

Characteristics of Different Types of Volcanoes and Features

Type of Volcano	Form of Volcano	Size	Type of Magma	Style of Activity	Examples
Basalt plateau	Flat to gentle slope	100,000 to 1,000,000 km ² 1 to 3 km thick	Basalt	Gentle eruption from long fissures	Columbia River Iceland
Shield volcano	Slightly sloped	Up to 9000 m high	Basalt	Gentle, some fire fountains	Hawaii Iceland
Composite volcano	alternate layers of flows and pyroclastics	100 to 3500 m high	Variety of types of magmas and ash	Often violent	Vesuvius St. Helens Aconcagua Pinatubo
Cinder Cone	Moderate Slope	100 to 400m high	Basalt or andesite	Ejections of pyroclastic material	Paricutin Sunset Crater Top of Haleakala
OTHER FEATURES					
Fumarole	vent in ground		steam and other hot gases		lava streams craters, calderas
Solfatara	vent in ground		steam containing sulfurous gases		lava streams craters, calderas
Crater	circular opening at top of lava conduit	less than few km in diameter			
Caldera	Cataclysmic explosion or collapse of empty magma chamber leaving a circular depression caldera	few to 40 km in diameter	Basalt to Granite	Very Violent	Yellowstone, San Juan Mountains Krakatoa Santorini Long Valley Cald. Crater Lake
Geyser	Hot spring throwing up jets of boiling water and steam		hot rock heats water under pressure	violent	Yellowstone Iceland New Zealand
Black Smoker	jet of hot water from vent in ocean floor		dissolved sulfides of copper, iron, manganese and zinc		East Pacific Rise
Guyot	flat-topped seamount		Basalt	extinct	Emperor Seamounts
Atoll	remains around subsided volcano		Corals	extinct	Bikini Atoll