

Volcanic eruption in southwest Iceland ends: met office

August 16 2023



The famous Eyjafjallajökull eruption paralysed air traffic in Europe in 2010.

Iceland's meteorological office on Wednesday declared that the volcanic eruption near the country's capital Reykjavik was officially over as no activity had been observed for 10 days.

"Ten days have passed since activity was last measured in the Litli-Hrutur crater. There is no longer any deformation observed in the area and [seismic activity](#) has decreased considerably," the Icelandic Meteorological Office (IMO) said in a statement.

"As a result, we can say that another chapter in the resurgence of volcanism on the Reykjanes peninsula has come to an end," it added.

Thousands of visitors have been flocking to the site to take in the hypnotic spectacle of red-hot lava spurting out of the ground.

The Reykjanes peninsula had been dormant for eight centuries but has experienced a resurgence of volcanic activity in recent years.

There have been two other recent eruptions—one in the Geldingadalir valley in March 2021, which lasted six months, and one in the Meradalir valley in August 2022, which lasted three weeks.

All of them belong to the Fagradalsfjall volcanic system.

Last week the IMO noted that this third consecutive [eruption](#) in as many years marked "a turning point in the volcanism of the Reykjanes Peninsula."

Unlike [explosive eruptions](#) that spew out thousands of tons of ash—such as the famous Eyjafjallajökull eruption that paralyzed air traffic in Europe in 2010—the three recent ones have been so-called "effusive" eruptions and have had little impact, apart from [lava flows](#) and locally toxic gas spikes.

Iceland has 33 volcanic systems currently considered active, the highest number in Europe. It has an eruption every five years on average.

The North Atlantic island straddles the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a crack in the [ocean floor](#) separating the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates.

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Citation: Volcanic eruption in southwest Iceland ends: met office (2023, August 16) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2023-08-volcanic-eruption-southwest-iceland-met.html>

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