

# VOLCANOES IN GREECE

ERASMUS+



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- \* Greece has a large volcanic arch, which was created millions of years ago by the sinking of the African lithosphere under the Eurasian plate.
- \* This volcanic arch of Greece had an especially intense volcanic activity in the past and created the volcanic landscapes that we come across in many regions and islands around Greece.

Most of the volcanoes in Greece are extinct, however there are some still active. The most important active volcanoes in Greece are situated in Santorini island, Nisyros island, Methana and Milos island, receiving thousands of visitors every year



# WHEN A VOLCANO IS ACTIVE OR EXTINCT

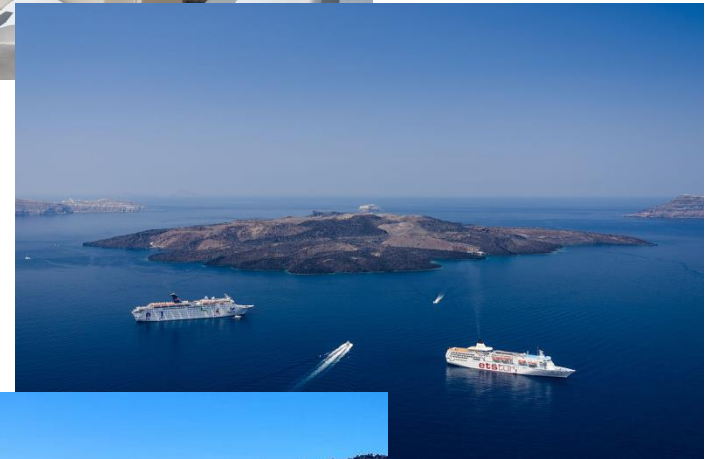
- \* We can say that a volcano is active when it has erupted since the last ice age (~10.000 years ago).
- \* On the other side, a volcano is extinct when it has not erupted since the last ice age and it is not expected to erupt never again.
- \* However, there are dormant volcanoes is one that it has not erupted the past 10.000 years but it is expected to erupt again.

Strange though it might seem, there have been a number of eruptions from “extinct” volcanoes!



# THE VOLCANO OF SANTORINI

\* The volcano of Santorini is the most famous volcano in Greece. It has the largest caldera in the world with a height of 300m and a diameter of 11km. The special thing about this caldera is that it is actually sunken and filled with sea water. On the cliffs of the caldera, white houses have been constructed offering breathtaking view. Boat tours depart from the port of Fira in Santorini to the volcano, which is actually the island of Nea Kameni, formed by volcanic eruptions in the 16th century. The last eruption of the Santorini volcano was small and happened in 1950 and the volcano is still active.



# THE VOLCANO OF NISYROS



- \* The second most famous volcano in Greece is located on the small island of Nisyros. This is the youngest of the large volcanic centres in Greece, only 160,000 years old. In 1872, a large eruption happened and created a crater of about 6 to 7 meters. In 1888, another eruption happened forming a crater of 25m diameter. In 1956, schisms emitting smoke were observed. Today the volcano of Nisyros is dormant.

# VOLCANO OF MILOS

- \* The volcano of Milos island is considered dormant. It is located in the centre of the island and has given to Milos its richness in minerals and its strange geological formation. The last volcanic eruption on Milos took place in 90,000 BC.



# VOLCANIC ACTIVITY IN METHANA



- \* The peninsula of Methana, on the north eastern side of Peloponnese, actually has 32 volcanoes that are mostly andesitic and dacitic lava domes. The volcanic activity in the peninsula started about one million years ago and in fact a large eruption took place in 230 BC. The last eruption of the Methana volcano happened in 1700. Today the volcano is dormant and many hiking and climbing tours are organized in the peninsula. Due to the volcanic activity, Methana also has famous thermal springs.

# OTHER VOLCANOES IN GREECE

Other smaller volcanoes in Greece are found in Kos island and on the islet of Giali, between Kos and Nisyros. In places where volcanoes exist, there are also thermal springs, such as Thermes Beach in Kos, the Thermals of Methana and the Hot Springs in Santorini.

