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Taranaki Maunga
TARANAKI VOLCANO

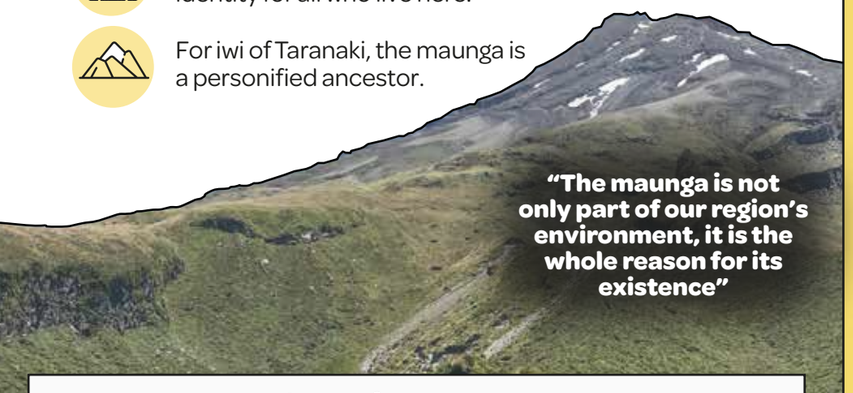
Introduction to our local volcano and answers to some important questions

Taranaki maunga

Taranaki maunga shapes our weather patterns, provides fertile soils, mineral deposits and supports rich animal and plant life.

It is a source of language, culture and identity for all who live here.

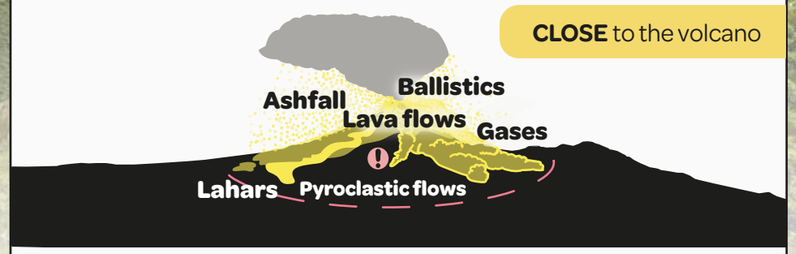
For iwi of Taranaki, the maunga is a personified ancestor.



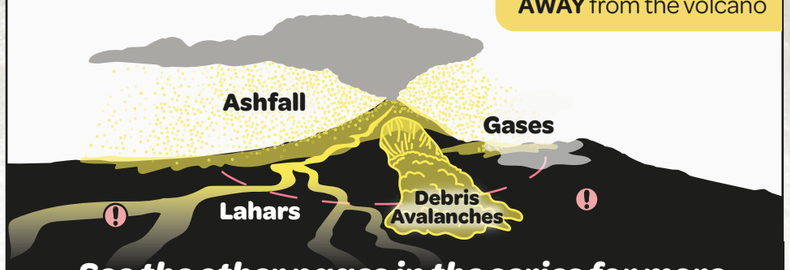
Volcanic processes

Different volcanic processes can affect areas **close to** and **far away** from Taranaki Maunga.

CLOSE to the volcano



AWAY from the volcano



See the other pages in the series for more information on each process

Frequently asked questions

1 Is the volcano overdue for an eruption?

Taranaki Maunga last erupted in 1790 and will erupt again. Scientists have worked out there is a **50% chance** of an eruption within the **next 50 years**.

2 How will we know if an eruption is going to happen?

Earthquakes, **changing shape** and **gases** all help tell scientists if new magma is moving to the surface and if an eruption is possible.

3 Where can eruptions occur?

Past eruptions have come from both **Taranaki's summit** and **Panitahi/ Fanthams Peak**, and occur more often from the summit of Taranaki Maunga.

4 How will an eruption affect my family?

Impacts will be different depending on where you live and work. Future eruptions are expected to be of a scale and type that we can adapt to.

5 Will I need to evacuate?

Some people and animals may be required to evacuate. Evacuations could be caused by the threat of lahars, pyroclastic flows or due to the disruption to roads, water and power supplies.

6 Are earthquakes connected to eruptions?

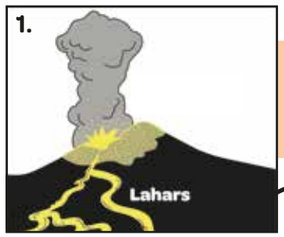
Not always. Taranaki experiences around 300 local earthquakes a year. However, if the volcano wakes up it may also generate some earthquake activity.

If an eruption occurs, risk is higher:

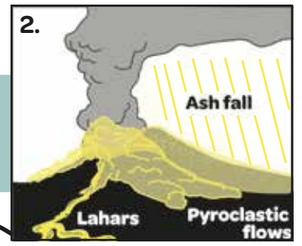
Taranaki Maunga has existed for over 140,000 years. It will continue to erupt, grow and collapse.

What could happen?

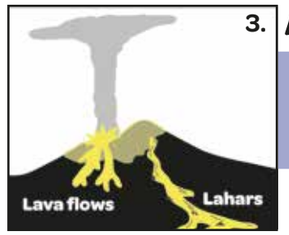
Here is **one scenario** that happened 2600 years ago, which could happen in the future:



1. After weeks of earthquakes, the first eruption happens sending ash into the sky and lahars down valleys.



2. Some time later, a larger eruption causing ashfall, pyroclastic flows and lahars occurs.



3. After a while, the eruptions have stopped, but lava flows and lahars will continue for weeks or months.

This scenario is based on a 0.3–0.5 km³ Panitahi/ Fanthams peak eruption (Cronin et al, 2021)

Impacts

These processes can damage and destroy buildings, roads, bridges, farmland, power and water supplies.

They can cause injuries, death and disrupt how we live and work.

More information

See the whole series from Taranaki Emergency Management at **cdemtaranaki.govt.nz** or scan the QR code.

Go to **geonet.org.nz** for monitoring, updates and the current Volcanic Alert Level.

During volcanic activity follow **official advice** provided by Taranaki Emergency Management, Department of Conservation and emergency services.

Taranaki volcano Infographic series: 1. Overview

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