

In the heat of the moment

C) When a volcano erupts, most people want to get as far away as possible, as quickly as they can! He can't stay this close for too long because the gases and ash will destroy his camera, but Martin Rietze waits just long enough to see flaming hot lava and ash explode out of the nearby crater – and gets the perfect shot.

A) When the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland erupted in 2010 and ash clouds closed airspace over Northern Europe, Martin was already on the scene for some of his most spectacular shots.

D) Martin is a freelance photographer whose stunning photographs of volcanic eruptions are in high demand with newspapers and magazines all over the world. He is one of a small but dedicated group of volcano chasers. It takes a lot of patience as a volcano can erupt at any time, night or day, and clouds, fog and steam often block the view. After spending three sleepless nights in freezing temperatures, Martin got within three feet of the lava flow and even took photos of lava fountains – jets of lava that shoot up as high as a thirty-story building! Goggles and a gas mask provide protection from poisonous gases, but gloves are just as important because fresh lava can be as sharp as a knife.