

6000
B.C.

Neolithic Age

Volcanology, as a description of a volcanic phenomenon, was born in the Neolithic with the execution of a mural painting of a volcano with two peaks in eruption, probably Mount Hasan, in Çatal Hüyük (Turkey) and dating back to 6000 B.C.

Ancient
Greece

Greek period

The name Etna derives from the Greek word Aitne, which means "I burn". According to Greek mythology, Aitna, daughter of heaven and earth, was the goddess of the volcano. Zeus is also believed to have buried Typhon under the mountain. Typhon was a hundred-headed monster whose restlessness caused eruptions.

GO AND VISIT THE PILLOW LAVAS OF ACITREZZA

122
B.C.

The classical period

In 122 B.C. the Roman government exempted the people of Catania from paying taxes for a decade given the extensive damage caused to the city by the products of the explosive eruption. This event constitutes the first institutional intervention for a natural disaster.

1536

Tommaso Fazello

After the Middle Ages, a new turning point took place in 1536 with the eruption of Etna. Both the chronicles of the time and Tommaso FAZello, a direct witness, describe it as one of the most violent. Lavas erupted from the main cone on March 22. On this occasion a new way of describing eruptions was born and new terms were introduced, such as "smoke" or "eruption".

1820

Francesco Ferrara

Francesco Ferrara aims to scientifically explain the origin of the lateral eruptions that frequently occurred on Etna. The lava ascending through the central conduit and reached the crater finds the way to be erupted through the flanks of the volcano. Thus he states in 1818 in the second edition of the Description of Etna: «The lateral eruptions therefore do not come from lava that had to pierce the soil of the Earth, and the body of Etna; they would have poured out of the crater if in rising through the central cavity they had not been determined to flow through underground channels before they could have come out, and poured over the surface».

1920

Alfred Wegener

In 1912, Alfred Wegener proposed the theory of plate tectonics to explain continental drift and volcanism. Although imperfect and partly incorrect, his theory revolutionizes the perception that geologists and volcanologists have of volcanism, since it allows to unify the majority of geophysical phenomena.

1822

Teodoro Monticelli and Nicola Covelli

During the Vesuvian eruption of 1822 Teodoro Monticelli and Nicola Covelli observed some eruptive peaks of Vesuvius. They call these phases of intense activity "paroxysms", a term still in use especially in recent years for the recent eruptions of Etna.

1900

Giuseppe Mercalli

One of the greatest Italian volcanologists and seismologists ever, writes in the preface of his volume "The active volcanoes of the earth" (1907), "up to the end of the 16th century it cannot be said that there was a true science of volcanoes, not even in embryo, since historians and philosophers speak of them, but only incidentally and always very briefly to complete the civil chronicle of peoples or to illustrate philosophical theories.

1904

Piero Gironi Conti

In 1904 Piero Gironi Conti exploited the steam from the boric acid fumaroles of Larderello, a Tuscan volcanic area, for the production of electricity, founding the first geothermal power plant.

curiosities

The charm of the island has also made it the perfect setting for shooting the film **"Stromboli terra di Dio"** by Roberto Rossellini and the ideal location for the blossoming of a new love: the one between the director and the beautiful actress and Oscar winner. Ingrid Bergman, a relationship that caused scandal as they were both married. Furthermore, the volcano was the destination for the conclusion of Jules Verne's science fiction novel, Journey to the Center of the Earth.

curiosities

To admire the "Sciara del fuoco" the best way is on board a boat, perhaps during a romantic dinner! In the Piscità area there are many hidden beaches, often deserted, that we advise you to explore.

If, on the other hand, you have more free time, we recommend renting a boat to visit the other 6 islands as well.

curiosities

Originally the ancients, without knowing the real presence of a volcano, had given **Mount Vesuvius** a thousand names, including: Besùbio, Bèsvio, Bèsbio, Bèbio, Bèmbio, Bisvio, Vèsulo, Vèsuro, Vèsulo, Vèsivo, Vesùbio, Vèsebìo, Mèulo , Esbius, **all having as root "ves" that is fire, understood as sun, burning earth.**

curiosities

The **Albano lake**, also known as **Lake of Castel Gandolfo**, is located at 293 meters above sea level and is the deepest of the volcanic lakes in Italy with about 167 m depth. At present it is about 3.5 km long and 2.3 km wide, with an extension of about 6 square kilometers.

curiosities

The name **"Castel Gandolfo"** derives from the Latin "Castrum Gandulphi" name of the castle from the Gandolfi family, probably originally from Genoa. Another hypothesis, supported in his Commentarii (1462) by Pope Pius II, is that the town's toponym derives from a Gandulphi Sabinorum, from the name of a member of the Savelli family.

curiosities

According to the story of 1700, **Pulcinella would have been born from the shell of a magical egg, which appeared on the summit of Vesuvius by the will of Pluto, the God of the Underworld and the Dead**, following the request of two Neapolitan sorcerers, who would have prepared the dough magical because they wanted to receive a savior, a rescuer, an ally of the people who would heal situations of injustice and oppression that weighed so much on the city.

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