

## And suddenly: a volcano in my picture

By Eva Olthof

Archived information and time are important tools. More practical tools are: map and photo camera. And without the Internet I would be nowhere.

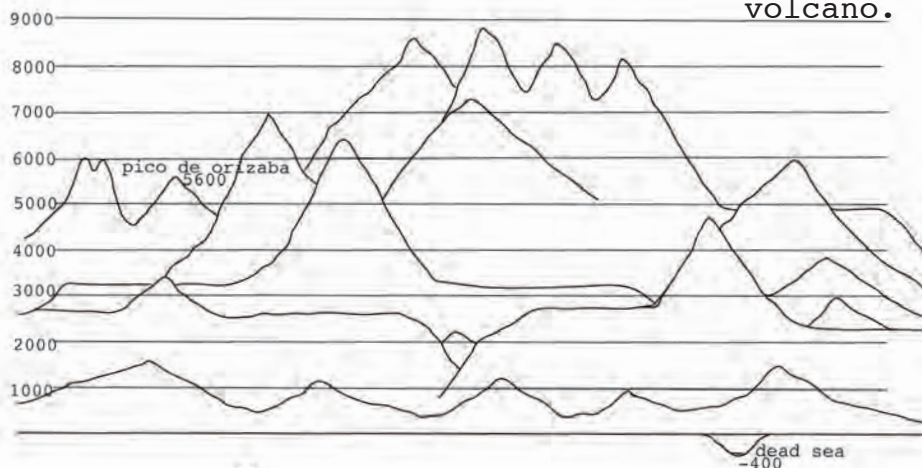
In a book with historical maps\* I found a map giving an overview of 'Die Hauptformen der erdobefläche'. Translated it means something like: main forms of the surface of the earth. I find it fascinating how this one image gives an overview of 52 forms of landscape. Forms that in real life can't be found together in 1 scenery. They are put together like a collection of objects, maybe to be learnt by heart in school. Another map that can be found in this book shows a comparative overview of important mountains. Mountains from all over the world are drawn in one image, one pasted after the other like a 'décor'. Looking at these 'layered' maps it reminded me of two photos I took during the last year. Both depict these 'flat layers' of landscape but in the photos they create depth as well as flatness. These two photos initially had nothing to do with each other until now.

One is taken in Mexico during traveling and depicts the volcano Pico de Orizaba (5610 m). By chance we were driving by and I didn't know the name at the moment I took the picture. but after re-tracing our route and some comparing with photos on the Internet I figured out that this one must be it.

The other photo is taken on Vlieland (an island in the northern part of Holland). It depicts a nocturnal scenery of hills, sea, and full moon and was taken for a project I did about one of the darkest places in Holland. The funny thing is that despite of these 'layers', the two photos also have something else in common. What I know now and what I didn't know then, after googling: **Volcano in Holland** at some point last month; is that this picture depicts a hidden volcano!

It is a rather unknown fact, but Holland has its own volcano: the Zuidwalvolcano (-2000m).\*\* It is situated in the layers of the earth underneath the sea in between the island Vlieland and the city Harlingen on the main land. It is discovered only 40 years ago when an oil company was drilling for gas. And although it is a hidden one, from now on there always will be a volcano in my picture.

Sometimes it only takes the Internet, a map and some time to see a volcano.



Traced map of a comparative mountain overview\*\*\*

Pico de Orizaba, Mexico



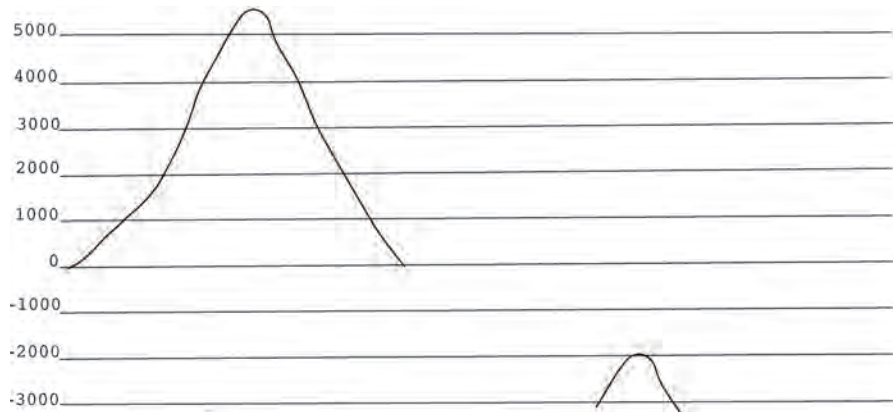
Shutter time 1/1000 s  
taken while driving by

Zuidwalvolcano, Holland



Shutter time 5/1 s  
taken while standing still

Comparative overview of  
Pico de Orizaba-Zuidwalvolcano



# Tracing the Zuidwalvolcano

4th of January 2010

## Harlingen



## gas drillingplatform



## Vlieland



\*Rooijen, v. J (2005) The agile rabbit  
book of historical and curious maps, the  
pepin press, page 10

\*\* <http://noorderlicht.vpro.nl/afleveringen/6297152/items/7401717/>

\*\*\*Image taken from The Agile Rabbit Book  
of Historical and Curious Maps, published  
by The Pepin Press, [www.pepinpress.com](http://www.pepinpress.com).

photo's, illustration and tekst by  
Eva Olthof, 2010.