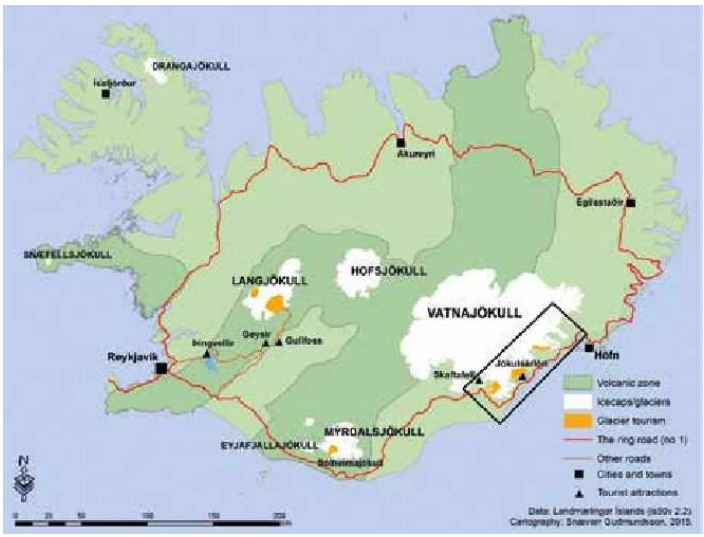
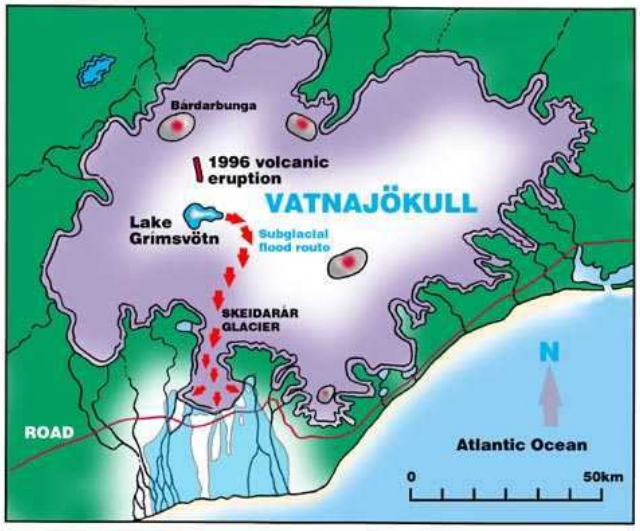
Grimsvotn Volcano - Iceland





Grímsvotn is a basaltic volcano in southeast Iceland. It is in the highlands of Iceland at the northwestern side of the Vatnajokull ice-cap. Beneath the caldera is the magma chamber of the Grímsvotn volcano.

Grímsvotn has the highest eruption frequency of all the volcanoes in Iceland and has a southwest-northeast-trending fissure system. The massive climate-impacting Laki fissure eruption of 1783–1784 was a part of the same fissure system. Grímsvotn was erupting at the same time as Laki during 1783, but continued to erupt until 1785. Because most of the volcano lies underneath Vatnajokull, most of its eruptions have been subglacial and the interaction of magma and meltwater from the ice causes explosive activity with both magmatic gases and steam.

It is unique because there's a huge ice layer cover. Additionally, there is a caldera on the top of the volcano with an enormous cup full of ice too. This cup's area, or in other words - ice lake, is 35 km². The volcano was erupting and the ice began to thaw. The eruption melted the ice layer in the caldera and much water accumulated there. As a consequence, a new lake appeared with a cone in its center. The photo on the right was taken days after the 2011 eruption.

On 21 May 2011 an eruption began with 7 mi high plumes accompanied by multiple earthquakes and lightning, resulting in cancellation of 900 flights in Iceland, and in the United Kingdom, Greenland, Germany, Ireland and Norway on 22–25 May.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