Volcanoes shape our earth: landscapes, the air we breathe, the oceans. From day one they have had a direct influence and impact on life itself. They still occupy a central place in our daily lives. Recent events in Hawaii (fissure eruptions, May-June 2018) and the explosive eruption of Fuego with its destructive pyroclastic flows (Guatemala, June 2018), have killed local inhabitants and destroyed property. Social media makes sure that we are kept up to date with events; the fourth estate makes sure we are regaled with death and mayhem.

I have never seen an actual eruption; the inquisitive, scientific part of me would love to witness one (at a safe distance). On my doorstep are three extinct stratovolcanoes 2-3 million years old. An hour and a half drive south puts me smack in the middle of the Taupo Volcanic Zone that, historically and prehistorically, is prone to cataclysmic, explosive fits. The same travel time north and I’m in the Auckland volcanic field, the most recent eruption of which was about 800 years ago. But I have seen the products of volcanism – the quiet effusive type, explosive and cataclysmic events; some as old as 2 billion years, others much more recent.

The collection of images here is a sample of these events. Some I have published, others just visited. I include this category in the Atlas because volcanic edifices and eruption products provide large volumes of sediment that ultimately are distributed throughout terrestrial drainages systems and marine environments; volcanoes contribute to sediments and sedimentary environments.

One of my favourite sites for volcano updates is **Voices of Volcanology** (Facebook [@VoicesofVolcanology](https://www.facebook.com/VoicesofVolcanology/?hc_ref=ARR97wf0UqCq8U78_u0G50UzGEJQqkrgS6PBtg8XgY13V1a7MhMkzOXaGwZC6Pn-C_w)

Its contributors also provide a rational response to some of the silly, sometimes dangerous media hyperbole.

The **USGS** also provides media, scientific, and activity alert updates for many volcanoes around the world <http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/>

This link will take you to an explanation of the [**Atlas**](http://www.geological-digressions.com/?page_id=2658) series, the ownership, use and acknowledgment of images.  There, you will also find links to the other Atlas categories.

Click on the image for an expanded view, then 'back page' arrow to return to the Atlas.