



Opposite: Mount Pinatubo, Philippines, imaged on March 6, 2001. The image features the volcano located 90 km north of Manila. Once standing 1,780 m (5,840 ft above sea level), Mount Pinatubo was dormant for 600 years until 1991 when the volcano erupted twice in June of that year. The volcano spewed millions of tons of ash high into the atmosphere and covered nearby Clark Air Base. The result was the destruction of the volcano's summit, reducing the elevation to 1,485 m and leaving behind a caldera (a huge depression). Following the eruption there were massive mudslides triggered by heavy tropical rains that mixed with volcanic ash. The homes of more than 100,000 people were destroyed. (Data from the IKONOS satellite; image © 2005 Space Imaging.)