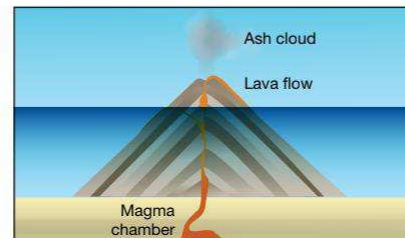


Volcano Fact Sheet

White Island Volcano

Description

- This is New Zealand's most active during the last 40 years.
- 70% of the cone is under the sea.
- It is an uninhabited island about 2 km in diameter and 48 km from the coast of the Bay of Plenty. The closest towns are Tauranga and Whakatane.
- It marks the northern end of the Taupo Volcanic Zone.
- The highest point is 321m, and the crater floor is less than 30m above sea level.
- The island is a privately owned scenic reserve, despite the harsh environment it is home to a number of bird species including a gannet colony.



▲ White Island is 48 km from the North Island.

◀ The island is actually a **stratovolcano (also composite cone)** - a volcano made up of layers of ash and lava flow.

Maori Name

- *Te Puia o Whakaari* meaning to make visible.

Features

- Sulphur mining occurred at intervals from the 1880's until the 1930's and the remains of a factory can be seen on the island.
- 11 sulphur miners were killed by a debris flow in 1914, when part of the crater rim collapsed.
- In May 2004 a dinosaur figurine (Dino from the Flintstones) was glued in front of one of the GeoNet web cameras and has been there ever since. Is he still there? Check: volcano/activity/white-island/cameras/whiteisland-latest.html

Type

- White Island is called composite

Eruptive history

- White Island has been active for at least 150,000 years
- There has been continual low level activity and some small eruptions since human settlement of NZ.
- From 1975 until 2001 there were frequent small eruptions making this the island's most active period in hundreds of years. Ash and gas plumes rose as high as 10km, lava bombs and blocks were thrown into the sea and occasionally the glow of red hot rock was visible at night from the Bay of Plenty coast.

Last eruptive activity

- Previous activity occurred from March to September 2000.
- A new eruptive episode started on 2012. This followed a period of rest. Eruptions have been frequent and a small amount

and rise towards the coast and mix with, and heat, the air beneath the crater. White steam/gas present above the crater. A white cloud can sting the face and breathing and damage clothes.

Monitoring

- This includes 2 seismic stations on the island and on the coast, and a seismograph and volcanic explosivity index (VEI) of water, gas and measure land deformation.