

# Ngauruhoe Volcano

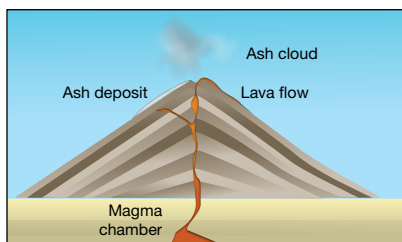


## Description

- Ngauruhoe is the largest, youngest and most active cone of the much larger Tongariro Volcano Complex.
- It lies between Tongariro to the north and Ruapehu to the south within Tongariro National Park.
- It is 2291m high (the highest point of the Tongariro complex).

► The 1975 eruption of Ngauruhoe.

▼ Ngauruhoe and the entire Tongariro complex is a **stratovolcano (also called a composite cone)** - it is made up of alternating layers of ash and lava flow.



## Maori name

- There are several explanations for its name. Nga-Uru-Hoe, meaning 'throwing hot stones', is the most common.

## Features

- It has no vegetation on its slopes due to the steep, loose, scree slopes covered in material from recent eruptions.
- Fumaroles exist in the inner crater and on the rim of the eastern and northern outer crater. Steam is seldom visible above the crater rim.

## Type

- Ngauruhoe is a stratovolcano (also called composite cone volcano).
- It is made of alternating layers of ash, scoria and andesite lava flows.

## Cause

- It was created by subduction of the Pacific Plate below the Australian Plate
- The Earth's crust is stretched and thinned in the entire Taupo Volcanic Zone by movement of the plates

## Eruptive history

- Recent research indicates the cone may have started to form about 7000 years

ago, rather than the often quoted age of 2500 years.

- Maori oral history records many eruptions prior to European colonisation.
- More than 60 eruptions gave occurred since written records began in 1839.
- Most of these have been ash eruptions but a few have included lava flows.
- The last lava flow from Ngauruhoe was in 1954.
- Traditionally Ngauruhoe has erupted at least every 9 years but there has been no eruption since 1975.

## Eruptive material

- Pyroclastic falls and flows, andesite lava flows, lava blocks and bombs are common.

## Last eruptive activity

- In 1973 red hot blocks of lava were ejected and during 1974 and 1975 ash eruptions continued with lava blocks thrown as far as 3km away.
- During the final stage of the eruption in 1975 the eruption plume reached about 13km above the summit before collapsing and sending pyroclastic flows of ash and

scoria down the mountain.

- For images and further information see: <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/historic-volcanic-activity/3>

## Monitoring

- There are 4 seismographs, chemical analysis of gases, and airborne gas monitoring is done regularly. 2 continuous GPS stations, 2 web cameras facing Ngauruhoe and one microphone.