El Hierro - introduction

Emergent summit of a volcanic shield rising from sea floor at a depth of 3.7-4Km.

Sea floor age 156Ma (Jurassic)

Still an active volcano last eruption underwater on southern flank in 2011-12

The island features dykes, vents, eruptive fissures, faults, landslide scars.

Triple-arm rift system.

Giant gravitational collapses. 100-200km3

El Golfo landslide ~15k ago volume of debris150–180 km^3

~1km high cliffs form back wall of embayment

Three consecutive volcanic edifices:

Tiñor Edifice
(1.12–0.88 Ma)

El Golfo-Las Playas Edifice
(545–176 ka)

Rift Volcanism
(158ka–present)

Submarine southern ridge interpreted as an old edifice

Six large **destructive flank collapses**

Island declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2000.

El Hierro Geopark

200Km2 of network walks in Geopark