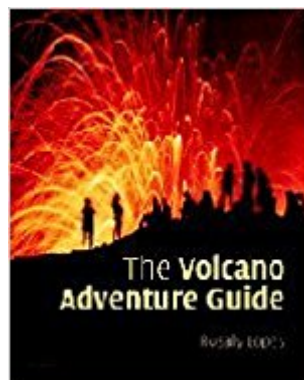


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# The Volcano Adventure Guide



## Synopsis

This guide contains vital information for anyone wishing to visit, explore, and photograph active volcanoes safely and enjoyably. Following an introduction that discusses eruption styles of different types of volcanoes and how to prepare for an exploratory trip that avoids volcanic dangers, the book presents guidelines to visiting 42 different volcanoes around the world. It is filled with practical information that includes tour itineraries, maps, transportation details, and warnings of possible non-volcanic dangers. Three appendices direct the reader to a wealth of further volcano resources in a volume that will fascinate amateur enthusiasts and professional volcanologists alike. Rosaly Lopes is a planetary geology and volcanology specialist at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. In addition to her curatorial and research work, she has lectured extensively in England and Brazil and written numerous popular science articles. She received a Latinas in Science Award from the Comision Feminil Mexicana Nacional in 1991 and since 1992, has been a co-organizer of the United Nations/European Space Agency/The Planetary Society yearly conferences on Basic Science for the Benefit of Developing Countries. Rosaly Lopes comments on the volcanic eruption beneath Iceland's Eyjafjallajokull glacier - [click here](#).

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## Customer Reviews

"Lopes' hefty, inspiring volume, part coffee-table book and part field guide, brings enthusiastic description together with precise scientific detail for nonscientists who want to see volcanoes for themselves." San Francisco Chronicle "I'd recommend The Volcano Adventure Guide as a must-read for anyone contemplating this particular adventure sport." New Scientist, Douglas

Palmer" "This is the book for anyone wondering what it's like to stand at the edge of a bubbling crater. Written by an acclaimed volcano expert, this guide reveals the best ways to visit, explore, and photograph 42 active volcano sites all over the world." *Endless Vacation* "More intrepid travellers might find *The Volcano Adventure Guide* more exciting. Rosaly Lopes' book gives advice on planning a visit to an active volcano, and has detailed guides to 42 of the world's most spectacular examples. With chapters on the types of eruption as well as safety and survival rules, this is another book that should interest those staying at home as well as amateur and professional volcanologists alike." *Nature* "Volcanologists and naturalist explorers in general have received a tremendous gift with the creation of this one-of-a-kind guide to world-class volcanoes. Spectacular color photos, geologic and geographic maps, and schematic interpretive illustrations provide excellent support for a beautifully written text. Among several recent fine books on world volcanoes, this one is unique and unparalleled. Essential." *CHOICE* "With chapters on the types of eruption as well as safety and survival rules, this is another book that should interest those staying at home as well as amateur and professional volcanologists alike." *Nature* "...Lopes has given us a book that is equal parts geology, history and travel advice - the travelogue confined to volcanoes that are the least dangerous." *Cincinnati Enquirer* "Aimed at nonspecialist readers who wish to explore various volcanos without being foolhardy, it will fascinate amateur enthusiasts and professional volcanologists alike." *Lunar and Planetary Information Bulletin* "If you have anything more than a passing interest in learning more about these marvelously explosive natural phenomena, get this book for your library. If you are thinking of planning a volcano trip, RUN and get this book!" *Mineral News*, Tony Nikischer "The Volcano Adventure Guide is filled with practical hints..." - RALPH

The Volcano Adventure Guide contains vital information for anyone wishing to visit, explore, and photograph active volcanoes safely and enjoyably. It presents guides to visiting 42 different volcanoes around the world, including tour itineraries, maps, transportation details, and references to a wealth of further volcano resources. Aimed at non-specialist readers wishing to explore volcanoes without being foolhardy, it will fascinate amateur enthusiasts and professional volcanologists alike. The stunning colour photographs will delight armchair travellers as well as inspire the adventurous to get out and explore volcanoes for themselves.

THE VOLCANO ADVENTURE GUIDE by Rosaly Lopes is a precious addition to the more common volcano guides aimed at a more academic audience. Volcanoes represent one of the main attractions on Earth mostly non-expert visitors. From personal experience (on Etna and Stromboli,

two active volcanoes in Italy) I know that many volcano visitors do not have much knowledge about the place they are visiting - even when their principal reason for coming IS the volcano. Nearly all deaths and injuries on Etna and Stromboli that can be attributed to eruptions and other causes such as bad weather, lightning, and mountain accidents in general, are due to a lack of knowledge of the site and its various hazards. People carefully reading THE VOLCANO ADVENTURE GUIDE will have a better knowledge of such hazards and at receive crucial logistical information about volcanoes worth to be visited. Concerning the contents of the book, there is little that I can add to previous reviews (the one written by my colleague Tom Pfeiffer is particularly enlightening). What I would like to point out here is my overall appreciation of THE VOLCANO ADVENTURE GUIDE - it is useful, and it is a pleasant, entertaining read - and a few issues that I found problematic. There are a few minor errors and inconsistencies in the book, such as in the section about Mauna Loa volcano, Hawaii. The text and maps correctly state that the most recent eruption of this volcano to date occurred in 1984. The previous eruption, however, is once given as 1974, and then as 1975 (the latter is correct). Sharing the fate of all printed guides to active volcanoes, a few portions of this book have already been rendered obsolete by the course of events. For example, Montserrat island in the Caribbean, which has strongly suffered from the impact of the ongoing eruption of its volcano Soufrière Hills since 1995, is described in a way that certainly reflects the situation at the time the book was written. However, my experience during a visit to Montserrat in December 2005 is very different from what I would have expected from reading the book. Although the volcano is still active, most people that I encountered in Montserrat were very positive, laid back and serene, and the overall feeling was one of everybody starting over again with a lot of confidence - in spite of the volcano being still active. Although one phrase in this section begins with "as of 2004", the narrative of the eruption fails to mention the extraordinarily massive collapse of the Soufrière Hill's lava dome in July 2003, the largest such collapse documented from any historical volcanic eruption. Furthermore, in the book it is written that the island cannot be reached by airplane - since the spring of 2005 (the opening of the new airport) airplanes are the only available means to get there! The same is true for Etna. The major eruptions in 2001 and 2002-2003 changed a lot of things for visitors. One of the two tourist stations (which is not even mentioned in the book) was overrun and devastated by lava flows during the second of these recent eruptions, the other was partially damaged in both events and subsequently reconstructed - bigger (and more expensive) than ever before. Likewise, the most recent significant events at the nearby volcano of Stromboli are not included in the information - a major lava flow accompanied by a modest flank collapse triggering a damaging tsunami, and one of the most powerful explosions on record in 2002-2003. These events

led to much of the volcano being declared off-limits to visitors for a prolonged period, and although visits are now again possible, they are limited to very small groups accompanied by professional guides. Also the access paths are now different from how they were before. There is an extensive chapter on Mount St. Helens, unfortunately the volcano became active just about the time the book was to be released, and its shape has undergone significant changes since then. The one major flaw in the book is the section dealing with the disastrous 8 May 1902 eruption of Montagne Pelée, Martinique (Caribbean), which led to the total devastation of the city of St. Pierre and the death of nearly all of its about 28,000 inhabitants. As famous as this event is, many descriptions of it are seriously contorted if not false at all. One particular myth that is difficult to get rid of is the alleged attempt of the then Governor of Martinique, Mouttet, to prevent the anxious population of St. Pierre from leaving the town. There is even word that Mouttet ordered roads exiting the town to be blocked by military in order to keep its population there, because elections were due. The essence of such reports is that Mouttet was directly responsible for approximately 28,000 deaths! Unfortunately, these stories have found their way into THE VOLCANO ADVENTURE GUIDE, although recent reconstructions of the events have proved that things went very differently in 1902. One main reason for this repetition of the false accusations against Mouttet (who died himself in the event, because he stayed in St. Pierre at the moment of the eruption, evidently oblivious of the real danger) is that two books rectifying this bit of history were published just about the time THE VOLCANO ADVENTURE GUIDE went to the press. One of these books, which are cited below, is mentioned in the reference list as having just been released - too late for its important information to be incorporated in the VOLCANO ADVENTURE GUIDE. However, Lopes also cites a little French book published first in 1988, which documents the events leading up to the devastating event on 8 May 1902. This little book - "La montagne Pelée se réveille", by Simone Chretien and Robert Brousse - explicitly denies most of the accusations against Mouttet, coming to the conclusion that nobody, at the time, could have known what Montagne Pelée held in store for the poor people of St. Pierre. The phenomenon that killed them - pyroclastic flows - was essentially unknown even to the few volcanologists of that time. It was this very event which led to the recognition of pyroclastic flows and their devastating, lethal potential. For these reasons, I recommend all readers of this book who are interested in the Montagne Pelée - St. Pierre history to read at least one of the following two books (they were published just a few months apart at the 100th anniversary of the Martinique tragedy). "The last days of St. Pierre: The Volcanic Disaster that Claimed 30,000 Lives" by Ernest Zebrowski (2002) "LA Catastrophe: The Eruption of Mount Pelee, the Worst Volcanic Disaster of the 20th Century" by Alwyn Scarth (2002) In summary, however, THE VOLCANO

ADVENTURE GUIDE is an entertaining, friendly and very useful book - not only for those intending to visit volcanoes they have not visited before, but also for anybody interested in volcanoes. It is well illustrated, and the price is surprisingly low for a book of that quality. I hope that it will be so successful that Rosaly Lopes will release a second edition sometime, without the flaws that I stumbled about. Boris Behncke - INGV, Catania, Sicily

Will use it for upcoming trips to Indonesia and Greece. I think it could have a bit more history though

Volcanologist and geophysicist Dr. Rosaly Lopez's new book is a must for everyone interested in volcanos. The beautifully layouted and very cheap (compared to its quality) book starts with a virtual journey through the world's variety of volcanoes, then goes on to a general description of volcanism, its fundamental scientific concepts, that are accurately described in an easy-to-understand language. A detailed chapter is dedicated to giving practical information and lots of useful advice of how to best and actually visit a real volcano: essential preparation, equipment, information sources about the state of a volcano, volcano-related and other general hazards are carefully described, as well as how to minimize them. The second part of the book, - my favourite, - picks a number of volcanoes that are all reasonably accessible, often active, and very well known to the author: From Hawai'i and Mt. St. Helens in the Cascades, the journey goes to Europe with the volcanoes in Italy and Greece, and elsewhere such as in Costa Rica. These volcanoes are presented with a solid scientific background such as their geologic history and geographical information, as well as carefully researched, rarely otherwise found stories that surround them. Then, practical information is given of how to actually visit them, including tips for accommodation and travel, detailed maps and itineraries. In particular, I enjoyed reading Rosaly's language, which is easy to read, accurate and up-to-date. At the same time, it is also warm and personal, sometimes spiced with subtle humor. The book is definitively bridging the gap between the scientific community (who often do not like to share their privilege in know-how of accessing a volcano to others) and the interested non-specialist wishing to see a live volcano. As volcanologist and tour organizer to volcanoes myself ([...] I would strongly recommend this book for anyone interested in volcanoes, both from a scientific interest as well as from the pure pleasure of enjoying their exceptional beauty. Excellent drawings, maps, and brilliant photographs round out the book. Tom Pfeiffer - Hilo, Hawaii, 25 Feb. 2005

Are you a tourist? Do you want to see a volcano? An active volcano? Or maybe a geyser? Then this book is for you! Beautifully illustrated, with excellent maps, it tells all about what you can see and

what it all means. Rosaly Lopes, an award-winning volcanologist, describes the different types of volcanic eruptions, and then gives some advice and rules for visiting volcanoes safely. If you are serious about being in a potentially dangerous area, that means helmets, gas masks, gloves, sturdy boots, and eye protection. She also gives some advice on volcano photography. Next are field guides to visiting specific volcanoes in Hawaii, the continental USA, Italy, Greece, Iceland, Costa Rica, and the West Indies. There's all kinds of material about each of the major volcanoes and geysers there. In addition, there is some practical advice. Don't carry a purse in Naples! Lopes had two of them stolen less than twelve hours apart there. In Iceland, we see a photo of the Viti ("Hell") crater with a thick layer of ice over part of it, proving that Hell can freeze over. Lopes has personal accounts of her visits to many of these volcanoes. That includes her first visit to Arenal, which could have been dangerous and is used as an example to show the importance of knowing exactly where one is and just how dangerous the volcano is. And there's all sorts of anecdotal material. For example, Mount Kilimanjaro, a very beautiful African volcano was given as a birthday present from Queen Victoria to her grandson, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. This entire book is simply fascinating. I highly recommend it.

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