

# Niue 2014 Volcano Erta Ale Ethiopia coin

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I will admit that I, like seemingly a growing number of collectors, are smitten by the beauty of high relief on a coin.

Among the very first high relief coins that I ever came across as a coin collector is the Niue 014 Volcano Erta Ale Ethiopia 2 oz silver coin. This coin is from the Volcanoes series ... in fact it's the first coin in the series. The \$2 nominal face value ultra high relief coin also has another visually appealing feature....it is a concave / convex shaped coin. But the remarkable features of this stunning coin don't stop there. In fact, I would say the best feature of this coin is the beautifully shaped and naturally textured piece of solidified real lava that is held in the center of this coin!

If you have not seen this coin in person, then you can not know how beautiful a coin it really is. Flat pictures definitely don't do the coin justice. Perhaps the best way to be able to get an idea of the coin's aesthetic beauty other than seeing the coin in hand, is to check out the First Coin Company's video of the coin which can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lZD5ZejqL4>

I have collected some minerals over the years but I never had the opportunity to collect real volcanic rock that is certified. Oh yeah, I almost forgot, the volcanic rock in each of these coins is certified to actually be from the volcano Erta Ale in Ethiopia.

You might be wondering what is Erta Ale. It is, according to the First Coin Company, "a continuously active basaltic shield volcano in the Afar Region of northeastern Ethiopia. It is situated in the Afar Depression, a badland desert area spanning the border with Eritrea. Erta Ale is the most active volcano in Ethiopia."

With an antique finish, a low mintage of only 688 coins, and a pleasant 2 oz size, this coin is sure to be one of the highlights of any modern coin collection.

Finally, a point that should not be overlooked. I can remember when I first was looking at prices of this magnificent coin when it was first released, I ignorantly thought that the price was too high. So I waited, hoping that the price would drop. But the price never dropped. In fact, in the after market,

prices that I saw were higher. Seeing the trend, I decided to buy one before the prices went even higher. Even at the slightly higher price, once I was able to see the coin in hand, I was very glad I purchased it to add to my collection.

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