

FACT SHEET: Update on Volcanic Eruption in Holuhraun Iceland 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014


1. Daily life of citizens in Iceland is not disrupted by the volcanic eruption.
2. Holuhraun and the closed safety zone is in an unpopulated area north of Vatnajökull glacier.
3. The area consists mainly of sands and lava fields where there is no vital infrastructure.
4. All airports are open. Keflavik airport is approximately 400 kilometers (250 miles) away from the volcanic eruption.
5. The „Ring Road“ is over 110 kilometers (69 miles) away from the volcanic eruption where it is closest.
6. Reykjavik is over 300 kilometers (187 miles) away from the volcanic eruption in Holuhraun.
7. In comparison the distance between Paris and London, in a straight line, is 344 kilometers (214 (miles).
8. The highlighted zone on the map is a closed safety zone where there is only limited access for scientists and press with the correct documentation from authorities.
9. The fissure can be seen in black in the middle of the highlighted safety zone furthest to the South. Currently the fissure emits lava that is flowing towards East but widens slightly towards North. The lava has reached Jökulsá á Fjöllum river.
10. No explosive activity due to the lava and river water interaction has been observed, but steam rises from the lava.
11. There have been 23 volcanic eruptions in the Bardarbunga area in historical times.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. How close can you get to the fissure in Holuhraun in the area of Bardarbunga, and other active volcanoes? Right now you will hardly get close enough to really experience it. There are closed safety zones around the area. The safety zones are subject to change. Depending on the current safety zone and weather conditions it can be possible to fly within range of visibility.  
Access to other active volcanoes that are dormant is generally very good.
2. What will you be able to see at Holuhraun, and other active volcanos?  
There is a volcanic eruption ongoing – there is a fissure, and lava fountains reaching about 50-60 meters in height – and a lava flow, or a lava stream running down from the fissure in Holuhraun.  
There are active volcanoes that are not erupting at this time, they are currently dormant. They look very much the same as other mountains. Extinct craters are also accessible widely around the country.
3. What are the organized trips that tourists can take to see Holuhraun in the Bardarbunga area, and other volcanoes? There are mostly scenic flights at the moment since traffic is limited to scientists and press with the correct documentation. There are numerous trips available to see other areas.
4. Where can you go and explore volcanoes that are extinct in Iceland? Dormant and extinct volcanoes are pretty much everywhere around Iceland.
5. How is Bardarbunga pronounced? B-au-r-th-a-r b-oo-ng-a.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

The website <http://www.iceland.is/> is updated daily with information.

Civil Protection and Emergency Management has a website with frequent, in depth, information about the volcanic eruption in Holuhraun: <http://avd.is/en/>



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