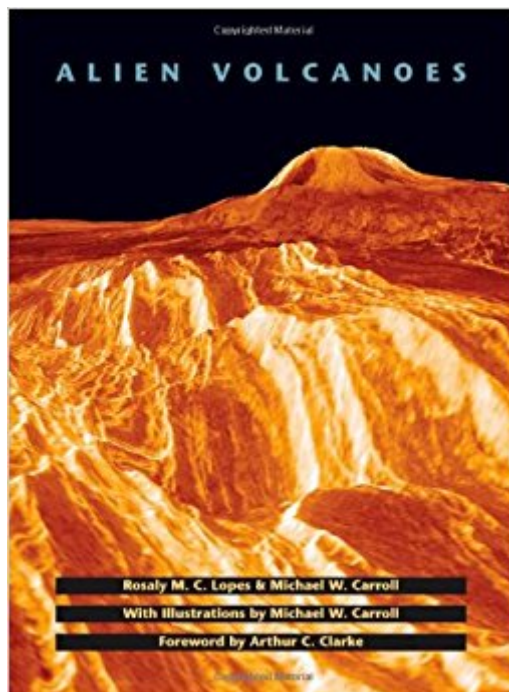


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# Alien Volcanoes



## Synopsis

At once terrifyingly destructive and awe-inspiringly beautiful, volcanoes have long fascinated humankind. From Vesuvius and Etna to Krakatau and Mount Saint Helens, these molten rock- and ash-spewing geysers have destroyed whole cities and countless lives, and altered the course of history. Yet our understanding of volcanoes on Earth—and throughout the celestial world—remains maddeningly incomplete. With *Alien Volcanoes*, Rosaly M. C. Lopes and Michael W. Carroll offer a dynamic tour of volcanic activity across the solar system. Through eight gracefully written chapters laced with gripping photographs and stunning artwork, Lopes and Carroll survey the complete spectrum of volcanism in time and location, from the solar system's origin to the modern era and from the familiar shield volcanoes of the terrestrial worlds to the bizarre superchilled geysers on distant ice moons. In the process, they entertain the possibility of hidden lakes on Saturn's moon Enceladus, discuss the potential effects of greenhouse gases on Neptune's moon Triton, reconstruct the last moments of life for Pompeiians in the face of an erupting Mount Vesuvius, and explain how a 4,000-mile-long river of lava could have once flowed freely across the plains of Venus. Richly illustrated with original paintings supplemented by NASA and European Space Agency photographs, *Alien Volcanoes* advances our knowledge of volcanoes on other heavenly bodies, enhances our ability to comprehend how they came into being on Earth, and describes how we might better predict the impact of future eruptions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an attractive coffee-table book that serves as an ideal taster for all budding volcanologists with an appreciation for the exotic, and is also a great conversation point for everyone else. (Physics World) Michael Carroll and Rosaly Lopes have pooled their extensive knowledge and unlimited imagination to bring the volcanic vistas of other worlds to life in these pages, in all the colors of fire and ice. Based on the understanding gained from studying the likes of Vesuvius and Krakatau, *Alien Volcanoes* explores the eruptive forces at work throughout the solar system, from the massive Olympus Mons on Mars and the volcano-covered surface of Venus to the volcanic moons of Jupiter and Saturn. (Dava Sobel, author of *Longitude*) *Alien Volcanoes* is wonderful. The mixture of text, paintings, and photos from NASA satellites is stunning... A groundbreaking book for the public to understand the fascinating facts and historical context of volcanoes, here and in our solar system. (Kimberly Weaver, Johns Hopkins University, author of *The Violent Universe*) With an accessible, inviting presentation and excellent photographs and illustrations, *Alien Volcanoes* is quite an easy book to read. (Choice) Offers a well-illustrated roundup of volcanic activity on the moons and planets of our solar system. (George M. Eberhart College and Research Libraries) The book has a wonderful and easy to follow writing style that, whilst covering quite complex topics, does not leave the average reader out in the cold, and possesses a flair almost like reading a novel... Thoroughly recommended. (Nick Howes *Astronomy Now*) The search for alien life has so far come up dry, but the search for alien volcanic activity is another story. In *Alien Volcanoes*, planetary scientist Rosaly Lopes and space artist and writer Michael Carroll take readers on a journey through space and time. (Earth) *Alien Volcanoes* advances our knowledge of volcanoes on other heavenly bodies and describes how we might better predict the impact of future eruptions. (Spaceflight) All of these features are documented in this entertaining and informative book, at least half of which is taken up by high-quality illustrations... an equal mix of education and entertainment for all, much to be recommended. (Lionel Wilson *The Observatory*) This is an attractive and very well-illustrated coffee-table book, containing many imaginative and well-executed paintings by the second author. With humans' near-fatal attraction to volcanoes, and given its lucid text and visual impact, *Alien Volcanoes* is certain to have wide appeal. (Journal of the British Astronomical Association)

Rosaly M. C. Lopes is a principal scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the investigation scientist for the Cassini radar instrument. She is an expert on terrestrial and planetary volcanism and the author of *The Volcano Adventure Guide*, *Volcanic Worlds*, and *Io after Galileo*. Michael W. Carroll is a science writer and artist specializing in astronomical imagery. His work has appeared in *Time*, *National Geographic*, *Popular Science*, *Astronomy*, and a host of other popular

and scholarly publications.

Excellent reference drawing tantalizing comparisons between volcanoes here on Earth to those in space. Punctuated with marvelous color and black and white photographs illustrating their points, Rosaly M. C. Lopes and Michael W. Carroll make some great conclusions. The ongoing state of cryovulcanism on some distant planets and moons may remain unknown at the moment, but plate tectonics coupled with the composition of matter on these alien worlds, may help to explain what telescopes and space probes have been able to tell us thus far. I thoroughly enjoyed it and wouldn't hesitate to recommend Alien Volcanoes to anyone who has ever stared up at the night sky - searching for answers. This is a good read for everyone. Ann B. Keller

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