South Massif is located at the edge of the Serenitatis impact basin on the Moon’s nearside and borders the Taurus Littrow Valley where the Apollo 17 astronauts landed and explored. This oblique view dramatically shows the north-facing slope of South Massif, with the 3.6 km diameter Ching-Te crater in the background. From summit to base, the massif's relief exceeds that of the Grand Canyon.

The distinct high reflectance deposit that spreads across the Taurus Littrow valley floor formed as a giant landslide from the north face of South Massif. Apollo era scientists proposed that the landslide was caused by ejecta from Tycho crater landing on the summit and south side of the massif. The resulting seismic jolt sent regolith sliding down the steep north slope resulting in the distinctive landslide we see today. Looking closely at the summit, you can see what appears to be dark and blocky material that may be a deposit of now solidified impact melt from the Tycho event. Sampling the landslide was an objective of the Apollo 17 mission. By determining how long rocks had sat on the surface of the slide scientists could know the timing of the formation of Tycho crater, which is more than 2000 kilometers to the southwest.