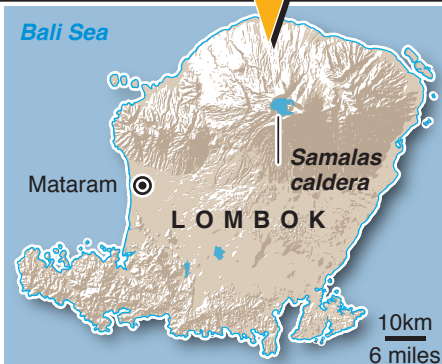


Source of 13th century mystery eruption found

The Samalas volcano on Indonesia's Lombok island is now the leading suspect for a colossal 13th century eruption that blasted ash from pole to pole. It destroyed an island kingdom and led to unseasonably cold weather, floods and failed harvests as far afield as Europe



Mount Samalas: Erupted in three phases over two or three days between May and October 1257, blasting 40 cubic kilometres of debris as high as 43km into sky



■ Researchers paired dust traces in ice in both Arctic and Antarctic with data gathered in Lombok, including radiocarbon dates, tree-rings, and medieval writings



Crater lake: Only remains of original mountain structure

**ERUPTION
COMPARISON**

Samalas Indonesia 1257 >40km³ of debris	Tambora Indonesia 1815 >33km³	Krakatoa Indonesia 1883 12.5km³	Pinatubo Philippines 1991 5km³	Vesuvius Italy AD 79 3.25km³
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