



GOOGLE MAPS 38.815757, -4.123325



[www.proyectogeoparquevolcanesdecalatrava.es](http://www.proyectogeoparquevolcanesdecalatrava.es)

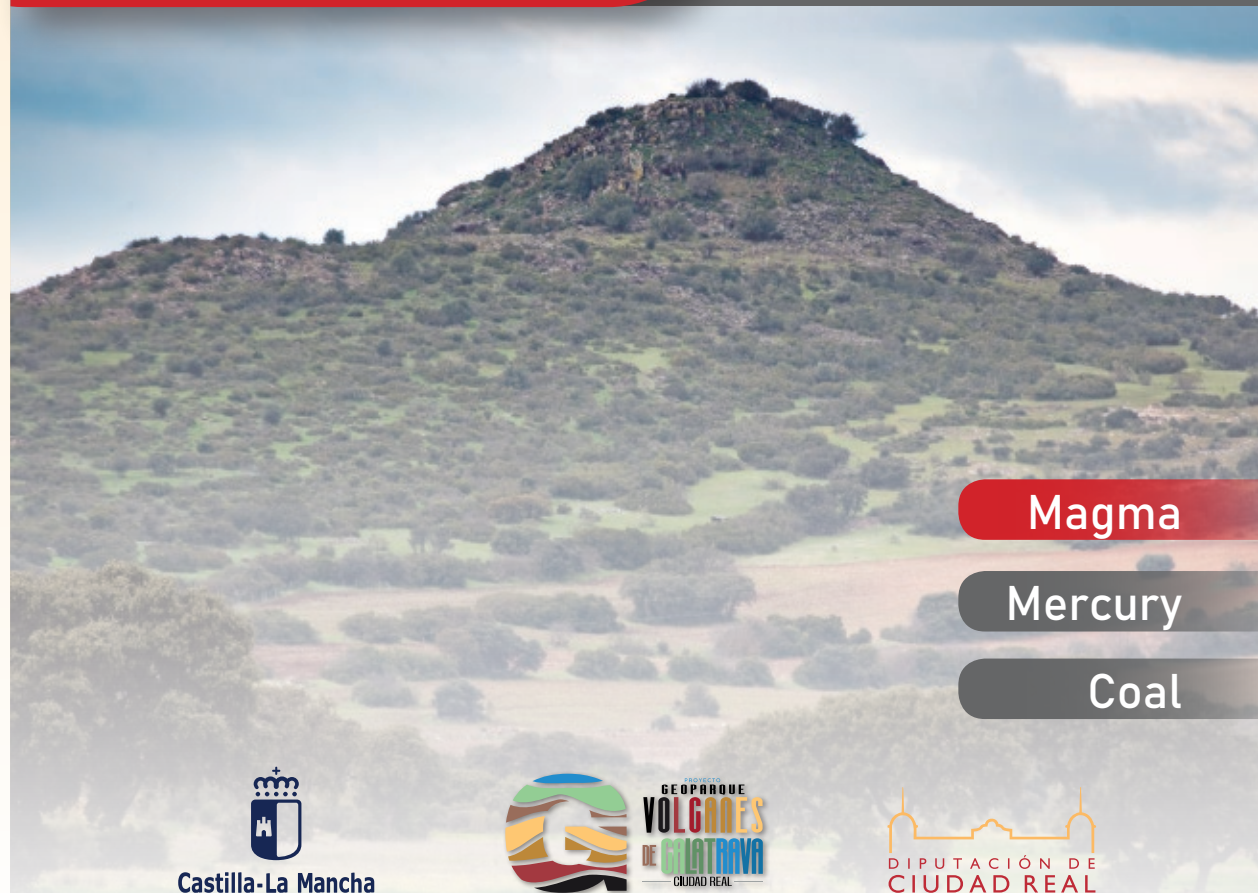


Ayuntamiento de Villamayor de Cva.

PROJECT

# CALATRAVA VOLCANOES GEOPARK. CIUDAD REAL

## NATURAL MONUMENT OF EL MORRÓN DE VILLAMAYOR



- Magma
- Mercury
- Coal



Castilla-La Mancha





The Neogene volcano of Morrón de Villamayor is undoubtedly, one of the main emblems of the territory. It is a regional topographic landmark, because its summit reaches an altitude of 814 metres, and because of its characteristic pyramidal shape that stands out against the flattened profile of the surrounding quartzite mountain ranges (Fig. 1). Recent Calatrava volcanism has occurred in two stages: an initial one 8.7-6.4 million years ago and a later one 5-0.7 million years ago. However, there is only one representation of that “initial” volcanic pulse: Morrón de Villamayor, thus “oldest recent volcano” in the Calatrava territory.

This is a Strombolian volcano (Fig. 2), produced by an explosive eruption. This type of volcano alternates quiet stages of lava flow with more explosive stages involving the emission of pyroclasts or lava fragments. Worth of note is the preservation of part of its lava emission conduit, which has been exposed by the erosion of the finer materials that surrounded it. It has a pyramidal appearance, from where lava flows emerged to the south (Fig. 3), partially visible through the abandoned mining exploitation fronts.

This is the only place in the territory (and the only one in Europe) where ultrapotassic volcanic rocks of the olivine Leucitite type (Fig. 1.1) and olivine Melaleucitite type can be observed. Finally, the metric spheroidal disjunctions spotted at the mining openings are spectacular, a consequence of the characteristic cooling of the lava flows (Fig. 1.2).

The remains of mining buildings historically used for the exploitation of the volcanic materials of the Morrón lava flow are worth mentioning. In the first decades of the last century, a quarry was opened for the manufacture of paving stones. Many residents of the municipality of Villamayor de Calatrava have worked in this quarry. It is largely delimited by the Cordel de la Plata livestock track. This site is protected as a Natural Monument and is included in the IGME list of geological sites of international relevance, Global Geosite -VU011- and -LIG TM145- “Neogene volcano of Morrón de Villamayor”.



Fig. 1

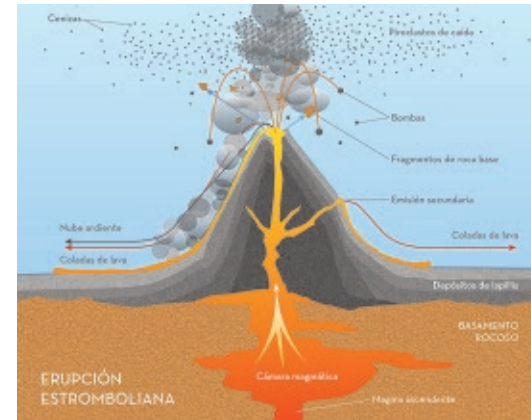


Fig. 2



Based on E. González - Fig. 3