

Actual and ancient pull-apart basins: the Loreto and Bahia La Paz basins (Baja California Sur, Mexico) and the Mendibelza and Aldudes basins (Western Pyrenees, France).

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The Gulf of California or the Cortez Sea is one of the rare area where it is possible to observe how the plate tectonics creates a new oceanic lithospheric opening, intruding into the continental lithosphere, and provoking the birth of terranes and of pull-apart basins.

The Bay of Biscay opened from the Atlantic ocean, and the oceanic lithosphere intruded the continental lithosphere of Europe from the Upper Jurassic to Upper Cretaceous, provoking the birth of pull-apart basins.

The Loreto and Bahia La Paz basins closely develop with the actual opening of the Sea of Cortez. Their sedimentary filling is closely related to transform tectonics and sea level variations.

The Mendibelza basin, in the Western Pyrenees is a typical confined pull-apart basin, developped during the first stages of the Bay of Biscay opening, meanwhile the Aldudes basin developped late, when the Bay was beginning to close, in a context of a carbonate sedimentation.

A comparizon of basins (Programm ECOS-ANUIES) of both area allows to test the available models.