

Bes storage Heard and McDonald Islands

Where are Heard Island & McDonald Islands?

Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) are a sub-Antarctic island group. They are located in the Southern Ocean, about 4,000 km south west of mainland Australia. Penguins are by far the most abundant birds on the island. Photo: Stephen Brown/AAD The islands enjoy World Heritage protection and marine reserve status.

How big is Heard Island & McDonald Islands?

The group's overall land area is 372 km² (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.

Who manages Heard Island & McDonald Islands?

They are managed by the Australian Antarctic Division. The islands are unoccupied by humans and remain one of the world's least anthropogenically disturbed areas. A map of Heard Island and McDonald Islands land areas updated in 2024 with recent coastline mapping and 2014 glacial...

Are there kelp forests around Heard Island?

Forests of the giant Antarctic kelp *Durvillaea antarctica* occur at a number of sites around Heard Island and at least 17 other species of seaweed are known, with more to be added following the identification of recent collections.

McDonald Island is much smaller (2.5 km²), about 100 000 years old and totally ice-free, and is predominantly composed of phonolitic rocks. 9, 10 During the campaign, signs of volcanic activity ...

While Heard Island is larger, the volcanic action on the smaller McDonald Island group, about 43 km to the west, is much more violent. A map of Heard Island and the McDonald Islands. (ABC: Kate ...

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Heard Island and McDonald Islands are uninhabited, barren, Subantarctic islands in the Southern Ocean, far due south of India and roughly 400 km southeast of Kerguelen of the French ...

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The Heard & McDonald Islands site in Australia was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1997. As the only volcanically active sub-Antarctic islands, Heard and McDonald provide the ...

Big Ben has erupted several times over the past two decades. McDonald Island lies 43.5 kilometres due west of Heard Island, and is the major island in the McDonald Islands ...

OverviewWildlifeHistoryGeographyAdministration and economySee alsoFurther readingExternal linksThe islands are part of the Southern Indian Ocean Islands tundra ecoregion that includes several subantarctic islands. In this cold climate, plant life is mainly limited to grasses, lichens, and mosses. Low plant diversity reflects the islands' isolation, small size, severe climate, the short, cool growing season and, for Heard Island, substantial permanent ice cover. The main environmental deter...

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