

Incredible Astrophoto: The Milky Way and Mt. Fuji as a 'Galactic Volcano'

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Mt. Fuji in Japan as a 'galactic volcano' with the Milky Way 'spewing' above and climbers with flashlights appearing like lava. Credit and copyright: Yuga Kurita.

It is a Japanese tradition to climb Mt. Fuji at night to be able to watch

sunrise from the peak of the volcano in the morning. And so at night, climbers use flashlights to make their way to the summit. This inspired photographer Yuga Kurita to create a truly stunning image that makes the iconic Mt. Fuji appear like a galactic volcano.

"When I arrived at Fujiyoshida in Yamanashi Prefecture, I saw people climbing up Mt. Fuji with flash lights and I thought they looked like lava streams," Kurita explained on G+. "Then I came up with this composition, since nowadays, the Milky Way appears vertically in the sky so probably I could liken Mt. Fuji to an imaginary galactic volcano, that is, people climbing up with torches are lava streams and the Milky Way is the [volcano](#) smoke."

Kurita said he checked out maps to find out the best potential spots where the image could be taken for full effect, and then spent a whole day driving and hiking around Mt. Fuji to check out the candidate spots. "I eventually found out the right spot for the composition and visited the spot three consecutive nights," he said. "The result is this photograph. I'm quite happy with the outcome."

Amazing and truly spectacular!

Thanks to Yuga Kurita for allowing Universe Today to post this image. You can see more of his work at G+ and on Facebook.

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