

Photos: Pumice from volcano floating on the ocean's surface



The strange shadow becomes clear as they approach.



Small "rocks and sand" seem to float on the water.

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It almost looks like a sand bar appears from nowhere.



A floating shore has appeared and they go for a closer look.

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A thin layer of pumice has blanketed the ocean, almost like a floating beach.



They decide to sail through the seemingly endless rocks, leaving a wake behind them. Their ship slows to a crawl as they venture into the mass.

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As they sail, the crew notices the “floating beach” is continuing to expand at a rapid rate. Everyone becomes concerned and they decide to make a hasty exit.



Their ship has become blocked with pumice. They clear the stones and manage to restart the engine.

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Not long after their departure, they begin to hear a rumbling.



From a safe distance their fears are confirmed, they had sailed over an active underwater volcano!

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What started as a rumbling and a few bubbles quickly becomes a plume of smoke and something else appears along the horizon.



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They can now clearly see land where there had been nothing but open ocean just minutes before!



The crew stops to watch the birth of a new island.



Once everything seemed safe, they risked going in for a closer look.

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Sure enough, the raw island surface clearly stands out between the water and sky.



They stayed to watch one of mother nature's rarest wonders.

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Lucky to be a witness and live to tell the tale, the crew of the Maiken thank their lucky stars and bid the infant island a fond farewell.