

EYE CANDY

ALRIGHT, MY LAVA?

APART FROM THE DEATHYNESS, VOLCANOES ARE A BIT AWESOME

VOLCANOES ARE GENERALLY PRETTY COOL from the outset (apart from the exploding and killing people part), but they become extra double-ace when lightning is involved. The Chaiten volcano in Chile recently erupted for the first time in thousands of years, spewing lava almost 12 miles high, which quickly turned into a fucking great big electrical storm. Well documented but never figured out, scientist folk have labelled the phenomenon a 'dirty thunderstorm',

which sounds like a euphemism for intense diarrhoea.

Static from rock and ash particles colliding in a volcanic eruption is thought to, very rarely, create this massive ball of lightning. It sort of ends up looking like a much more impressive version of those plasma dome things new-age blokes who do crystal healing and collect dream-catchers buy, except the volcano is less likely to try and finger your missus behind your back.

FAQ

WHAT'S THE MOST ACTIVE VOLCANO IN THE WORLD?

Stromboli, off the north coast of Sicily in Italy, has been erupting continuously for at least the last 2,000 years, earning the slightly crap title Lighthouse Of The Mediterranean. We'd have gone for something better, like Millennial Lava-Fuckster. Spewing mini explosions

of red-hot molten rock and cinder, Stromboli looks like one of those roman candle fireworks, except bigger and more impressive-er. Although it doesn't typically have the oozing-with-lava, people-running-for-their-lives-type of eruptions, Stromboli has occasionally had explosions

so violent that rocks blown off the top of the crater have caused landslides and tsunami waves. A sudden eruption in 2002 caused a fuckload of rocks to collapse into the sea, creating a wave almost ten metres high. Plus, most importantly, it's fun to say in an Italian accent.

