

## The history of the Santorini volcano

One of the largest volcanic eruptions of the last 10,000 years occurred around 1620 BC. on the volcanic island of Santorini in the Aegean Sea. Before 1620 BC, the island of Santorini, now known as Thira, was built from layers of lava created by overlapping shield volcanoes, and had experienced three major eruptions that formed overlapping calderas, or collapsed magma chambers.



Around 1620 BC, the fourth (and last) major eruption created the present-day islands and caldera bay of the Santorini volcano. The caldera rim is clearly visible in this image as a steep cliff that forms the western coastline of the island of Thira.

After the volcanic eruption of 1620 BC, much of the former island of Santorini was destroyed or submerged. The most recent volcanic activity in the Kameni Islands occurred in the 1950s and included some minor eruptions and lava production.

The extent of the development and the location of an airport in Thira show the popularity of the Santorini volcano as a tourist destination.

Today, volcanic activity is closely monitored by the Institute for the Study and Monitoring of the Santorini Volcano, or ISMOSAB.







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