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List of historical earthquakes

Historical earthquakes is a list of significant earthquakes known to have occurred prior to the beginning of the 20th century. As the events listed here occurred before routine instrumental recordings, they rely mainly on the analysis of written sources. There is often significant uncertainty in location and magnitude and sometimes date for each earthquake. The number of fatalities is also often highly uncertain, particularly for the older events.

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Pre-11th century

Date	Time‡	Place	Lat	Long	Fatalities	Mag.	Comments	Sources
1831 BC or 1731 BC		<u>Xia China</u> see <u>Mount Tai earthquake</u>			?	?	Listed in the <i>Bamboo Annals</i>	[1][2]
464 BC		<u>Sparta, Greece</u> see <u>464 BC Sparta earthquake</u>			?	7.2 (approx)	M _s Led to a <u>helot</u> uprising and strained relations with <u>Athens</u> , one of the factors that led to the <u>Peloponnesian War</u>	[3]
226 BC		<u>Rhodes, Greece</u> see <u>226 BC Rhodes earthquake</u>			?	–	Destroyed <u>Colossus of Rhodes</u> and city of <u>Kameiros</u>	[4]
60 BC		<u>Portugal and Galicia</u> coasts			?	8.5	Caused a tsunami	[5]
AD 17	At night	<u>Asia minor</u> see <u>17 AD Lydia earthquake</u>	37.85	27.3	?		Destroyed 13 cities in Asia (minor)	Described by the historians <u>Tacitus</u> and <u>Pliny the Elder</u>
February 5, AD 62		<u>Bay of Naples, Italy</u> see <u>62 Pompeii earthquake</u>			?	5–6	Brought down a large part of <u>Pompeii</u> , caused severe damage in <u>Herculaneum</u> and <u>Nuceria</u> .	<u>Seneca</u> describes it in his "Quaestiones Naturales VI" ^[6]
AD 110		<u>Dian Kingdom, Yunnan, southwestern China</u>			probably thousands	–	Flooded administrative centre of the <u>Dian Kingdom</u>	[7]
December 13, AD 115		<u>Antioch</u> see <u>115 Antioch earthquake</u>	36.1	36.1	~260,000	7.5	M _s	[8]
May 18, 363 AD		<u>Syria</u> see <u>363 earthquake</u>			"thousands"	~7	Destruction also in " <u>The Holy Land</u> ", <u>Petra</u>	<u>Ammianus Marcellinus</u> ^[9] and numerous other late Antiquity writers ^[10]
July 21, AD 365		<u>Crete (Greece)</u> see <u>365 Crete earthquake</u>			"thousands"	XI	<u>Destruction also in Cyrene & Alexandria (by tsunami). Uplifted Crete by 9 metres.</u>	<u>Ammianus Marcellinus</u> ^[9] and numerous other late Antiquity writers ^[10]
382		<u>Cape St. Vincent, Portugal</u>				7.5	According to Roman historian <u>Ammianus</u>	<u>Ammianus Marcellinus</u>

Date	Time‡	Place	Lat	Long	Fatalities	Mag.	Comments	Sources
							Marcellinus, the earthquake and corresponding tsunami sank two islets that were situated near <u>Cape St. Vincent</u> .	
May 19, AD 526		<u>Antioch, Turkey</u> see 526 Antioch earthquake			250,000	7.0	The city of Antioch was greatly damaged, and some decades later the city's population was just 300,000.	Procopius, II.14.6; sources based on <u>John of Ephesus</u>
July 6, AD 551		<u>Beirut, Tyre, Tripoli</u> see 551 Beirut earthquake	33.9	35.5	30,000	7.5	M_w Triggered a devastating tsunami, all the cities of the Phoenician coast from Tyre to Tripoli were reduced to ruins	[11]
January 18, AD 749 ^{[12][13]}		<u>The Levant</u> see 749 Galilee earthquake			"tens of thousands"	7 to 7.5 (approx)	The cities of <u>Tiberias</u> , <u>Beit She'an</u> , <u>Hippos</u> and <u>Pella</u> were largely destroyed while many other cities across the Levant region were heavily damaged.	[12]
November 24, AD 847		<u>Damascus, Syria</u> see 847 Antioch earthquake	33.5	36.3	70,000	7.3		[11][14]
December AD 856		<u>Corinth, Greece</u>	37.9	22.9	45,000	–		[14][15]
December 22, AD 856 (aftershocks for about a year)		<u>Qumis, Iran</u> . From <u>Khuvar</u> to <u>Bustam</u> and <u>Gurgan</u> . The town of <u>Qumis</u> (<u>Hecatompilos</u>) hardest hit. see 856 <u>Damghan</u> earthquake	36.23	54.14	45,000–200,000.		The city of <u>Qumis</u> was half destroyed and had 45,096 casualties.	[14][16]
July 13, AD 869		<u>Sendai, Japan</u> see 869 <u>Sanriku</u> earthquake	38.5	143.8	~1,000	8.6–9.0	M _s	[17]

Date	Time‡	Place	Lat	Long	Fatalities	Mag.	Comments	Sources
March 23, AD 893		<u>Ardabil, Iran</u> see <u>893 Ardabil earthquake</u>	38.28	48.30	150,000	–	–	Regarded as a 'fake earthquake', due to misunderstanding of original Armenian sources for the 893 Dvin event. [18][19][20][21]
December 28, AD 893		<u>Dvin, Armenia</u> see <u>893 Dvin earthquake</u>	40.0	44.6	30,000	–	Mislocated in India	[22]

11th–18th centuries

Date	Time‡	Place	Lat	Long	Fatalities	Mag.	Comments	Sources
December, 1037		Taizhou, Jiangsu, China	32.0	119.0	22,391			[23][24]
August 12, 1042		Palmyra, Baalbek, Syria, Lebanon	35.1	38.9	50,000	7.2 (>VIII)		[11][14]
March 18, 1068		Near East see 1068 Near East earthquake			20,000	≥ 7.0		[25][26]
October 11, 1138		Aleppo, Syria see 1138 Aleppo earthquake	36.1	36.8	230,000	7.1		[11][27]
August 12, 1157	08:15	Hama, Syria see 1157 Hama earthquake	35.1	36.3	"Tens of thousands"	7.2	M _s Largest in a sequence lasting from late 1156 to early 1159	[11][27][28]
February 4, 1169		Sicily see 1169 Sicily earthquake	37.3	15.0	15,000	X		[29]
June 29, 1170	06:29	Eastern Mediterranean see 1170 Syria earthquake	34.4	36.4	5,000 ^[30] -80,000 in Aleppo 25,000 in Hama	7.3–7.5 ^[31] –7.7 ^[32]	Syria, Lebanon, central southern Turkey	Numerous sources from Crusader times ^{[27][28]}
July 5, 1201 and/or May 20, 1202		Eastern Mediterranean; see 1202 Syria earthquake			1,100,000 (includes famine/disease deaths)	7.6	Damage across a wide area from Syria to Upper Egypt	–
May 11, 1222	06:15	Cyprus see 1222 Cyprus earthquake	34.7	32.6		7.0–7.5	Caused damage at Paphos, Limassol and Nicosia	[33]
1268		Cilicia, Anatolia (Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia) see 1268 Cilicia earthquake	37.5	35.5	60,000	7 (approx)		–
September 27, 1290		Chihli (Hopeh), China see 1290 Chihli earthquake	41.5	119.3	100,000	6.8	M _s	[34]

Date	Time‡	Place	Lat	Long	Fatalities	Mag.	Comments	Sources
May 26, 1293		Kamakura, (now in Kanagawa Prefecture, Kantō region,) Japan see 1293 Kamakura earthquake	35.2	139.4	23,024	7.1		[35]
August 8, 1303	06:00	1303 Crete earthquake, Greece	35	27	up to 10,000	~8	Triggered a major tsunami that devastated Alexandria in Egypt	[36]
January 1, 1341		Crimea, Ukraine			Not known	6		[37]
January 25, 1348	15:00	Friuli, Venice, Rome see Earthquake of 1348	46.37	13.58	10,000	6.9		[14]
October 18, 1356		Basel, Switzerland see 1356 Basel earthquake	47.5	07.6	1,000	6.2	<i>M_w</i>	[38]
May 21, 1382		Canterbury, UK see 1382 Dover Straits earthquake			?	5.8	Struck during synod – later called " Earthquake Synod " – called to condemn heresy of John Wycliffe – some saw as portentous	[39][40]
February 2, 1428		Catalonia (now Spain) Catalan earthquake of 1428	42.4	2.2	1,000s	VIII–IX	Sometimes called the <i>terratrèmol de la candelera</i> because it took place during the Candlemas .	[14][41][42]
3 May 1481	03:00	Rhodes see 1481 Rhodes earthquake	36.0	28.0	30,000	7.1	Largest of a series that lasted 10 months	[43]
September 20, 1498	08:00 local time	Honshu see 1498 Nankai earthquake	34.0	138.1	31,000	8.6	<i>M_s</i>	[44]
June 6, 1505		Nepal see 1505 Lo Mustang earthquake	29.5	83.0	30% of Nepalese population	8.2		–
September 10, 1509	22:00	Istanbul, Turkey see 1509 Istanbul earthquake	40.9	28.7	10,000	7.2	<i>M_s</i>	[45]

Date	Time‡	Place	Lat	Long	Fatalities	Mag.	Comments	Sources
January 26, 1531	04:30	Lisbon, Portugal <i>see</i> 1531 Lisbon earthquake	38.9	−09.0	30,000	6.9		[46]
January 23, 1556		Shaanxi, China <i>see</i> 1556 Shaanxi earthquake	34.5	109.7	830,000+	8.2–8.3	Deadliest earthquake in recorded history	USGS
November 16–17, 1570	19:10	Ferrara, Italy <i>see</i> 1570 Ferrara earthquake	44.817	11.633	70–200	5.5		<i>Azariah de Rossi's Ko' Elohim</i> ^[14] [47]
December 16, 1575	18:30	Valdivia, Chile <i>see</i> 1575 Valdivia earthquake	−39.8	−73.2	?	8.5		[14][48]
November 24, 1604	12:30 local time	Arica, Chile	−18.500	−70.400	?	8.5	<i>M_I</i>	[49]
February 3, 1605	20:00 local time	Shikoku, Honshu, Japan <i>see</i> 1605 Keichō Nankaido earthquake	33.5	138.5	thousands	7.9	<i>M_S</i>	[50]
July 13, 1605		Qiongshan, Hainan, China	19.9	110.5	3,000	7.5 (X)		[51]
February 5, 1663		Quebec, Canada <i>see</i> 1663 Charlevoix earthquake	47.6	70.1	0	7.3–7.9	Landslides were the primary feature	[52]
April 6, 1667		Dubrovnik, Croatia <i>see</i> 1667 Dubrovnik earthquake	42.3	18.1	3,000	7.2		[53]
November 25, 1667		Shamakhi, Azerbaijan <i>see</i> 1667 Shamakhi earthquake	40.6	48.6	80,000	6.9	<i>M_S</i>	[34]
August 17, 1668		Anatolia, Turkey	40	36	8,000	8		USGS
October 20, 1687	11:30	Lima, Peru <i>see</i> 1687 Peru earthquake	−15.2	−75.9	5,000	8.2		[14]

Date	Time‡	Place	Lat	Long	Fatalities	Mag.	Comments	Sources
June 5, 1688		Province of Benevento, Italy see 1688 Sannio earthquake	41.3	14.6	est. 10,000	7	Completely destroyed <u>Cerreto Sannita</u> and <u>Guardia Sanframondi</u> , heavily damaged <u>Benevento</u> .	[54]
September 13, 1692	11:00	Salta Province, Argentina see 1692 Salta earthquake	-25.40	-64.80	~13	7.0	The small village of <u>Talavera del Esteco</u> was completely destroyed.	[55]
June 7, 1692	11:43 local time	Port Royal, Jamaica see 1692 Jamaica earthquake	17.9	-76.8	2,000+	7 (approx) (X)		[56][57]
January 11, 1693		Catania Province, Sicily see 1693 Sicily earthquake			60,000	7.5		–
September 5, 1694	11:40	Irpinia, Italy see 1694 Irpinia–Basilicata earthquake	40.88	15.35	6,000	6.9	M _w	[58]
January 26, 1700	~21:00	Cascadia subduction zone see 1700 Cascadia earthquake				9	M (Satake et al., 1996)	USGS
January 14, 1703	18:00	Norcia, Italy see 1703 Apennine earthquakes	42.7	13.07	6,240–9,761	6.7	M _w	[14][59]
February 2, 1703	11:05	L'Aquila, Italy see 1703 Apennine earthquakes	42.43	13.3	2,500–5,000	6.7	M _w	[14][59]
December 31, 1703	17:00	Kantō region, Japan see 1703 Genroku earthquake	35.0	140.0	5,233	8.2	M _s	[60]
October 28, 1707	14:00 local time	Japan see 1707 Hōei earthquake	33.0	136.0	5,000+	8.6		[61]

Date	Time‡	Place	Lat	Long	Fatalities	Mag.	Comments	Sources
April 26, 1721		<u>Tabriz, Iran</u> see <u>1721 Tabriz earthquake</u>	37.9	46.7	~80,000	VIII-IX		[62]
July 8, 1730	08:45	<u>Valparaiso, Chile</u> see <u>1730 Valparaiso earthquake</u>	-32.5	-71.5	?	8.7		[63]
September 30, 1730	10:00 local time	<u>Beijing, China</u>	40.0	116.2	100s	6.5		[64][65]
November 29, 1732	8:40 local time	Irpinia, Italy see <u>1732 Irpinia earthquake</u>	41.0727	15.0623		6.6	M _s	[66]
October 16, 1737	15:30 local time	<u>Kamchatka, Russia</u>	51.1	158.0		8.3	M _s See <u>Kamchatka earthquakes</u>	[67][68]
October 28, 1746	22:30 local time	<u>Lima & Callao, Peru</u> see <u>1746 Lima–Callao earthquake</u>	-11.35	-77.28	4,000–5,000	8.6–8.8	M _w	[69]
May 25, 1751	1:00 local time	<u>Concepción, Chile</u> see <u>1751 Concepción earthquake</u>	-36.830	-73.030		8.5	M _T	USGS
June 7, 1755		<u>Northern Persia</u>	34.0	51.5	1,200 40,000 ^[70]	5.9		[65][71]
November 1, 1755	10:16	<u>Lisbon, Portugal</u> see <u>1755 Lisbon earthquake</u>	36	-11	80,000	8.7	Caused a huge tsunami	USGS
November 18, 1755	09:11	<u>Boston, Massachusetts, USA</u> see <u>1755 Cape Ann earthquake</u>	42.7	-70.2	0	5.9	M _w	[72][73]
November 25, 1759	19:23 local time	Eastern Mediterranean see <u>Near East earthquakes of 1759</u>	33.7	35.9	1,000s	7.4	M _s Earthquake in same area on October 30 considered to be a <u>foreshock</u>	[11]
April 2, 1762		<u>Northeastern Bay of Bengal</u> ^[74]	22.0	92.0	200	up to 8.8	M _w	[75]

Date	Time‡	Place	Lat	Long	Fatalities	Mag.	Comments	Sources
		<u>see 1762 Arakan earthquake</u>						
June 28, 1763	05:28	Komárom, <u>Kingdom of Hungary</u> <u>see 1763 Komárom earthquake</u>	47.73	18.15	83	6.2 to 6.5	M _w	[76]
October 21, 1766		<u>Saint Joseph, Trinidad and Tobago</u>	10.65	-61.43		7.9	Destroyed Spanish colonial capital of San Jose, <u>Trinidad</u> (now St. Joseph)	[77]
June 3, 1770	19:15 local time	<u>Port-au-Prince, Haiti</u> <u>see 1770 Port-au-Prince earthquake</u>	18.7	-72.63	200+	7.5	M _w	[78]
July 29, 1773		<u>Guatemala</u> <u>see 1773 Guatemala earthquake</u>	14.6	-90.7	5–600	7.5		
January 8, 1780		<u>Tabriz, Iran</u> <u>see 1780 Tabriz earthquake</u>	38.0	46.2	200,000	7.4	M _s	[79][80]
February 4–5, March 28, 1783	12:00	<u>Calabria, Italy</u> <u>see 1783 Calabrian earthquakes</u>	38.15	15.70	35,000	6.9	M _w First in a sequence of five earthquakes M _w ≥ 5.9 to hit Calabria in less than two months	[81]
June 1, 1786	04:00 local time	<u>Sichuan, China</u> <u>see 1786 Kangding-Luding earthquake</u>	29.9	102.0	~100,000	7.75	M _w Triggered a landslide that blocked the Dadu river – the collapse of the dam during an aftershock and subsequent flood caused most of the casualties	[82]
February 4, 1797	12:30	<u>Quito, Ecuador & Cuzco, Peru</u> <u>see 1797 Riobamba earthquake</u>			41,000	7.3	M _w	[83]
February 10, 1797		<u>Sumatra, East Indies</u> (now <u>Indonesia</u>) <u>see 1797 Sumatra earthquake</u>	-1.0	99.0	300	8.4		[84][85][86]

19th century
