

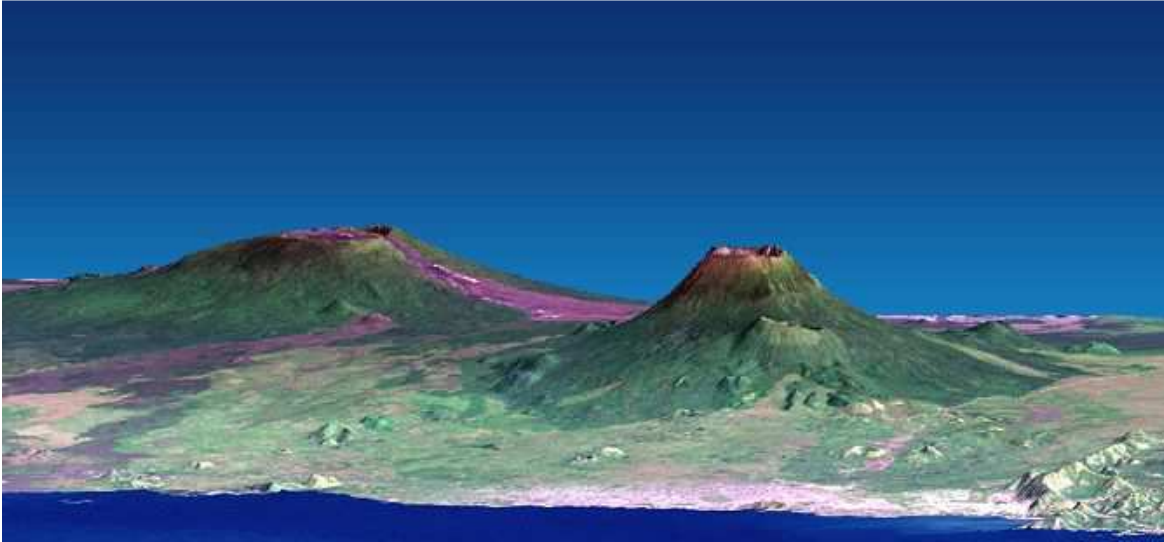
Nyamuragira and Nyiragongo - Congo (DRC)

This pair of volcanoes is responsible for 40% of Africa's historic volcanic eruptions.

Nyiragongo hosts one of the largest lava lakes in the world. Its immediate neighbor, Nyamuragira no longer has a lava lake, but has had one in the past. Both volcanoes erupt very alkaline lavas, highly liquid, from either the crater or fissures in the flanks.

Nyamuragira is a shield volcano located 9 miles (14 km) northwest of Nyiragongo.

Nyamuragira is Africa's most active volcano. It is a massive basaltic shield volcano that rises about 25 km north of Lake Kivu. The broad low-angle shield volcano contrasts dramatically with its steep-sided neighbor Nyiragongo (stratovolcano).



The volcanoes are located on the Albertine Rift, the western branch of the East African Rift Valley system. There are two older stratovolcanoes in the vicinity, Baruta and Shaheru. These are partially overlapped by Nyiragongo. The flanks of all four volcanoes have over a hundred parasitic cones mainly along radial fissures. The grouping has been called the Virunga Volcanic Field.



Nyamuragira

The 3058-m-high summit of Nyamuragira is truncated by a small 2 x 2.3 km caldera that has walls up to about 100 m high. Historical eruptions have occurred within the summit caldera, frequently modifying the morphology of the caldera floor, as well as from the numerous fissures and cinder cones on the volcano's flanks. At the vent, lava fountains often construct cinder or spatter cones. A lava lake in the summit crater, active since at least 1921, drained in 1938 during a major flank eruption.



Nyamuragira Pit Crater Photos (caldera)



Nyamuragira 2018



Nyamuragira photos from 2011-2012

Since 1882, Nyamuragira has erupted 34 times. Most of the eruptions produce lava flows from fissures in the flanks of the volcano. Historical lava flows extend more than 30 km from the summit, reaching as far as Lake Kivu. Only the 1912-1913 eruption caused fatalities. The eruption of Nyamuragira on July 4, 1994 from a fissure on the west flank generated ash, lava fountains, and flows. Ash and Pele's hair fell 12 miles (20 km) from the volcano.

Nyiragongo



Nyiragongo's Lava Lake!

Amazing photos by Bradley Ambrose (with drone) and Paula Nelson (with a descent team)



Lava Lake - 1994



Lava Lake - 2013

2010 Climb down to the Lava Lake to be the first to its edge...



Gas bubbles burst on the surface of the lake

Dangers? heat, gas, and lava lake overflows



The best lava lakes are filled with completely molten lava!



Base camp in the caldera. Gas masks were often worn when sleeping.

