

Robot sub to explore deepest volcanoes

A British team from the National Oceanography Centre – equipped with a new unmanned robot submarine – is set to explore the world's deepest undersea volcanoes. The volcanic rift, which has yet to be explored, lies over 5,000 metres down in the Cayman Trough beneath the Caribbean

GULF OF MEXICO

400km
250 miles

CARIBBEAN SEA

PACIFIC OCEAN



Autosub6000

Length: 5.5m

Weight: 2,800kg

Range: Up to 1,000km

Operating depth:
6,000m

Navigation
beacon

Propeller

Antenna for
communication
and positioning

Sub powered
by up to twelve
rechargeable
lithium polymer
batteries

Sonar,
temperature,
depth and
chemical sensors

Cayman Trough:

Part of tectonic boundary
between North American
and Caribbean Plates

With help from remotely
operated vehicle *Isis*, scientists
are to test geochemistry of world's
hottest volcanic vents and search
for new animal species

