

Heard Island and McDonald Islands are located in the Southern Ocean, approximately 1,700 km from the Antarctic continent and 4,100 km south-west of Perth. As the only volcanically active subantarctic islands they "open a window into the earth", thus providing the opportunity to observe ongoing geomorphic processes and glacial dynamics.

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

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...

The volcanically active islands of Heard and McDonald are in the Southern Ocean, 1700 km from the Antarctic continent, as part of Australian territory. They are one of the most pristine ecosystems in the world, with complete absence of alien animal and vegetal...

The Proposal to expand Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve - Public consultation paper ("proclamation proposal") has been prepared to support public consultation on the proposed design of an expanded Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Marine Reserve.



Heard and McDonald Islands Ig solar system

Heard Island and the McDonald Islands are free from introduced predators and provide crucial breeding habitat in the middle of the vast Southern Ocean for a range of birds. The surrounding waters are important feeding areas for birds and some scavenging species also derive sustenance from their cohabitants on the islands.

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