

New flank eruption at Stromboli Volcano
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(All times are in GMT)

A flank eruption started on Stromboli volcano on 27 February 2007, and is still going on as on 15 March. Compared to the previous 2002-03 flank eruption, lava effusion is about an order of magnitude greater. A NE fissure opened on the NE flank of the NE-Crater and lava coming out from it rapidly reached the sea forming three branches. Late on the first day, the three initial flows stopped and a new vent opened on the Sciara del Fuoco at about 400 m a.s.l., at the eastern margin of the Sciara del Fuoco. A lava flow fed from this vent formed in a few days a lava bench several tens of meters wide, which significantly modified the coastline. This lava flow stopped for a few hours on 9 March, when another vent opened at about 550 m a.s.l. on the north flank of the NE-Crater, almost in the same position of one of the vents of the 2002-03 eruption. The 550 m vent was active for less than 24 hours, and when it closed, the 400 m vent opened again feeding lava to the sea.

On 15 March 2007, while the effusion from the 400 m vent was still going on, a major explosion occurred at 20:37 GMT time. This event was similar to the 5 April 2003 paroxysm, and was recorded by all the INGV-CT monitoring web cams. As the previous event, it occurred during a flank effusive eruption, when the summit craters of the volcano were obstructed by debris collapsed from the crater rims. Still images and videos recorded from the INGV-CT web cams can be downloaded from the INGV-CT web page dedicated to the Stromboli eruption <http://www.ct.ingv.it/stromboli2007/main.htm>

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