakatoa and Mount Merapi originate here.
- **Alaska:** The Aleutian volcanic arc in Alaska lies within the Pacific Ring of Fire, resulting from Pacific Plate subduction beneath the North American Plate, creating numerous active cones.
- **Hawaii:** The Hawaiian chain is formed by a persistent hotspot under the Pacific Plate. Its volcanoes, including Mauna Loa and Kilauea, highlight the island-building process as the plate shifts northwestward.
- **East Asia:** Countries such as Japan, Indonesia, and the Philippines showcase frequent eruptions, owing to tectonic convergence and subduction zones dominating the region.

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