

CANARY ISLANDS VOLCANOLOGICAL INSTITUTE STATUS REPORT

Wednesday, May 9, 2019, 11:45 AM CST (Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 10:45 UTC)

TEIDE VOLCANO (VNUM # 383030)

28°16'23"N 16°38'22"W, Summit Elevation 12,198 ft (3.718 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: GREEN

'It's absolutely safe to come to Tenerife Island'

The seismic activity at Tenerife is normal

The Canary Islands are considered an active volcanic region, and also an attractive tourist destination, partly because of the volcanism which has built them. It is normal for these active volcanic systems to produce small earthquakes. They are so small, only sensitive instruments, called seismometers, can detect them.

Seismic swarms are clusters of these tiny earthquakes together in time. They are common in active volcanic areas, even during quiescent periods, as the one recorded from April 29 to May 3, 2018, between Tenerife and Gran Canaria islands by the seismometers of the Canary Islands Volcanological Institute (INVOLCAN)

The seismometers are located across Tenerife and Gran Canaria as well as other Canary Islands, and act like a web of listening posts. In addition, monitoring ground deformation and the amount and type of gases constantly rising from volcanoes are conducted by both permanent instrumental networks and regular ground-based and satellite surveys. Together these scientific monitoring and research activities combine to give authorities an excellent view of what is happening underneath the Canary Islands.

Volcanic surveillance of the Canary Islands follows the guidelines of the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI). The monitoring program is of the highest international standards, and makes the Canary Islands a safe tourist destination. There is a Special Plan of Civil Protection and emergency response for volcanic risk in the Canary Islands (PEVOLCA) in place. The volcano alert level is in the GREEN position. This status means people can be confident to carry out their activities normally.

There is no increase in the level of volcanic alert level at Tenerife due to the recent seismic swarm between Tenerife and Gran Canaria. New reports that suggest otherwise have no basis in fact and are to be dismissed. Canary Islands Volcanic Institute (INVOLCAN) will continue to release all our scientific analysis of all types of volcanic activity in the Canary Islands.