



**Down to Earth**

*"Earth science learning for all"*

# El Hierro Canary Islands February 23 - March 2 2019

Amazing basalt columns in the clear seas of El Hierro  
(Photo: El Hierro Geopark)

## A word from your leaders...

We thought that with our 2018 visit to La Gomera, we had done all of the Canary Islands that could be visited and then we were told that El Hierro was not only possible it really should be visited! What could we say other than 'yes' so our trusty local guide and friend Isabel Mora has obliged and we are pleased to be able to offer you this our last Canary Island!

So what's good about El Hierro? It's the most recently active in terms of volcanism with an offshore eruption in 2011/12. It's also the most western of the Canary Islands and is a Geopark in the UNESCO global network. It's also protected for its biological habitats and has an amazing landscape. With a population of just 11,000, it's the least developed of all of the Canary Islands and therefore the least spoilt.

There are very few hotels on El Hierro, indeed only one with enough bedrooms to accommodate us, this is the Parador de El Hierro in the National Park. At this time year, it's also only open 5-days of the week, so our first and last nights will be spent on Tenerife. We take the ferry from Los Cristianos, which takes around two and a half hours. We expect demand for this trip to be high, so early booking is advised, especially if you want a single room.

**Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield**  
Course Organisers/Leaders

[downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk](mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk)

## Getting to Tenerife

There are flights from many UK airports to Tenerife South. These are with the usual budget airlines such as Easyjet, Thomas Cook and Jet2.com. Remember that there's nothing to stop you travelling with different airlines for the two single journeys, especially if that gives you better timings. Schedules for the winter period are usually not known before June at the earliest. You should arrange to be there for around 14-00 - 15.00 or earlier. If you arrive later than this, you may will to arrange your own transfers to our Tenerife hotel.

## Getting Around on Tenerife and El Hierro

We'll have the services of Isabel Mora as our local guide on the island. Isabel is a native of Tenerife and also knows El Hierro well. She has a great eye for natural history of all kinds. She will liaise with our coach driver on each day and also find us great places for our midday food. We hope to have a suitable sized coach that will get us as close as possible to our field sites. For travel to and from El Hierro we will use the ferry operated by Compañía Naviera Armas, which takes around two and a half hours. It's a comfortable and large vessel.

## Walking

Parts of the island are steep and rugged, but be assured, we won't be tackling difficult terrain, although there will be places where we will make modest ascents and descents to access some sections, in some cases this will involve steps. We'll get you as close as possible to the relevant sites and will, in almost every case, involve minimal walking distances. We will make use of the excellent network of well maintained paths that cover the island.

Everything therefore should be within the capabilities of all of the party. However, if at any time you wish to 'opt out' that will be fully acceptable and understood. In view of the uncertainties of the weather you are strongly advised to bring all waterproofs and walking boots – particularly as you may be walking over rough ground.

## Why El Hierro?

It's probably one of the best places to see rift zones and giant gravitational slides due to lateral collapse. It's also a very young landscape, with active volcanism as recently as 2011/12, albeit offshore. The oldest surface lavas are dated at 1.12 Ma and many parts of the island are poorly vegetated. With around 60% of the island under statutory protection and economic development not spoiling the views, this has got to be the ultimate Canary Island experience!

This is from the El Hierro website:



“The volcanic activity, principally at the convergence of the three ridges, resulted in the continual expansion of the island. A mere 50,000 years ago, as a result of seismic tremors which produced massive landslides, a giant piece of the island cracked off, crashed down into the ocean and scattered along the seabed.

This landslide of more than 300km<sup>3</sup> gave rise to the impressive amphitheatre of the El Golfo valley and at the same time caused a tsunami that most likely rose over 100 metres high and probably reached as far as the American coast.

Although over 200 years have elapsed since the last eruption, El Hierro has the largest number of volcanoes in the Canaries with over 500 open sky cones, another 300 covered by the most recent outflows, and some 70 caves and volcanic galleries, notably the Don Justo cave whose collection of channels surpasses 6km in length.”

El Hierro is about as close as it gets to Iceland in terms of recent volcanism, it's a lot warmer and beer is affordable! What more can we say?

## Itinerary

*At this stage, this is meant to be indicative of the likely trip content. Final details will be worked out in accordance with the wishes of the group and the prevailing weather.*

- We spend a day on Tenerife, dependent upon the weather, this may be the spectacular Teno area of the NW.
- The Tinor volcano and the remains of its collapsed escarpment, the San Andres fault system
- The El Golfo collapse feature
- The El Golfo volcano
- The rift zones and recent volcanism in the NW and south of the island

## Accommodation & Food

Good food and a good night's rest are important elements to our trips and we have worked with our guide Isabel to secure good, minimum 3\*, accommodation with all en-suite rooms. Single rooms are limited and subject to an extra charge. The single supplement is more than we would have liked, but we had no choice of hotel on El Hierro. We are happy to help anyone looking for someone to share a twin bedded room – simply indicate on the booking form. We have yet to finalise our hotel on Tenerife, but it should be close to Los Cristianos and Tenerife South airport.

On El Hierro we will be staying at the Hotel Parador de El Hierro which has 40 bedrooms and is situated between the sea and the cliffs. Seaview rooms are available at a supplement of £80.00 per room for the 5-nights.

Evening meals will all be taken at our hotel restaurants. On El Hierro the hotel prides itself on serving traditional Spanish recipes. On Tenerife, it is likely that this will be buffet style, with plenty of choice on offer. Simple midday food will be provided on each field day and will be taken in a variety of local family owned bars, often at the coast.



## Cost

**For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 7-night tour will be £1250.00 per person; for single occupancy, the cost will be £1495.00 per person. Single rooms are limited to a maximum of 6 and are subject to availability.**

Prices as quoted are based on a rate of not less than £1.10 to the Euro, if there are falls below this level we reserve the right to increase the cost of the trip by not more than 10%.

**Our hotel on El Hierro and pool - there may even be time for a dip!**

## What's included in the cost?

- The services of our local guide, together with Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield as tutors, who will be available to you at all reasonable times
- Accommodation and meals as specified in the brochure
- Use of hired coach and driver
- Ferry to and from El Hierro
- Admission charges to any museum or attraction included in the programme
- Transfers between Tenerife South and hotel, but only at a single fixed time (see brochure).

Other transfers will be at your own expense

## What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Tenerife and return
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses
- Lunchtime food on the final day

## Insurance

**Everyone booking a place and paying a deposit is required to take out holiday insurance.** This can cover you against loss of money in the event of cancellation etc. Cover is often included in with your credit card or bank account.

## Booking

Please fill in and return a completed booking form.. Your booking will be confirmed upon receipt of either a deposit of £300.00 per person or the full payment. The balance of the brochure price will be due by December 31st. 2018.

**This trip will run provided a minimum of 20 people have booked by September 30th. 2018.**

## Your money...

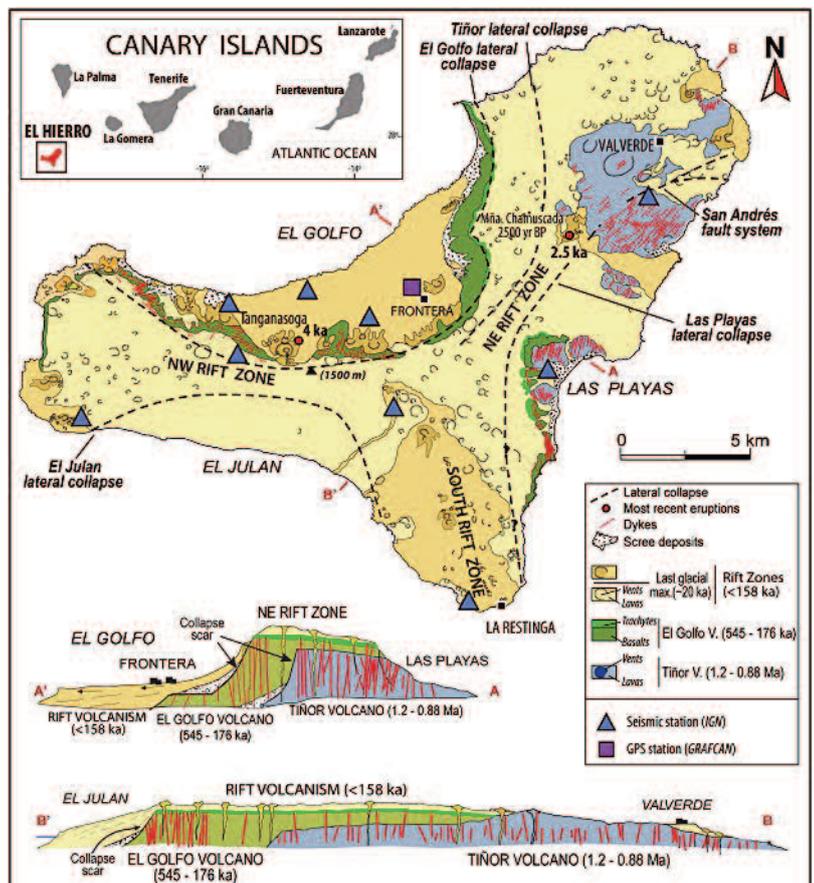
Upon receipt, all monies paid for these trips are placed in a specific 'client trust account' where it cannot be drawn by us until after completion of the tour. This is in accordance with EU Directives and ensures that your money is safe in the unlikely event of corporate failure by Geo Supplies.

## What happens next?

As soon as we are in a position of confirming that the trip will run - we will let you know. You will then be free to start making your own travel plans and to take advantage of any early deals on plane tickets.

Please don't make any such arrangements until we have been in touch with you.

Also see information contained in our 'Residential Field Trips 2019'.



**If you have any questions or queries - contact Chris Darmon as follows:-  
Email: [downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk](mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk) • Tel: 0114 245 5746 • FAX: 0114 240 3405**