

The islands are a territory (Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands) of Australiaadministered from Hobart by the Australian Antarctic Division of the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

How big is Heard Island & McDonald Islands?

The group's overall land area is 372 km 2 (144 sq mi)and it has 101.9 km (63 mi) of coastline. Discovered in the mid-19th century,the islands lie on the Kerguelen Plateau in the Indian Ocean and have been an Australian territory since 1947. Heard Island and McDonald Islands contain Australia's only two active volcanoes.

What is the difference between McDonald Island and Heard Island?

Heard Island is approximately 362.5 km2 in area and is 43 km long and 21 km wide. The McDonald Islands are a group of uninhabited rocky islets, which are 2.6 km2 in total area and are 40 km west of Heard Island.

Does Heard Island have a harbour?

Heard Island and the McDonald Islands have no ports or harbours; ships must anchor offshore. The coastline is 101.9 km (63.3 mi) in extent,and a 12 nmi (22 km) territorial sea and 200 nmi (370 km) exclusive fishing zone are claimed. [2]

Who discovered Heard Island?

American sailor John HEARDdiscovered Heard Island in 1853 and thought it was a glacier that had broken away from Antarctica. Fellow American William MCDONALD discovered the McDonald Islands the following year.

Is Heard Island a subantarctic island?

The fauna of the freshwater pools, lakes, streams and mires found in the coastal areas of Heard Island are broadly similar to those on other subantarctic islands of the southern Indian Ocean. Many species reported



from Heard Island are found elsewhere.



Island and McDonald Islands group show unique evolutionary adaptations to the environment, and several other invertebrate groups provide opportunities to study evolutionary processes in undisturbed populations at the southern limits



The activity on the McDonald Islands group resulted in the island doubling in size and increasing in elevation by about 100 m (Australian Government 2016). Along with the French Kerguelen group of islands 440 km to the northwest, Heard and McDonald Islands form the only exposed parts of the submarine Kerguelen plume (Australian Government 2016).



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Heard Island and McDonald Islands. Antarctica.
Page last updated: November 27, 2024. Photos of
Heard Island and McDonald Islands. view 3 photos.
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Introduction. Geography. People and Society





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