



The wonder of Etna







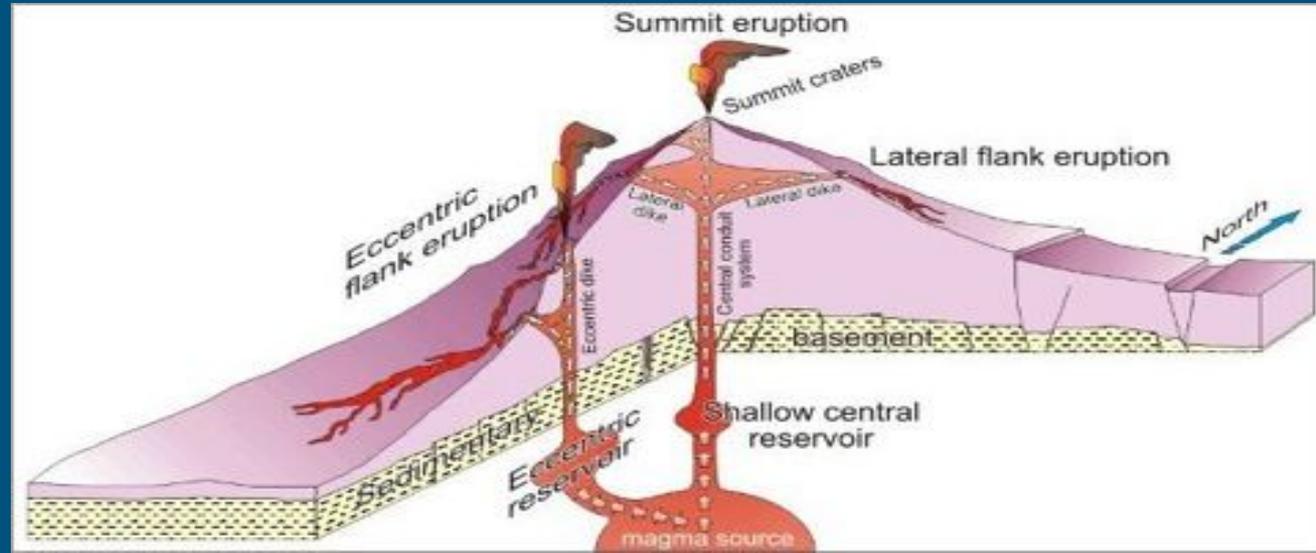
Main features of Etna

Mount Etna is the highest active volcano in Europe, 3350. He has 4 craters. In winter, Etna is covered with snow. Mount Etna is located on the east coast of Sicily (Catania).



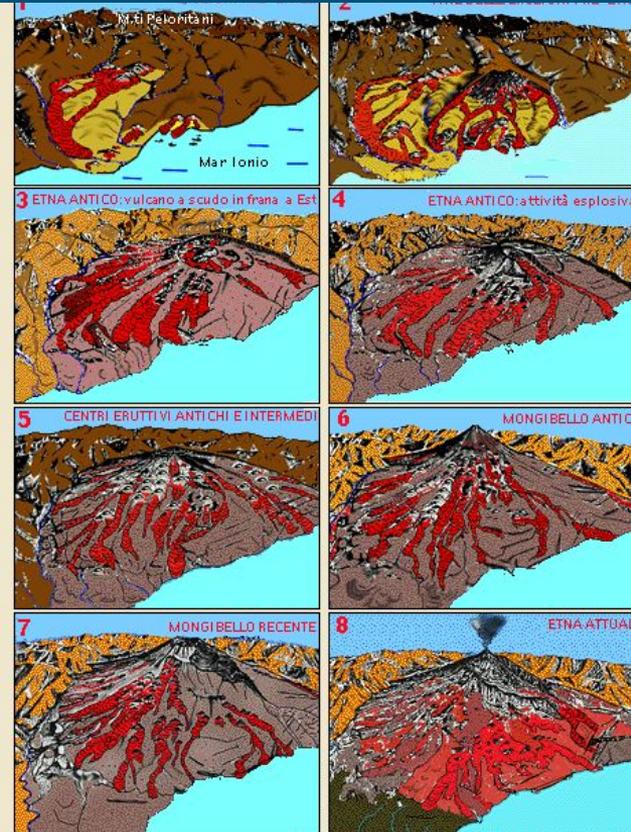
The Etna structure

The structure of the volcano consists of an irregular base formed by the products of ancient and recent eruptions. Etna is also called Mongibello. This name derives from *gebel*, an Arabic term common in Sicilian toponymy, which means mountain. In the summit area of Mongibello, there are four active craters.

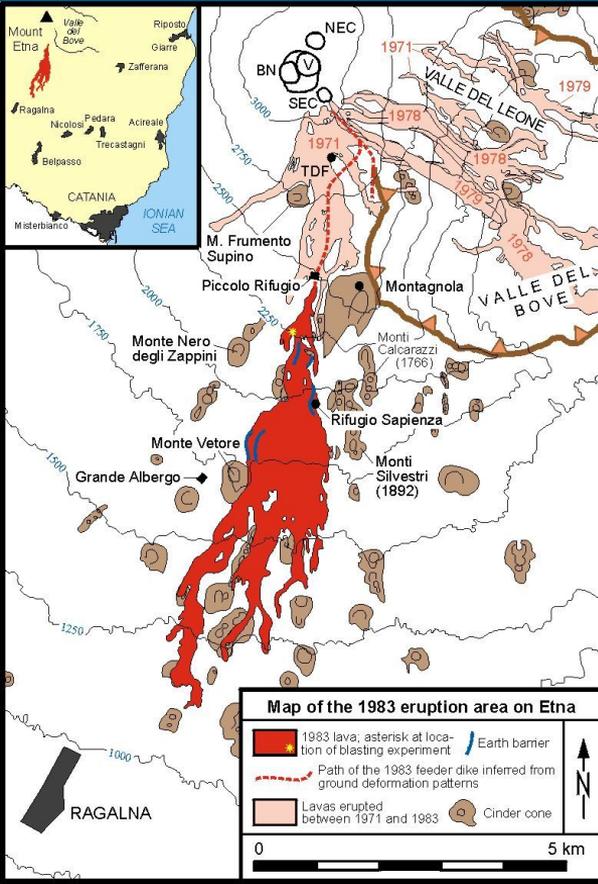


The history of Etna

Etna was born from submarine eruptions. The eruptions of etna in antiquity are at least 135.



Etna eruption of 1983

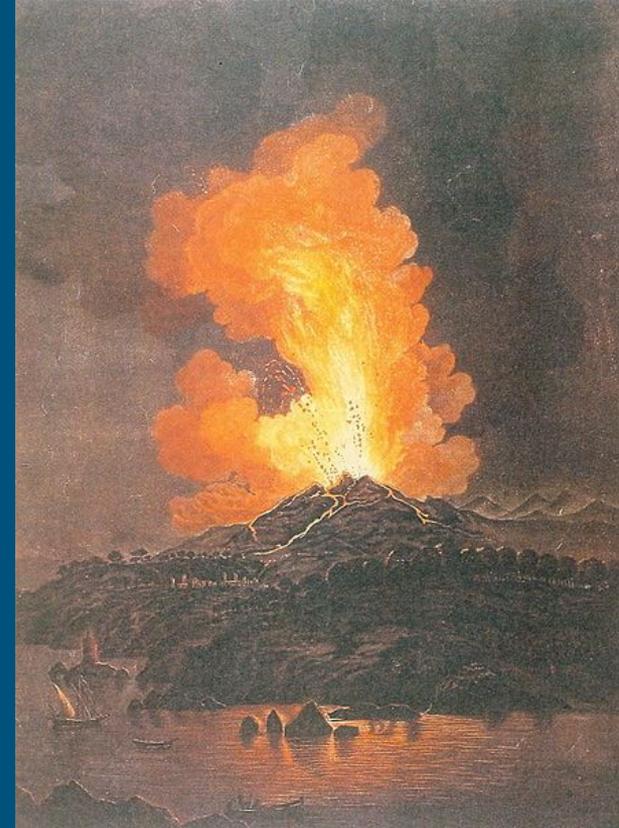


The eruption gave the first signs on the morning of March 27, 1983. In the same morning there were tremors in the surroundings. Between 7 and 8 in the morning of March 28 the actual eruptive phenomenon began on the southern side of Etna while there was a 11l



Only around 12 am the researchers of the Institute of Earth Sciences of the University of Catania and the International Institute of Volcanology of the C.N.R. they were able to provide a first picture of the situation. Between an altitude of 2350 m and 2900m a fracture of about 2 km in length had opened one km west of the Valle del Bove. The magma made its appearance on the surface just 800m as the crow flies to the north from Rifugio Sapienza. In the evening the activity began to be characterized in a spectacular way by the formation of numerous cones of welded slag. On March 30th there was a sudden resurgence of activity and Etna began to attract the attention and presence of famous volcanologists, who called the phenomenon "a serious and dangerous eruption". Once again in the following days the volcano seemed to subside and the lava front practically stopped but on the night of April 8 there was a new violent recovery with a new large mass of lava. Many of the small buildings of the Etna Sud tourist resort were razed to the ground.

After 23 days of eruption and destruction, the local authorities were finally set in motion. Between 21 and 22 April there was a slight decline in the eruptive activity while a lava arm reached an altitude of 1150. The eruption continued until August 6, 1983, when it stopped.





Flora



The volcanic area is extremely fertile. Since the lava settles on the ground, over time it releases many nutrients, such as mineral salts. The vegetation varies according to the altitude. At the foot of the volcano numerous crops of oranges, mandarins, lemons, olive trees, agaves, prickly pears, as well as bananas, eucalyptus, palms, maritime pines and vines thrive, from which excellent wine is produced. Almond trees, pistachios, chestnuts. After 2100 m of altitude, the semi-desert area begins where the Spino Santo (*Astragalus siculus*), a small thorny bush, develops.



Fauna

The area is home to a varied fauna of small mammals (porcupines, wild cats, weasels, martens, dormice), birds (kestrels, buzzards, finches, woodpeckers, hoopoes), reptiles, including the viper and insects, many butterflies among which stands out the Aurora of Etna (*Anthocharis damone*)



Tourism on Etna



Etna is an uninterrupted destination for visits by tourists interested in the volcano and its manifestations as it is one of the few active volcanoes in the world to be easily accessible. In fact there are also specialized guides and off-road vehicles that take visitors up to the summit craters. On Etna tourism develops more in winter because people go skiing.



Etna heritage of Unesco

Furthermore, Mount Etna is a Word Heritage Site

