

Click and Create!

[Click here!](#)

Daily Mail 24 HOURS A DAY Weather

Afternoon 17°C | Evening 9°C

[Five day forecast »](#)

JENNIFER ROMANCES IN NY



Hot new couple Jennifer Aniston and John Mayer take their romance to the Big Apple...[more](#)
[Skip over navigation](#)

- [News](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Fantasy football](#)
- [Money](#)
- [TV & showbiz](#)
- [Showbiz video](#)
- [Science & tech](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Femail](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Horoscopes](#)
- [Sudoku](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Promotions](#)
- [Mailshop](#)
- [E-editions](#)
- [Message boards](#)

TODAY'S POLL



[How long should the government be able to detain terror suspects without charge?](#)

Partners

- [Cut your bills](#)
- [Diet centre](#)
- [Mail wine club](#)
- [Dating](#)

- [Money shop](#)
- [DVD rental](#)
- [Free online games](#)
- [Mailpictures](#)



Home delivery



Mail extras

- [Primary school league tables](#)
- [The Reading Room](#)
- [Mac cartoons](#)
- [Funny viral emails](#)
- [Joe cartoons](#)
- [Email newsletters](#)
- [Send a LOVEFilm Giftbox](#)

Special promotions

- [All promotions »](#)
- [WIN tickets to Roger Waters: The Dark Side Of The Moon](#)

Advertorials

- [Win a trip on the Orient Express](#)
- [Win garden furniture with Miracle Gro](#)
- [Driving with pets](#)
- [Car flirting](#)
- [More Than Car Insurance](#)
- [The low emission zone](#)
- [Win a PGL holiday for the family](#)

Most popular stories

1. [Can anyone save Gazza? 8am, two days out of rehab and Paul Gascoigne shambles across the road with a bottle of gin in his holdall](#)
2. [Who won the great Posh vs Paris photocall fight?](#)
3. [Kate's stand-in role for William at his cousin's wedding](#)
4. [Dustin Hoffman names the day after Angelina Jolie confirms 'I AM expecting twins'](#)

5. [Christina Aguilera parades her array of glamorous \(and incredibly low-cut\) New York frocks](#)

[More detailed results »](#)

Do you feel safe walking around the streets of Britain?

[Join the debate](#)

RSS feeds




- [What is RSS?](#)
- [All our RSS feeds](#)

- [Login](#)
- [Register](#)
- [Text-based site](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Need help?](#)
- [Site map](#)
- [Make us your homepage](#)

Do you have a complaint against this newspaper?

- If you have a complaint about the editorial content in this website which concerns **inaccuracy** or **intrusion** and the article directly affects you, then [click here for more details](#)





This site Business directory

[Advanced Search](#) 

This site Business directory

16 May 2008 [Login »](#) [Register »](#)
[News »](#) [World news](#)

Amazing pictures: The lightning storm that engulfed an erupting volcano

By MICHAEL HANLON - [More by this author »](#) Last updated at 10:01am on 7th May 2008

[Comments \(30\)](#)

Few sights in nature can compare to the sheer magnificence of a volcano erupting in full flow.

But while scenes of molten lava are relatively commonplace, this otherworldly picture of Chaiten Volcano in

southern Chile shows a truly spectacular, and devastating, volcanic phenomenon.

Scroll down for more...



UPI Photo/Carlos Gutierrez

This astonishing picture shows the Chaiten volcano erupting during storms in the middle of the night

[ENLARGE](#)

As clouds of toxic ash and dust tower into the sky, they ionise the air, generating an explosive electrical storm. Colossal forks of lightning spark around the noxious plume as it spews from the volcano's crater, creating an image of raw, terrifying energy - as if the air itself were ablaze.

Now, the worst-case scenario is the collapse of the volcano accompanied by a "pyroclastic flow" - a devastating super-eruption of scorching dense gas and molten rock that would roll down the mountainside at 100mph or faster, incinerating and flattening all in its wake.

Thankfully, experts think this is unlikely at this stage.

Scroll down for more...



[ENLARGE](#)



The Chaiten volcano has triggered earth tremors and spewed ash two miles into the air

[ENLARGE](#)



Seen from space, Chaiten's ash plume streams across Argentina towards the Atlantic



Locals wear masks to protect themselves from the all-pervasive ash near Futaleuf



The gigantic plume of smoke from the volcano dominates the skyline

Pyroclastic flows are also called *nuees ardentes* - or "burning clouds" - and are probably the single most destructive weapon in nature's armoury, capable of flattening cities in seconds.

It was such a catastrophe that destroyed the Roman town of Pompeii in AD79.

The 3,300 ft Chaiten Volcano, 800 miles south of the Chilean capital Santiago, is erupting for the first time in thousands of years, sending a plume of ash into the sky that stretches as far as Argentina.

It is also spewing out chunks of lava and hot rock. Authorities have already evacuated around 4,200 people from the town of Chaiten, six miles from the volcano, but 300 civilians and troops remain and are being evacuated now. Rescue is complicated by the fact that southern Chile is fragmented by fjords and access is often difficult.

Scroll down for more...



The village of Chaiten, next to the volcano, was virtually emptied in a massive evacuation

[ENLARGE](#)



Winds carried the ash to other towns in the region and across the Andes to Argentina



A local resident cycles through the ash as it settles across the town

The authorities are also evacuating a second town, Futaleufu. Some of Futaleufu's 1,000 or so residents had already crossed into neighbouring Argentina, where some areas have been showered with ash and where authorities last week closed schools and treated some for breathing problems.

The ash is more than six inches (15 cm) thick in places, and has contaminated water supplies.

Chile, which sits right on the Pacific's volcanic "ring of fire", has the world's second most active string of volcanoes behind Indonesia.

Share this article:

[What is this?](#)

- [Digg it](#)
- |
- [Del.icio.us](#)
- |
- [Reddit](#)
- |
- [Newsvine](#)
- |
- [Nowpublic](#)

[Add your comment](#) | [View all Comments \(30\)](#)

30 people have commented on this story so far. Tell us what you think below.

Here's a sample of the latest comments published. You can click [view all](#) to read all comments that readers have sent in.

Stop that pollution Green Peace!

- Michael Harris, Manchester UK

Large quantities of ash sent into the air produce localised global cooling, with a smaller widespread effect on the worlds climate. Ash reflects the suns rays very effectively. It all depends how much ash is sent into the atmosphere - enough and global temperatures can take a significant short term dip.

- Mr H, UK

Now we know who or what is the greatest polluter re CO2 emissions, it's mother nature! Emissions produced by man pail into insignificance when compared with this. Also, do not forget that volcano's have been around since time began, so there must be other factors involved that contribute to "Global Warming".

- C Johnson, Stockport

[View all](#) [Add your comment](#)

Name: Your email address will not be published Email: Town and

country: [Terms and conditions](#) Your comment:

[make text area bigger](#) You have 1000 characters left.

Remember me - this will save you having to type out your name, location and email address when you next leave a comment.

Email me a link to these comments.

Advertising Feature
MORE IS...>
A FREE COURTESY CAR IF YOU HAVE AN ACCIDENT
[CLICK HERE >>](#)

Partner Promotion
LOVEFILM GET 30 DAY UNLIMITED
FREE DVD RENTAL
in association with
Mail ONLINE [CLICK HERE >>](#)

[Mail to a friend](#) [Print story](#) [Read later](#)



[Top of Page](#) ▲

©2008 Associated Newspapers Ltd · [Terms & Conditions](#) · [Privacy](#)

[Skip over adverts](#)



Femail

[Try the Daily Mail's brilliant new website here](#)

See the next exciting stage in the evolution of Britain's fastest growing newspaper website



[Who won the great Posh vs Paris photocall fight?](#)

It was the night of the big launches as Victoria Beckham and the heiress went head to head with their jeans and perfume unveilings... and ensured paparazzi scrums across London



[Pictured: Sam, two days out of rehab and Gazza shambles across the road with a bottle of gin](#)

His face a mask of despair, his holdall open to reveal a gin bottle and a child's piggy bank, Gascoigne wanders dazed and disoriented on the streets of his native Gateshead. Can anyone save the fallen hero?



[Kate's stand-in role for William at his cousin's wedding](#)

Kate Middleton will attend Saturday's royal wedding alone while Prince William sees a former girlfriend's brother marry in Africa

• [Prince Harry's girlfriend Chelsy to meet Queen for the first time](#)



[Christina Aguilera parades her array of glamorous \(and incredibly low-cut\) New York frocks](#)

She may be a new mother, but Christina Aguilera is still dressing just as provocatively as she showed off her eye-popping curves in some daring outfits



[Off again: Kate Hudson and troubled star Owen Wilson split for second time](#)

Fears are growing for the suicide bid actor's stability after he was said to take his latest break-up 'badly'



[Proud as a peacock: Eva Longoria swans down the Cannes red carpet in bird-inspired outfits](#)

The actress showed off her plumage as she partied in an extraordinary dress that appeared to be made of peacock feathers - hours after hitting the red carpet in a graceful swan-style number

[I want to teach the world their cup size: New Seeker Eve Graham went from singing with the stars to fitting bras](#)

When Eve left the The New Seekers to pursue a solo career she had every hope of a glittering future. But her dreams ended in tatters and she was forced to take up a job fitting bras



Pleasant Holidays.



experience the
adventure

Oahu
from \$479
book now

Pleasant Holidays.
learn more

DRAG & DROP TO CREATE YOUR OWN ZWINKY!



Click here!

TODAY'S DEBATE

Do you feel safe walking around the streets of Britain?
[Join the debate »](#)

DON'T MISS...



Prince Harry's girlfriend Chelsy to meet Queen for the first time

The 22-year-old will be formally be introduced to HRH at Peter Phillips wedding on Saturday



Chantelle and Chanelle idol worship at Paris Hilton's perfume launch

The Big Brother double act were shoo-ins to appear at the heiress's Nobu unveiling and the party after



Are Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon America's most sickening couple?

It was pass the sick bags as the giddy newlyweds hit Magic Mountain, and it wasn't anything to do with the rides



Backstage with the Nancys: The final five Oliver! hopefuls really will do ANYTHING to win

Tears and rebellion as the pressure takes its toll on the remaining TV hopefuls



Body double to fill in for pregnant Billie Piper as she reprises racy call girl role

The actress and show's producers have agreed to bring in a good likeness to film the raunchy show



Dustin Hoffman names the day after Angelina Jolie confirms 'I AM expecting twins'

Jolly japes with Jack Black and Dustin Hoffman - and even a scoop - in Cannes



The night Juliette Lewis groped Cate Blanchett in Cannes

A busy night of DJing and dancing at a film party ended with the wildchild grabbing at the actress's cleavage



It's Sweat and the City as Madonna gets celebrity friends round for a girly workout

Madonna and Gwyneth Paltrow were joined in the gym by Stella McCartney



After 19 years, Indiana Jones faces his toughest battle ever... with his internet critics

Harrison Ford's return as Indy in the £70m blockbuster is being panned

[All showbiz news »](#)

FANCY THAT



Norwegian Blue parrot really DID exist - but now they are all 'stiff, bereft of life and ex-parrots'

Monty Python was right as it emerges the breed lived 55million years ago



The sat nav that allows you to lock the doors of your home, switch off the lights and check on your pets... from the front seat of your car

Is this the ultimate gadget?



'Start conversation by saying Hulloo!' ... World's first guide to using the telephone goes on sale

The world's first telephone directory is set to fetch £20,000 at auction



The electric cigarette that gives you a nicotine hit and gets round the smoking ban

Inventors have created an electric cigarette which gives a nicotine hit while avoiding the smoking ban



Robo Doc: The robot that can perform pioneering cancer surgery

A cancer sufferer has had his prostate removed in surgery performed by a robot dubbed 'Robo Doc'



Pictured: Duke, the 6ft 5in Shire horse that is Britain's tallest (but he's still scared of mice)

He is as big as a family car, but fortunately Duke is just as easy to control



The amazing pictures of a robot conducting a symphony orchestra

A Robot has taken the baton to conduct an orchestra in what engineers claim is a world first



Pictured: The amazing moment a horse did a perfect somersault

Schattenlady and her jockey were unhurt after the horse crashed into safety rails and somersaulted into the air



Ancient church emerges from flooded valley for first time in 50 years in most striking image of Barcelona drought

Receding waters reveal an 11th-century church



Divers haul oldest-ever bust of Caesar from bottom of river in France

A bust of Julius Caesar found in a trove of Roman artefacts in the River Rhone is the oldest ever discovered
[More fancy that >>](#)

IN OUR OPINION



MAIL COMMENT: After the politics, Brown's more comfortable with some modest policies

The Queen's Speech preview was only a modest step in the right direction



STEPHEN GLOVER: Yes, the headlines are certainly bleak...but we're not all doomed yet

What we are experiencing at the moment could not reasonably be called a crisis



QUENTIN LETTS: Old Brucie never saw such a spectacle

In all Brucie's days presenting game shows he surely never saw quite such a sorry spectacle as the current Labour front bench



PETER OBORNE: Bravery of the women beaten just for opposing Mugabe

How one woman's extraordinary courage is a rebuke to a world that is ignoring Mugabe's genocide
[More from our writers >>](#)