Kilauea: One Eruption, Many Episodes

12 selected summit episodes, December 2024-June 2026



USGS B1cam view of episode 1, December 23, 2024. Credit: USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory / B1cam

Historical evidence. Better questions. Useful records.

A tall lava fountain catches the eye. A consistent record reveals much more: how long it lasted, which vent was active, how much lava erupted and how the next pause differed. These 12 episodes are a curated comparison from the first 50 episodes of the summit eruption that began on December 23, 2024.

Prepared November 11, 2026 | A collection by Dattle

What the records reveal

SCOPE AND METHOD

Episode numbers, HST start/pause times, rounded durations, approximate maximum heights and lava volumes were transcribed from the USGS HVO table retrieved November 11, 2026. Selection illustrates contrasting behavior; it is not a complete chronology or a ranking of hazard. The publication date does not establish current eruption conditions.

A COMPARISON WORTH MAKING

Episode 3 lasted 8.5 days with an approximately 86 m maximum fountain and 13.0 million m3 of lava. Episode 43 lasted about 9 hours with an approximately 540 m maximum and 11.9 million m3. Height, duration and volume answer different questions.

IMAGES AND UNCERTAINTY

Photographs and satellite views are historical agency imagery. Charts are drawn from cited observations or estimates, with units and dates preserved. A picture shows a place and moment; it does not prove an entire event boundary, impact or cause. This is a historical reference, not a live warning service.

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Episode 1: An eruption begins

December 23, 2024 - 2:20 a.m. to December 23, 2024 - 4 p.m. (HST) | Halemaumau, Kilauea summit, Hawaii, United States



USGS B1cam view of episode 1, December 23, 2024. Credit: USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory / B1cam

Maximum fountain
158 m (approx.)

Lava volume
9.3 million m3 (approx.)

Episode duration
14 hours (source-rounded)

Following pause
16 hours

WHAT HAPPENED

USGS records the episode from December 23, 2024 - 2:20 a.m. until December 23, 2024 - 4 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time. Vent/activity notes: Fissures open, eruption focuses on north and south vents. These records describe activity within the ongoing summit eruption, rather than separate eruptions.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

A changing vent system is part of the observation, not background detail. This opening episode began with fissures and then focused activity into the north and south vents.

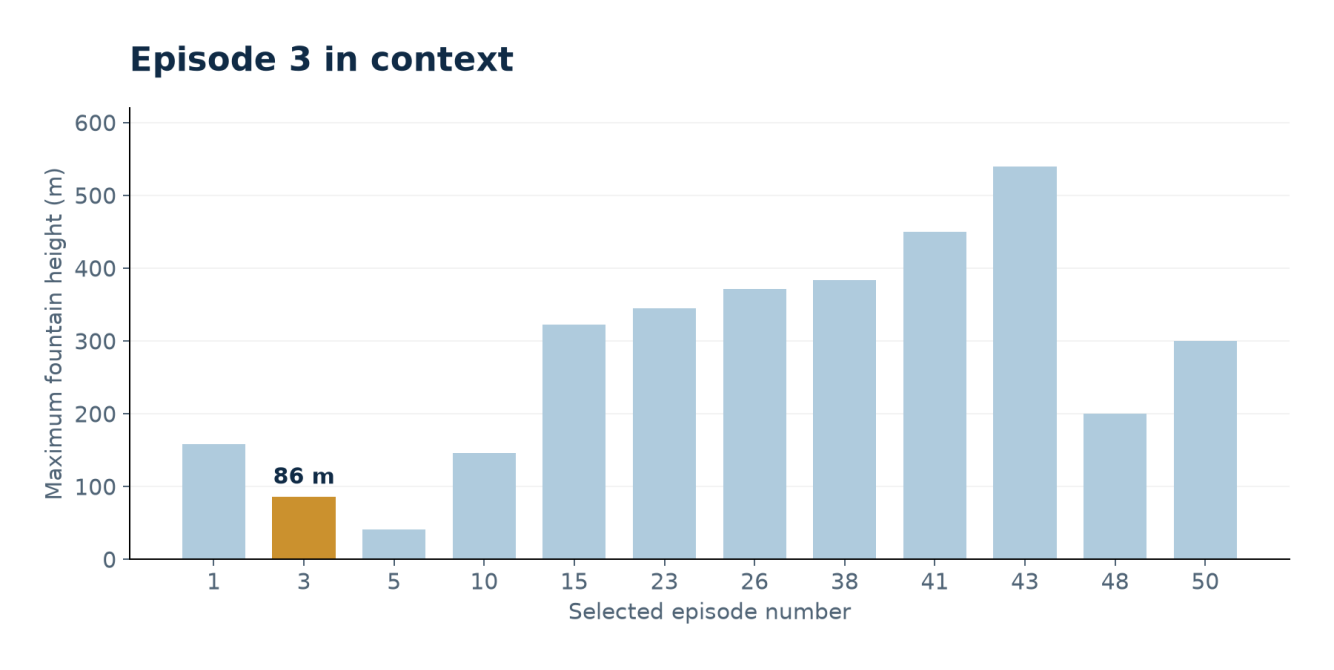
READ WITH CARE

Heights and lava volumes are approximate USGS estimates; durations are rounded as reported. Values can be revised. Fountain height is not an explosion index, damage estimate or safe-viewing distance.

Source 1 > **Source 2 >** **Visual / data >**

Episode 3: Long-lived, lower fountains

December 26, 2024 - 8 a.m. to January 3, 2025 - 8:30 p.m. (HST) | Halemaumau, Kilauea summit, Hawaii, United States



Approximate maximum fountain height for 12 selected episodes; episode 3 is highlighted. This is not a continuous time series or a measure of damage. Credit: Dattle graphic from the cited source data.

Maximum fountain
86 m (approx.)

Lava volume
13.0 million m3 (approx.)

Episode duration
8.5 days (source-rounded)

Following pause
12 days

WHAT HAPPENED

USGS records the episode from December 26, 2024 - 8 a.m. until January 3, 2025 - 8:30 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time. Vent/activity notes: Several vents reactivate, activity focuses at north and south vents. These records describe activity within the ongoing summit eruption, rather than separate eruptions.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

At 8.5 days, this selected episode lasted far longer than the tall, hour-scale episodes later in the sequence. A modest maximum height does not imply little lava was erupted.

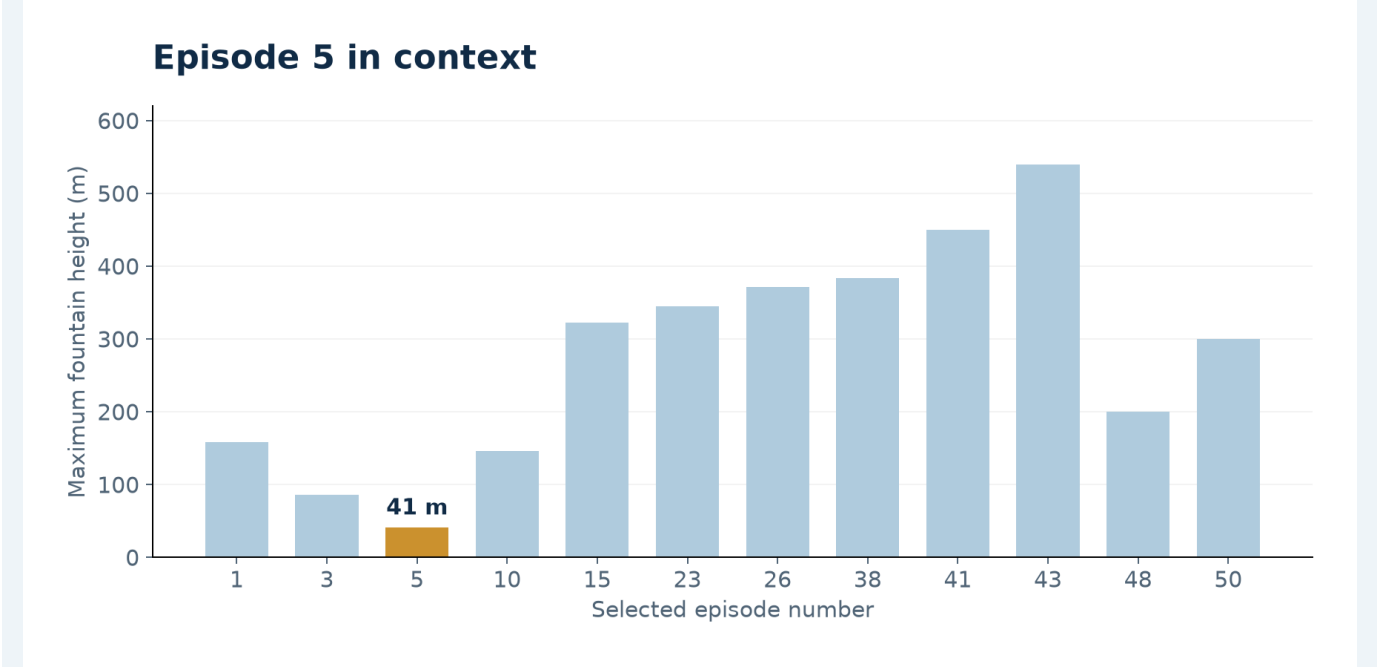
READ WITH CARE

Heights and lava volumes are approximate USGS estimates; durations are rounded as reported. Values can be revised. Fountain height is not an explosion index, damage estimate or safe-viewing distance.

Source 1 > **Source 2 >** **Visual / data >**

Episode 5: A single active vent

January 22, 2025 - 2:30 p.m. to January 23, 2025 - 4:30 a.m. (HST) | Halemaumau, Kilauea summit, Hawaii, United States



Approximate maximum fountain height for 12 selected episodes; episode 5 is highlighted. This is not a continuous time series or a measure of damage. Credit: Dattle graphic from the cited source data.

Maximum fountain
41 m (approx.)

Lava volume
1.0 million m3 (approx.)

Episode duration
14 hours (source-rounded)

Following pause
2 days

WHAT HAPPENED

USGS records the episode from January 22, 2025 - 2:30 p.m. until January 23, 2025 - 4:30 a.m., Hawaii Standard Time. Vent/activity notes: North vent active only. These records describe activity within the ongoing summit eruption, rather than separate eruptions.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

The north vent alone was active. Keep a vent field in the log so changes in geometry are visible alongside changes in height and volume.

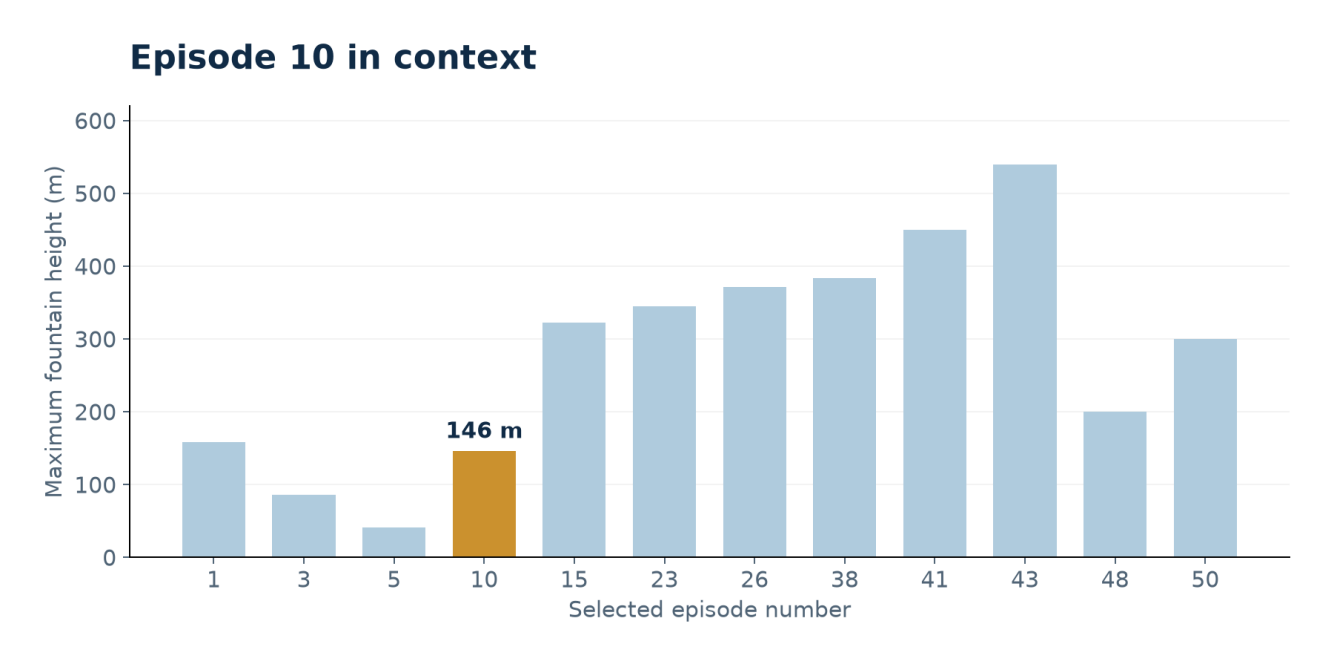
READ WITH CARE

Heights and lava volumes are approximate USGS estimates; durations are rounded as reported. Values can be revised. Fountain height is not an explosion index, damage estimate or safe-viewing distance.

Source 1 > **Source 2 >** **Visual / data >**

Episode 10: Same vent, different output

February 19, 2025 - 8:22 p.m. to February 20, 2025 - 9:18 a.m. (HST) | Halemaumau, Kilauea summit, Hawaii, United States



Approximate maximum fountain height for 12 selected episodes; episode 10 is highlighted. This is not a continuous time series or a measure of damage. Credit: Dattle graphic from the cited source data.

Maximum fountain
146 m (approx.)

Lava volume
2.5 million m3 (approx.)

Episode duration
13 hours (source-rounded)

Following pause
5 days

WHAT HAPPENED

USGS records the episode from February 19, 2025 - 8:22 p.m. until February 20, 2025 - 9:18 a.m., Hawaii Standard Time. Vent/activity notes: North vent active only. These records describe activity within the ongoing summit eruption, rather than separate eruptions.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

This north-vent episode provides a useful comparison with episode 5: similar rounded duration, but a much taller maximum fountain and a larger estimated volume.

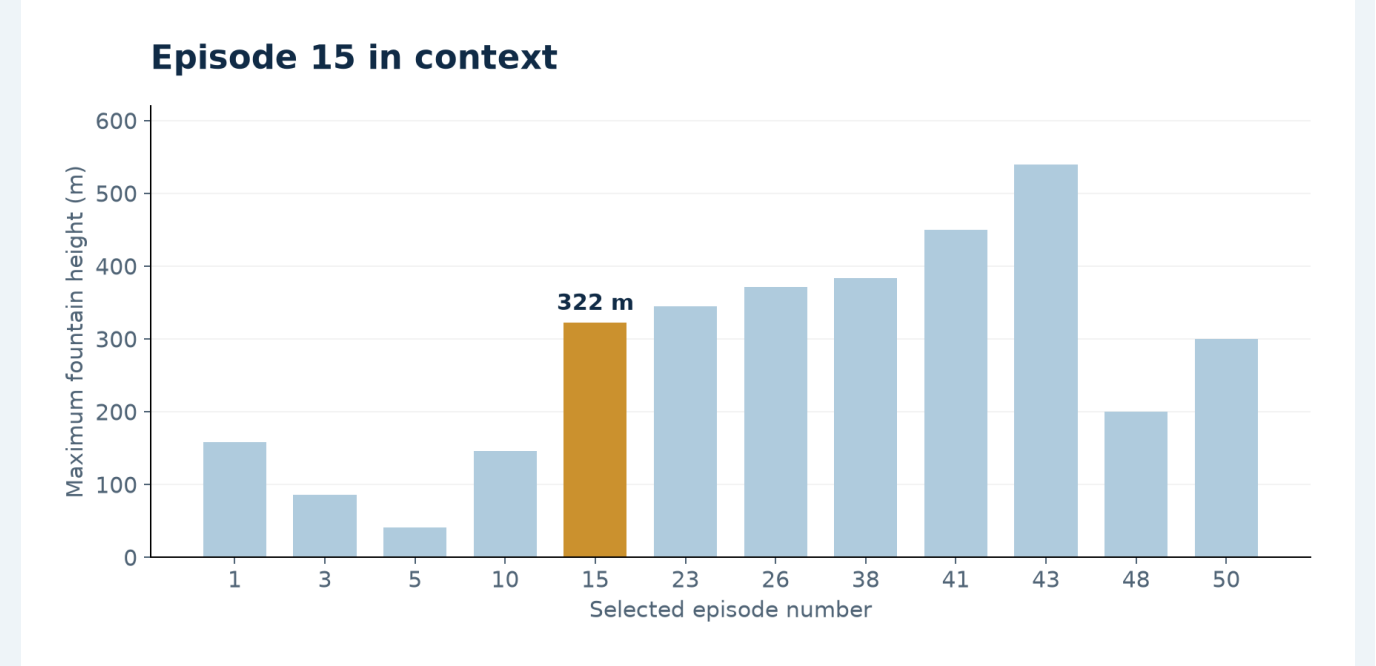
READ WITH CARE

Heights and lava volumes are approximate USGS estimates; durations are rounded as reported. Values can be revised. Fountain height is not an explosion index, damage estimate or safe-viewing distance.

Source 1 > **Source 2 >** **Visual / data >**

Episode 15: Height and direction

March 25, 2025 - 12:04 p.m. to March 26, 2025 - 7:10 p.m. (HST) | Halemaumau, Kilauea summit, Hawaii, United States



Approximate maximum fountain height for 12 selected episodes; episode 15 is highlighted. This is not a continuous time series or a measure of damage. Credit: Dattle graphic from the cited source data.

Maximum fountain
322 m (approx.)

Lava volume
3.6 million m3 (approx.)

Episode duration
31 hours (source-rounded)

Following pause
5 days

WHAT HAPPENED

USGS records the episode from March 25, 2025 - 12:04 p.m. until March 26, 2025 - 7:10 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time. Vent/activity notes: North and south vents active; south vent inclined. These records describe activity within the ongoing summit eruption, rather than separate eruptions.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

The source notes an inclined south-vent fountain. The direction of a fountain matters for interpreting photographs; apparent height in a perspective view is not a direct measurement.

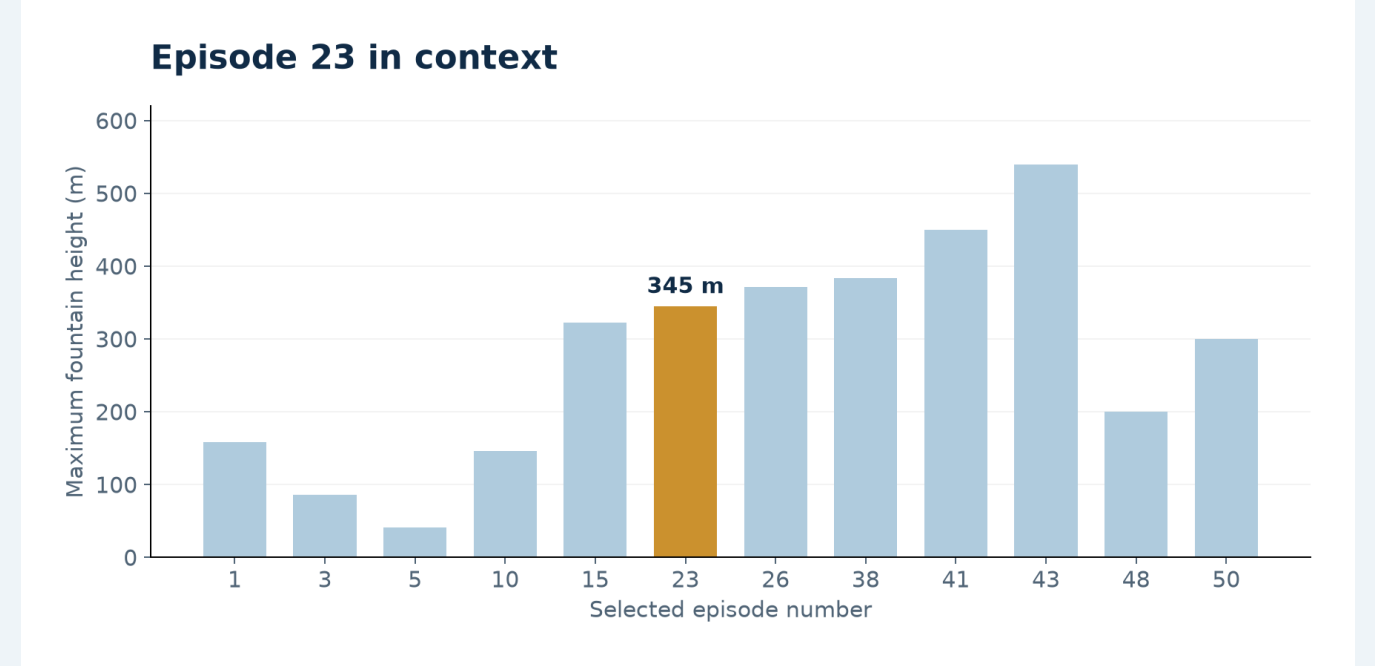
READ WITH CARE

Heights and lava volumes are approximate USGS estimates; durations are rounded as reported. Values can be revised. Fountain height is not an explosion index, damage estimate or safe-viewing distance.

Source 1 > Source 2 > Visual / data >

Episode 23: Short does not mean small

May 25, 2025 - 4:15 p.m. to May 25, 2025 - 10:25 p.m. (HST) | Halemaumau, Kilauea summit, Hawaii, United States



Approximate maximum fountain height for 12 selected episodes; episode 23 is highlighted. This is not a continuous time series or a measure of damage. Credit: Dattle graphic from the cited source data.

Maximum fountain
345 m (approx.)

Lava volume
4.6 million m3 (approx.)

Episode duration
6 hours (source-rounded)

Following pause
10 days

WHAT HAPPENED

USGS records the episode from May 25, 2025 - 4:15 p.m. until May 25, 2025 - 10:25 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time. Vent/activity notes: North and south vents active, north vent dominant. These records describe activity within the ongoing summit eruption, rather than separate eruptions.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

This episode combined a short reported duration with a high fountain. Compare height, duration and lava volume independently rather than collapsing them into one intensity score.

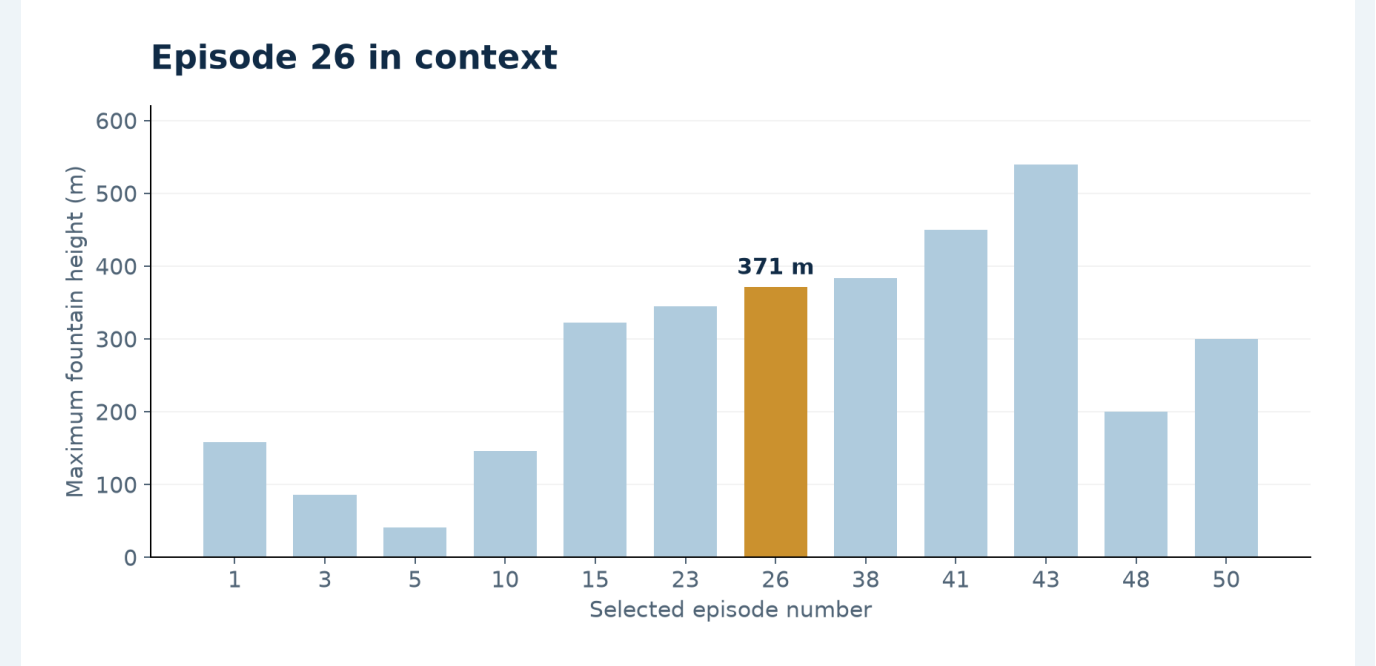
READ WITH CARE

Heights and lava volumes are approximate USGS estimates; durations are rounded as reported. Values can be revised. Fountain height is not an explosion index, damage estimate or safe-viewing distance.

Source 1 > Source 2 > Visual / data >

Episode 26: Follow the volume as well

June 20, 2025 - 1:40 a.m. to June 20, 2025 - 10:25 a.m. (HST) | Halemaumau, Kilauea summit, Hawaii, United States



Approximate maximum fountain height for 12 selected episodes; episode 26 is highlighted. This is not a continuous time series or a measure of damage. Credit: Dattle graphic from the cited source data.

Maximum fountain
371 m (approx.)

Lava volume
6.6 million m3 (approx.)

Episode duration
9 hours (source-rounded)

Following pause
9 days

WHAT HAPPENED

USGS records the episode from June 20, 2025 - 1:40 a.m. until June 20, 2025 - 10:25 a.m., Hawaii Standard Time. Vent/activity notes: North and south vents active, north vent dominant. These records describe activity within the ongoing summit eruption, rather than separate eruptions.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

The north vent was dominant while both vents were active. Relative to episode 23, the table reports a longer duration and a larger erupted volume.

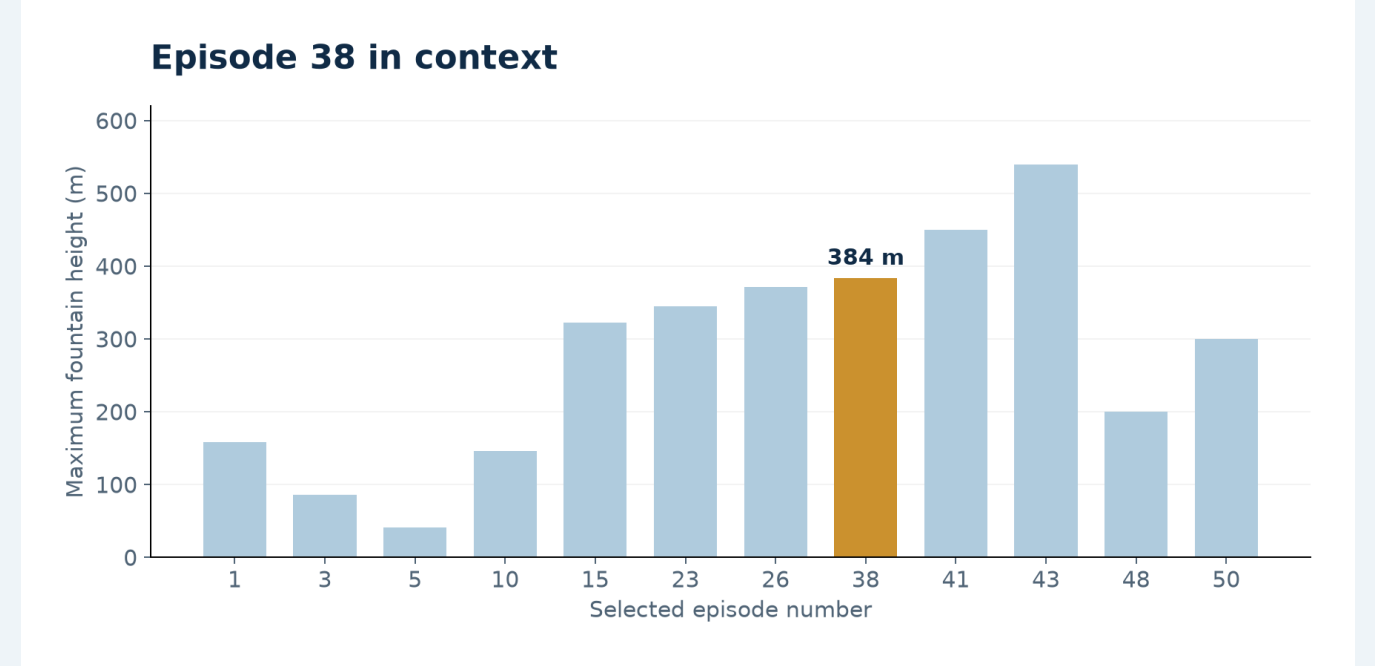
READ WITH CARE

Heights and lava volumes are approximate USGS estimates; durations are rounded as reported. Values can be revised. Fountain height is not an explosion index, damage estimate or safe-viewing distance.

Source 1 > Source 2 > Visual / data >

Episode 38: A change in dominance

December 6, 2025 - 8:45 a.m. to December 6, 2025 - 8:52 p.m. (HST) | Halemaumau, Kilauea summit, Hawaii, United States



Approximate maximum fountain height for 12 selected episodes; episode 38 is highlighted. This is not a continuous time series or a measure of damage. Credit: Dattle graphic from the cited source data.

Maximum fountain
384 m (approx.)

Lava volume
12.1 million m3 (approx.)

Episode duration
12 hours (source-rounded)

Following pause
17 days

WHAT HAPPENED

USGS records the episode from December 6, 2025 - 8:45 a.m. until December 6, 2025 - 8:52 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time. Vent/activity notes: North and south vents active; south vent dominant and inclined fountain. These records describe activity within the ongoing summit eruption, rather than separate eruptions.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

The south vent became dominant and inclined. The table reports much more lava than several earlier episodes with broadly similar maximum heights.

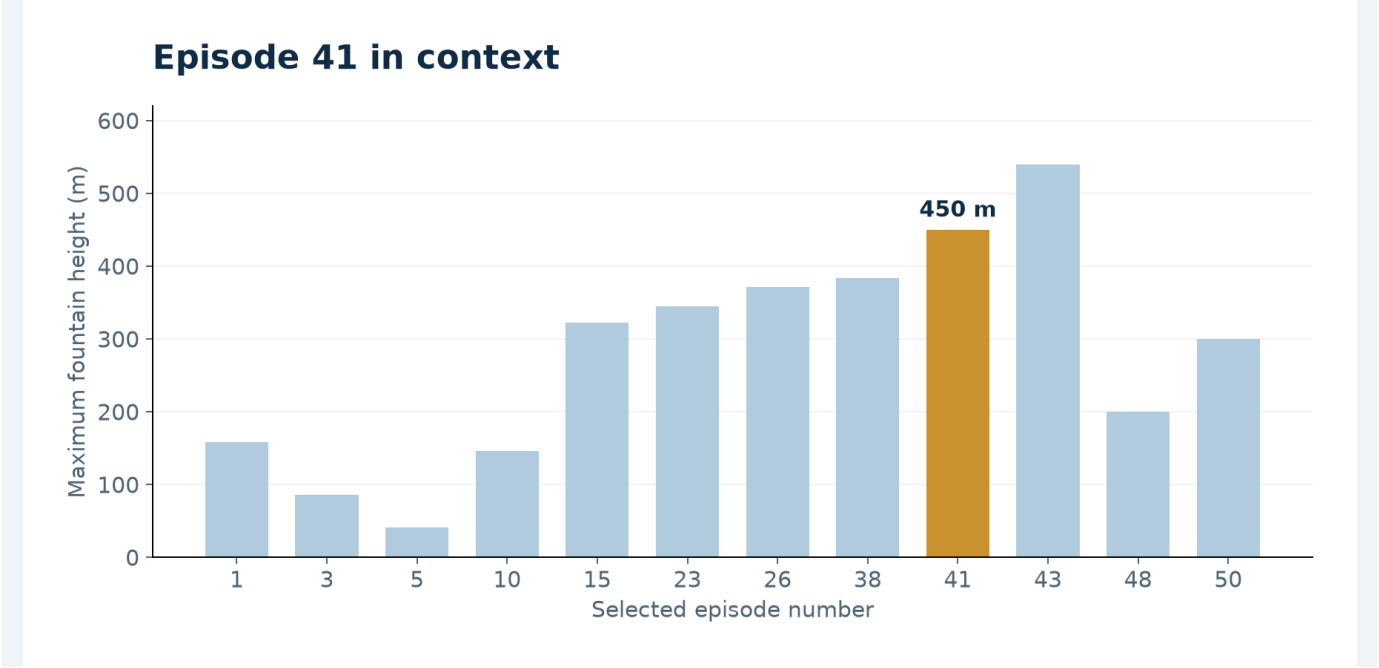
READ WITH CARE

Heights and lava volumes are approximate USGS estimates; durations are rounded as reported. Values can be revised. Fountain height is not an explosion index, damage estimate or safe-viewing distance.

Source 1 > Source 2 > Visual / data >

Episode 41: A high fountain after a pause

January 24, 2026 - 11:10 a.m. to January 24, 2026 - 7:29 p.m. (HST) | Halemaumau, Kilauea summit, Hawaii, United States



Approximate maximum fountain height for 12 selected episodes; episode 41 is highlighted. This is not a continuous time series or a measure of damage. Credit: Dattle graphic from the cited source data.

Maximum fountain
450 m (approx.)

Lava volume
10.6 million m3 (approx.)

Episode duration
8 hours (source-rounded)

Following pause
22 days

WHAT HAPPENED

USGS records the episode from January 24, 2026 - 11:10 a.m. until January 24, 2026 - 7:29 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time. Vent/activity notes: North and south vents active. These records describe activity within the ongoing summit eruption, rather than separate eruptions.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

Both main vents were active. The following pause is a separate observation; it cannot be used to predict the next episode from this small selected sample.

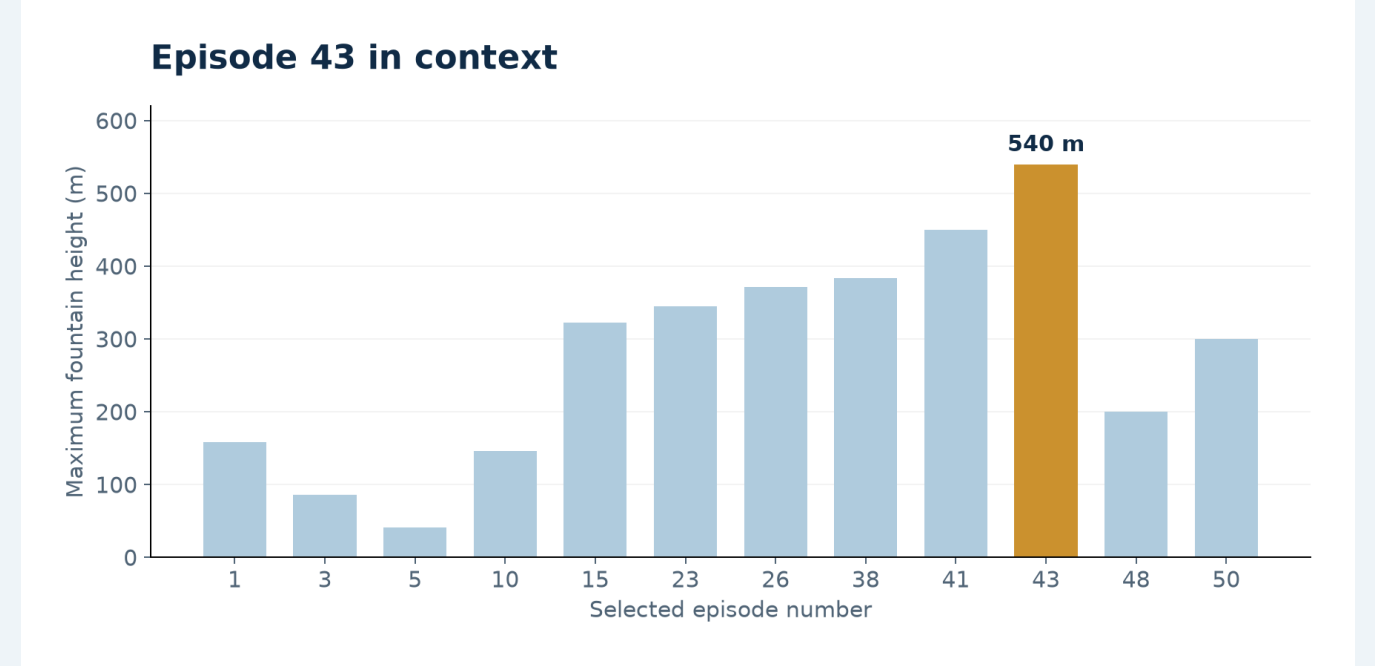
READ WITH CARE

Heights and lava volumes are approximate USGS estimates; durations are rounded as reported. Values can be revised. Fountain height is not an explosion index, damage estimate or safe-viewing distance.

Source 1 > Source 2 > Visual / data >

Episode 43: The tallest in this selection

March 10, 2026 - 9:17 a.m. to March 10, 2026 - 6:21 p.m. (HST) | Halemaumau, Kilauea summit, Hawaii, United States



Approximate maximum fountain height for 12 selected episodes; episode 43 is highlighted. This is not a continuous time series or a measure of damage. Credit: Dattle graphic from the cited source data.

Maximum fountain
540 m (approx.)

Lava volume
11.9 million m3 (approx.)

Episode duration
9 hours (source-rounded)

Following pause
30 days

WHAT HAPPENED

USGS records the episode from March 10, 2026 - 9:17 a.m. until March 10, 2026 - 6:21 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time. Vent/activity notes: North and south vents active, small intermediate fountain. These records describe activity within the ongoing summit eruption, rather than separate eruptions.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

Its approximate 540 m maximum is the highest among these 12 selected records. That is not a claim about all Kilauea eruptions or all later episodes.

READ WITH CARE

Heights and lava volumes are approximate USGS estimates; durations are rounded as reported. Values can be revised. Fountain height is not an explosion index, damage estimate or safe-viewing distance.

Source 1 > Source 2 > Visual / data >

Episode 48: One vent, several observations

June 1, 2026 - 4:40 a.m. to June 1, 2026 - 1:37 p.m. (HST) | Halemaumau, Kilauea summit, Hawaii, United States



North-vent fountain during episode 48, June 1, 2026, 06:19 HST. Credit: USGS / L. Gallant

Maximum fountain **200 m (approx.)**	Lava volume **5.7 million m3 (approx.)**
Episode duration **9 hours (source-rounded)**	Following pause **13 days**

WHAT HAPPENED

USGS records the episode from June 1, 2026 - 4:40 a.m. until June 1, 2026 - 1:37 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time. Vent/activity notes: North vent erupted lava fountain; precursory lava flows exclusively from the south vent. Small eq swarm and deformation on south rim. These records describe activity within the ongoing summit eruption, rather than separate eruptions.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

USGS documented the north fountain, downwind tephra and deformation around this episode. Different camera views and observation times describe different parts of the same event.

READ WITH CARE

Heights and lava volumes are approximate USGS estimates; durations are rounded as reported. Values can be revised. Fountain height is not an explosion index, damage estimate or safe-viewing distance.

Source 1 > **Source 2 >** **Source 3 >** **Visual / data >**

Episode 50: Close a defined data window

June 27, 2026 - 10:10 a.m. to June 27, 2026 - 5:10 p.m. (HST) | Halemaumau, Kilauea summit, Hawaii, United States



USGS B1cam view of episode 50, June 27, 2026. Credit: USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory / B1cam

Maximum fountain
300 m (approx.)

Lava volume
4.9 million m3 (approx.)

Episode duration
7 hours (source-rounded)

Following pause
18 days

WHAT HAPPENED

USGS records the episode from June 27, 2026 - 10:10 a.m. until June 27, 2026 - 5:10 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time. Vent/activity notes: Precursory lava flows from the north vent; north vent erupted lava fountain. These records describe activity within the ongoing summit eruption, rather than separate eruptions.

WHAT THE DATA REVEALS

The first-50-episode data release offers a bounded comparison window. This collection stops its selection here rather than implying that the eruption ended.

READ WITH CARE

Heights and lava volumes are approximate USGS estimates; durations are rounded as reported. Values can be revised. Fountain height is not an explosion index, damage estimate or safe-viewing distance.

Source 1 > **Source 2 >** **Visual / data >**

From examples to observations

A USEFUL RECORD KEEPS ITS EVIDENCE

Keep the time, place, measurement method, unit, source and uncertainty with every observation. Separate what you saw from an estimate or interpretation. Repeat observations consistently, and retain the original evidence when updating a record.

SUGGESTED DATTLE FIELDS

- Observation start and end, with time zone
- Episode identifier and source revision
- Vent and fountain direction
- Maximum height, method and uncertainty
- Lava-volume estimate and unit
- Tephra observations and location
- Photo timestamp, viewpoint and credit
- Agency source and date checked

AI AS AN ACCELERATOR

Use this prompt to draft a collection structure, then review it. AI can organize the questions and fields; it cannot supply missing observations or replace source verification.

> Create a Shared Dattle for volcano observations. Include episode ID, observation start and end with time zone, location, vent, approximate fountain height in meters, estimated lava volume in million cubic meters, observation method, uncertainty, photo, photo credit, source URL and follow-up notes. Keep observations separate from interpretations. Do not generate measurements or infer safe access.

Explore Dattle at dattle.com. Availability, features and plan limits are described on the website.

Sources and image credits

Primary references checked November 11, 2026. Records and estimates can be revised. Every case page links to its evidence; full addresses are retained here for reuse.

01. USGS HVO: Kilauea eruption information and episode table
https://www.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/science/eruption-information

02. USGS data release: fountain heights, episodes 1-50
https://www.usgs.gov/data/lava-fountain-heights-and-associated-timelapse-images-summit-eruption-kilauea-volcano-island

03. Visual / source data for Episode 1: An eruption begins
https://d9-wret.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets/palladium/production/s3fs-public/styles/full_width/public/media/images/20241223112001M.jpg?itok=l0wz5WGX

04. USGS HVO: episode 48 photo chronology
https://www.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/news/photo-video-chronology-episode-48-kilauea-summit-a-new-record

05. Visual / source data for Episode 48: One vent, several observations
https://d9-wret.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets/palladium/production/s3fs-public/styles/half_width/public/media/images/DSC_7552.jpeg?itok=RWhAzwja

06. Visual / source data for Episode 50: Close a defined data window
https://d9-wret.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets/palladium/production/s3fs-public/styles/full_width/public/media/images/20260627161609M.jpg?itok=OKYquV3c