

Krakatau

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Krakatau is located near the Java Islands in Indonesia. The latitude and longitude are 6.102°S and 105.423°E. The elevation is 813 m.



Volcano Description

Krakatau was a cinder cone volcano, and is now a caldera volcano, meaning that it blew up and there was a bowl shape left behind. It was an island itself, called Krakatau after its volcano. Its eruptions are violent with very runny and thick lava. The first sign of activity was in May of 1883, where there was an ash cloud spotted by a nearby ship. It is still active today (as Anak Krakatau).

Eruption History

The only major eruption that Krakatau ever produced was from August 26th through August 27th, 1883. It was considered the most violent eruption in volcanic history and could be heard three thousand miles (or four thousand, eight hundred and eight kilometers) away from the actual origin of the eruption. This also made it have the loudest sound heard in modern history. The almost ear shattering noise made many pyroclastic flows happen, and they killed about 4,500 people: over 10% of the citizens in that area, including the Java Islands. It caused half to two thirds of the island to blow up and sink to the ocean floor, almost directly on top of the

magma chamber. On the 26th of August, volcanic ash rose 27 kilometers into the air, later turning into 36 kilometers and spreading through the northeast of Indonesia. Tsunami frightened western Sumatra and Java as well as other adjacent islands. On August 27th, four tremendous eruptions began around 5:30 in the morning. The explosion nearly blew Krakatau apart. Two thirds of the island dropped below sea level near the magma chamber. Danan-- one of the three volcanoes on the island of Krakatau-- collapsed from 450 kilometers above sea level to 250 kilometers below sea level. The death toll has believed to be 40,000 people, but many other places thought that it was much higher. Other eruptions included one in 1530, 1680 – 1681 and 1684.

Additional Information Due to the volcanic eruptions, an enormous amount of ash (recorded to be about twenty times more than Mt. St. Helens) was released into the air. Over time, it fell 2,500 kilometers downwind. Few fragments were propelled into the stratosphere. They stayed for a couple of years, causing the world's temperature to drop by several degrees. The tephra created large amounts of sulfur dioxide. This caused exotic colors of the sunsets and halos around the moon. Krakatau is slowly rebuilding itself and is an active volcano known as Anak Krakatau, or the Son of Krakatau. Its last eruption was in March 2011.

References

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