

Eyja fjalla jokull – Volcano in Iceland

- Eyja fjalla jokull is a volcano that is entirely covered by an ice cap. It is located on the south coast of the island of Iceland, about 3km inland.
- Its unusual and difficult to pronounce name comes from the combination of various words with different meanings. Different parts of the name mean island, mountain and glacier.
- The ice cap covers an area of about 100 square km, although it is one of the smallest ice caps in the country. Iceland has about 130 volcanic mountains.
- Eyja fjalla jokull is what is known as a stratovolcano, meaning it has a large, steep sided cone. [Mount Etna](#) and [Mount Vesuvius](#) are also stratovolcanoes and are among the most destructive.
- The volcano is 1,651 metres high, with a crater of up to 4 km in diameter, containing 3 main peaks. The mountain was once part of the coast, although it has now retreated.
- Although active, Eyja fjalla jokull usually goes several centuries between eruptions, erupting in 920, 1612, 1821 and 2010. The ash from the 1821 eruption can still be found in the area.
- The eruption of Eyja fjalla jokull in May 2010 resulted in the grounding of thousands of flights all over Europe. It was the highest level of air travel disruption since [World War 2](#).
- The initial eruption caused a 500 metre fissure in a nearby pass. The ash plume that was created reached a height of 11 km.
- The ash cloud reached as far as the south coast of England, Germany and parts of western Russia. Farmers in Iceland were warned to not let livestock drink from water tainted by the ash.
- Another glacier covered volcano, Katla, is located about 25 km away from Eyja fjalla jokull.
- In the past, an eruption at Eyja fjalla jokull was always followed by an eruption at Katla (in the years 920, 1612, and 1821-1823), although in 2010 the volcano was quiet.



- The BIG eruption in Iceland

- The volcano has erupted TWICE. Once in March 2010, which meant 500 people were evacuated from the area, and then again in April (much more powerful than the March eruption) which caused Europe so much disruption

- It's underneath a glacier which causes two problems: 1) flooding when the heat from the volcano melts all the ice, which is why those people were evacuated, and 2) it makes the eruption highly explosive. When the water leaked into the insides of the volcano, the magma turned the water to steam. The resulting explosion shattered the magma into tiny fragments called 'volcanic ash' and shot them high into the sky



- The ash cloud reached 55,000 feet

Volcano Katla

- There is another volcano nearby and people are worried this eruption could set it off. It's called Katla and it is an even bigger volcano

- Katla is around 25km away from the other one

- It's got a much bigger magma chamber so it's far more powerful



Volcano Tourism in Iceland

Volcano tourism is becoming big business in Iceland following the eruption of Eyjafjalla jokull. The landscape around the volcano has changed dramatically since the vast dust cloud early last year - there are now striking black-and-white glaciers there. Visitors can also journey to the eruption site, 2,300ft above sea level, for panoramic views over volcano tops and the Atlantic.