



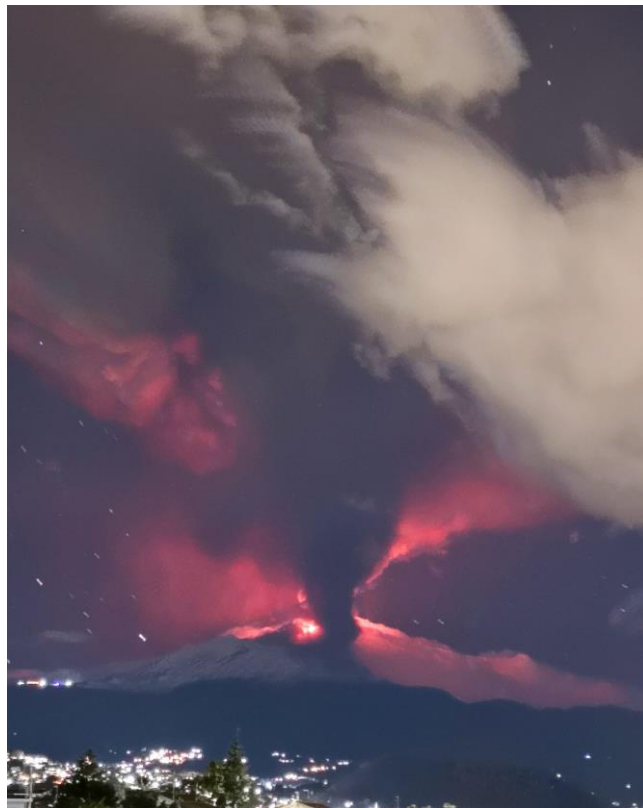
OBSERVATÓRIO
VULCANOLÓGICO
E GEOTÉRMICO
AÇORES



ETNA'S ALIVE

Mount Etna erupts in Sicily sending plumes of ash and spewing lava into air

Notícia OVGA 14-12-2020



MOUNT Etna has erupted in Sicily sending plumes of dense ash and spewing lava fountains into the sky. Photograph: Chris Bradford

The Italian volcano is Europe's largest and Etna's frequent blasts are often accompanied by large lava flows.

Mt Etna, Europe's largest and most active volcano, erupted last night - sending plumes of ash into the sky

Volcanic activity from Etna's south-east crater was first recorded at 9.20pm yesterday and within half an hour, the intensity of the blast increased from medium to high.

The crater produced lava fountains of up to 100m high and a dense ash plume rose to an estimated 5km high, according to the Volcanic Ash Advisory Center Toulouse.

Sandfalls on villages and towns south of the Sicilian volcano have also been reported.

Loud roars have been heard in Calabria as smoke was seen heading towards Catania.

A magnitude 2.7 earthquake was recorded on the slopes of Etna before the blast but it's not known if it was linked.

In the past 24 hours, 17 quakes have been recorded.

It's likely that the blast was a paroxysm as it lasted for a short period of time but was of high intensity.

Etna erupts frequently because of its position between the African and Eurasian tectonic plates, as well as the fault between the African and Ionian microplate.

The Ionian plate is tilted backward - allowing space for mantle magma to well up to the surface.

Mount Etna's most severe recent eruption was on March 16, 2017, when ten people including a BBC news crew were injured.

But blasts date back more than 2000 years to 1500 BC.

In 1169, an earthquake prior to an eruption killed 15,000 people, while a devastating flank eruption destroyed 15 villages in 1669.

And in 1787, Etna produced one of the most spectacular summit eruptions on record where lava fountains of 3000m high were seen.

Between 2002 and 2003, a series of activity threw up a huge column of ash that could be seen from space.

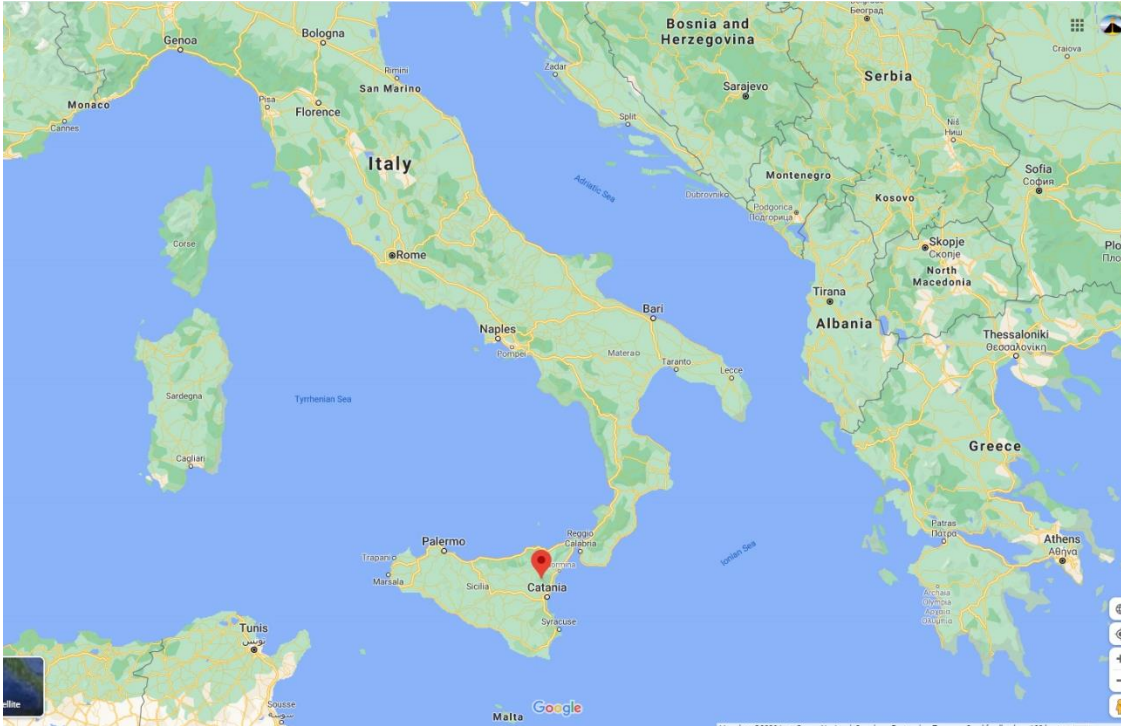
It fell as far away as Libya - 370 miles from Sicily.

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The towering volcano stands at a staggering 3,329m - making it the highest peak in Italy south of the Alps.

Etna is also by far the largest of three active volcanoes in Italy and roughly two and a half times the height of the second largest Mount Vesuvius.

Etna is considered, after Kilauea on Hawaii, the most active volcano in the world.



Adenda OVGA: location of Etna volcano, Italy, le Earth View®

Source: The sun

Click link below for video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11OR-TT9brY&ab_channel=SkylineWebcams