Size of the image: 140 x 140 pixel

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NASA
National Aeronautics and
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Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

Voyager 1-130
P-21306
March 14, 1979

This dramatic view of Jupiter's satellite Io shows two simultaneously occurring volcanic eruptions. One eruption can be seen on the limb (at lower right) in which ash clouds are rising more than 260 kilometers (150 miles) above the satellite's surface. The second eruption can be seen on the terminator (shadow between day and night) where the volcanic cloud is catching the rays of the rising sun. The dark hemisphere of Io is made visible by light reflected from Jupiter. Seen in Io's night sky, Jupiter looms almost 40 times larger and 200 times brighter than our own full Moon. This photo was taken by Voyager 1 on March 8, 1979, looking back 4.5 million kilometers (2.6 million miles) at Io, three days after its historic encounter. This is the same image in which JPL discovered the first extraterrestrial volcanic eruption (the bright curved volcanic cloud on the limb).

The Voyager Project

Two unmanned spacecraft, Voyagers 1 and 2, are now on their way to study our giant outer planets, Jupiter and Saturn, and 11 of their major satellites, several of which are larger than our own Moon.

The Voyager Project was assigned to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration program of planetary exploration. JPL communicates with the spacecraft through a worldwide network of deep space tracking stations located in California, Australia, and Spain.

Voyager 2 was launched from Florida on August 20, 1977; Voyager 1, which flies a faster trajectory to reach the planets first, was launched on September 5, 1977.

At Jupiter, Voyager 1 made its closest approach on March 5, 1979. Voyager 2, whose more cautious trajectory will avoid much of Jupiter's intense radiation, will make its closest approach on July 9, 1979. Satellites being studied are Amalthea, Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. Jupiter's Great Red Spot will be photographed and studied intensively by both spacecraft.

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JET PROPULSION LABORATORY
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE AMINISTRATION
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA. TELEPHONE (213) 354-5011

PHOTO CAPTION

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