

ELT Trailer

The Extremely Large Telescope (ELT)

“The world’s biggest eye on the sky”

With its 39-metre main mirror, the ELT will be the largest telescope of its kind ever built.

It will gather as much light as all existing large ground-based research telescopes combined.

And take images 15 times sharper than the Hubble Space Telescope.

With the advent of the ELT, astronomy will take a great leap forward.

The ELT may make the first discovery of life beyond the Solar System...

... it will test theories of fundamental physics...

... and observe the assembly of the first galaxies in the Universe.

The ELT’s five-mirror design is unique.

The giant main mirror consists of 798 hexagonal segments.

Multiple laser guide stars and a mirror that can distort its shape 1000 times per second will correct for the blurring effects of the atmosphere.

The enormous 85-metre-diameter rotating dome weighs around 5000 tonnes.

The telescope structure will weigh 3000 tonnes.

The ELT is currently under construction on Cerro Armazones, a 3046-metre peak 23 km from the VLT.

The ELT is expected to see first light in 2024.