

# 1 Earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis

## Volcano tourism



Corbis, Roger Ressmeyer, Düsseldorf

Volcanoes can be very dangerous. They can kill people and animals. They can destroy farms, villages and even towns. But they can also have advantages:

- Volcanic ash contains many minerals which make the soil very fertile,
- the earth's crust around a volcano is so thin that it is easy to win energy from the heat of the earth,
- and volcanoes attract tourists.

Volcano tourism is not a new phenomenon – people have travelled to active volcanoes for many centuries. Every year millions of tourists visit active and dormant volcanoes. They want to see the fantastic scenery. They enjoy beautiful sunsets and take spectacular photographs of eruptions. Some even do more extreme activities like climbing volcanic mountains or taking a hot air balloon trip over the volcano.

When Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull (pronounced Ay-uh-full-ay-ho-kul) volcano erupted in March 2010, it was not only followed by a breakdown of plane traffic in Europe. Volcano tourism was all over the internet, newspaper articles about the event were published worldwide and people became very interested in volcanic activity when they saw the pictures on the TV in their living-room. Police think that more than 25,000 onlookers have visited Eyjafjallajökull in the weeks after the eruption. Special tours were offered and tour guides, often geologists and volcano experts, led the tourists to the best viewing places and gave them all the important information. The Eyjafjallajökull eruption has certainly given a nice boost to Iceland's economy.

But tourists often forget that the forces of nature can be very dangerous. They are very curious and want to get as close as possible to the crater. Local people transport the tourists near the volcano for good money. Some countries, however, have made strict laws to keep tourists away from the area around active volcanoes.

Useful words:

**to give a boost to the economy – die Wirtschaft ankurbeln,**  
**phenomenon (plural: phenomena) – Phänomen, Erscheinung**

**1** Draw a mind map to summarize the most important aspects of volcano tourism. Use the text and the photograph.

**2** Talk about the mind map with a partner. Use complete sentences.

name: \_\_\_\_\_

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