

Piton de la Fournaise Volcano

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Piton de la Fournaise Volcano Latest News

The Piton de la Fournaise volcano on Reunion Island erupted for the second time this year.

About Piton de la Fournaise Volcano

- **Location:** It occupies the **east-southeastern** end of **French Island La Réunion** in the western **Indian Ocean**.
- **Type:** It is a massive **basaltic shield volcano**.
- It is built on the flank of the **larger and older Piton des Neiges volcano** whose early activity was basaltic but ended with eruption of differentiated alkaline lavas.
- It is one of the **most active volcanoes** in the world.
- It is in a **phase of frequent but short-lived eruptions** that start with lava fountains and produce large lava flows.
- **Status:** It is around 500,000 years old and since 2010, it has been a member of the prestigious club of natural treasures **listed as World Heritage sites by UNESCO**.

Key Facts about Shield Volcano

- They are the **largest volcanoes on Earth**.
- They **do not form soaring mountains** with conical peaks like composite volcanoes. Instead, they are broad volcanoes with gentle slopes.
- They are **almost exclusively basalt**, a type of lava that is very fluid when erupted.
- Because basalt has a low viscosity, it can flow on the surface better. So, when these types of volcanoes erupt, lava flows outwards at large distances.
- They **are built by repeated eruptions** that occurred intermittently over vast periods of time.
- The **Hawaiian shield volcanoes** are the most famous examples.

Source: **Watchers**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/piton-de-la-fournaise-volcano/>

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