

Is Olympus Mons still active?

Crater counts from high-resolution images taken by the Mars Express orbiter in 2004 indicated that lava flows on the northwestern flank of Olympus Mons range in age from 115 to only 2 million years or less - very young in geologic terms. This was a first clue that suggested that the volcano could still be active.

Is Olympus Mons a volcano?

Mars, on the other hand, is too small for plate tectonics. Olympus Mons is some 3.5 billion years old, which means the volcano formed early on in Mars' history. Astronomers suspect Olympus Mons could have stayed volcanically active for hundreds of millions of years. That's far longer than any volcano on Earth could remain active.

Why is Olympus Mons so big?

The extraordinary size of Olympus Mons is likely because Mars lacks mobile tectonic plates. Unlike on Earth, the crust of Mars remains fixed over a stationary hotspot, and a volcano can continue to discharge lava until it reaches an enormous height. Being a shield volcano, Olympus Mons has a very gently sloping profile.

Is Olympus Mons dormant?

This colossal geological feature, long thought dormant, may be showing signs of potential future activity. Mars boasts an impressive array of volcanic structures, with Olympus Mons being the crown jewel. Standing at a staggering height of 21.9 kilometers (13.6 miles), it towers over its Earthly counterparts.

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Olympus Mons is the youngest of the large volcanoes on Mars, having formed during the Martian Hesperian Period with eruptions continuing well into the Amazonian Period.

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Olympus Mons is still a relatively young volcano. Although it has taken billions of years to form, some regions of the mountain may be only a few million years old, relatively young in the...

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The volcanoes with the most recent activity included Olympus Mons and three giant volcanoes in the Tharsis region: Arsia Mons, Pavonis Mons and Ascraeus Mons (collectively known ...

NASA scientists studying volcanic rocks from Mars came to the conclusion that the red planet's volcano, Mount Olympus, is not dead or dormant but in fact an active volcano whose last ...

Broad, gradually sloping flanks and the presence of numerous long flows and lava channels identify Olympus Mons as a shield volcano and suggest that it was built up from eruptions ...

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Olympus Mons is a giant shield volcano on Mars, three times as high as Everest and as wide as France. It may still be an active volcano with the ...

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Astronomers suspect Olympus Mons could have stayed volcanically active for hundreds of millions of years. That's far longer than any volcano on Earth could remain active.

Image via NASA / JPL-Caltech. Mars has many volcanoes, including the largest known in the solar system, Olympus Mons. But Mars volcanoes don't appear active.

Indeed, a common view among planetary geologists is that today there are no active volcanoes on Mars. Olympus Mons, the largest volcano on Mars. (Source: NASA) Now that view ...

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