

Supervolcano



Do you know where the largest "active" super volcano is located in the continental United States? It might surprise you to know it is located in Yellowstone National Park. If you walk around the park you might not notice it though you would be aware of its presence all around you seen in the hot springs and mud pits throughout the park. So why would you not notice it? It's so big that you simply cannot see it. The Yellowstone super volcano is so large that its caldera can only be seen from space. Yellowstone National Park is not just the location of the volcano, it is the volcano, and if it erupts we will say good-bye to the earth as we know it.

Supervolcano ¹, produced by the Discovery Channel and the BBC, tells the story of what might happen should Yellowstone blow its top. The scariest aspect of this film is that the effects are not large and magnified enough to tell the whole story. If Yellowstone goes up it shows what is likely to happen. Yes, Supervolcano ² is in reality a work of fiction but unlike other volcano movies such as Volcano ³ and Dante's Peak ⁴ that exaggerate the possible effects for dramatic purposes; Supervolcano ⁵ if anything tempers them. I want to see Yellowstone before it blows but I don't think I'll have to worry about that because it should be around for a long time. After all, the evidence suggests that Yellowstone itself only erupts about once every 600,000 years with lesser eruptions about once every 70,000 years or so. The last big eruption that we know of was only about 640,000 years ago. Think about it.

Posted by Keith C. on November 1, 2011

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