

Paricutín



Parícutín is one of the youngest volcanoes on Earth. It erupted for nine years. Scientists were able to observe what happened from the birth of the volcano until it became extinct.

Location	Mexico
Type of volcano	cinder cone
Status	extinct
Height	2800m above sea level
Eruptions	1943–1952



Summary of the eruption

The people that lived in the village of Paricutín had heard rumbling sounds for weeks but thought it was the noise of thunder. On 20th February 1943, a volcano had its first eruption near the village. The volcano was later named Paricutín. A farmer called Dionisio Pulido was working in a field. He noticed a huge crack had appeared in a hill. The ground shook and swelled around the crack. Grey ashes and smoke poured out of it.

Another farmer called Celedonio Gutierrez described what he saw.

*'In the evening, when night began to fall, we heard noises like the surge of the sea, and red flames of fire rose into the darkened sky, some rising 2600 feet or more into the air, that burst like golden marigolds, and a rain like artificial fire fell to the ground.'**

The volcano grew quickly because lava and large pieces of rock were pushed from under the ground. The lava and soft pieces of hot rock made the cone shape of the volcano. In just over a day, the volcano had grown to over 50m tall. Within a week, it had doubled in height.

In June, lava started flowing towards the village of Paricutín and it had to be evacuated. A few months later, the lava had covered a town called San Juan Parangaricutiro. Only the church tower could still be seen over the lava.

The volcano was very active in its first year. Its cone rose 450 metres from the base and completely buried the village of Paricutín. It became less active every year.

For six months towards the end of 1951, Paricutín had many violent eruptions. The eruptions ended in March 1952 and the volcano is now extinct. This means it will never erupt again.



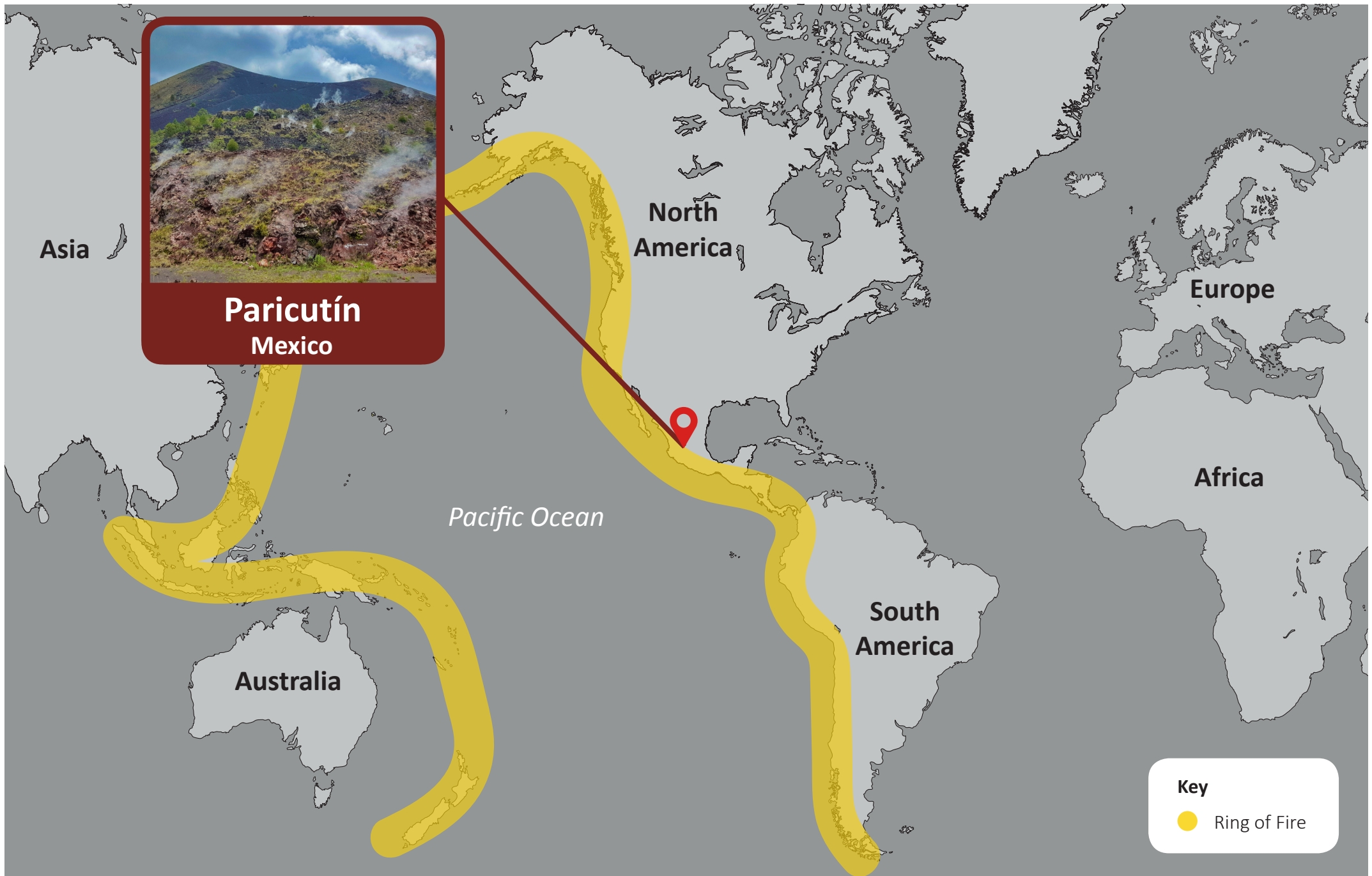
Ancient church of San Juan Parangaricutiro

Consequences of the eruption

- Two villages and hundreds of homes were destroyed and buried by the fire, lava and ashes.
- Lava fields and volcanic sand covered about 25 square kilometres around the volcano.
- Most plants were destroyed within a few kilometres of the crater around the volcano.
- Hundreds of people had to move to new towns and villages.
- No one was killed by lava or ash from the volcano. Three people were killed by lightning from storms caused by the eruption.

* Celedonio Gutierrez's quote from *Forbes* online, 20th February 2018





Kīlauea



Kīlauea erupted almost constantly between 1983 and 2018. Scientists think it is one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the United States of America.

Location	Hawaii
Type of volcano	shield
Status	active
Height	1247 metres above sea level (May 2018)
Eruptions	1983–2018



Summary of the eruption

Kīlauea erupted on 3rd January 1983 on Hawaii. Lava came through deep cracks to the east of the summit. Over time, the fountains of lava made a new cone. This cone is now called Puu Oo.

Between 1983 and 2016, lava spread over 144 square kilometres of the island. When the hot lava hit the sea, it cooled to make hard rock. This rock added almost two kilometres of new land to the south-east part of the island. 215 buildings and over 14 kilometres of roads were destroyed.

From 3rd May 2018, an eruption from cracks near Puu Oo destroyed parts of the Leilani Estates area. Thousands of residents were evacuated. On 4th May, there was an earthquake. It damaged buildings and roads, as well as causing landslides.

During May, huge clouds of ash and gas rose above the volcano. The highest cloud was over 9000 metres high.

A farmer called Edwin Montoya saw one of the cracks form in the ground.

*'It was just a little crack in the ground, with a little lava coming out. Now it's a big crater that opened up where the small little crack in the ground was.'**



Road in Hawaii destroyed by lava

By July, thick, black lava had covered more than 30 square kilometres of the island and destroyed about 700 homes. The lava cooled into hard rock when it hit the sea. This changed the shape of the coastline again.

After 4th August, the volcano became less active. The last lava was seen above the ground in early September 2018.

Consequences of the eruption

- There is still magma moving under the volcano and scientists say it will erupt again in the future.
- During 2018, over 30 kilometres of the island was covered in lava.
- There are over 3 square kilometres of new land, where the lava cooled in the sea to make rock.
- Around 700 houses were destroyed during the 2018 eruption and thousands of people had to leave their homes.
- Many plant and animal habitats were destroyed.
- Over 20 people were injured during the 2018 eruptions but none were killed.

* Edwin Montoya's quotation from *The Guardian* online, 20th May 2018



