

Where are heard and McDonald Islands?

Introduction Welcome to the guide for Heard and McDonald Islands,a remote archipelago in the Southern Indian Ocean.

Why should you visit heard and McDonald Islands?

Welcome to the guide for Heard and McDonald Islands, a remote archipelago in the Southern Indian Ocean. These islands are an untouched paradise offering unique landscapes, diverse wildlife, and rich history. Please note that tourism is highly regulated due to the fragile ecosystem and the territorial disputes. 2. Geography and History

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.

How do I get to heard and McDonald Islands?

Travel Information Tourism to Heard and McDonald Islands is highly regulated. Only a limited number of tourists are allowed each year, and visits must be organized through approved tour operators. The journey involves a flight from Australia or New Zealand to the islands, followed by a boat trip.

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]

Located in the Southern Ocean, this Australian external territory comprises mainly two volcanic islands, Heard Island and the McDonald Islands, featuring stark volcanic landscapes, glaciers, and the highest mountain in Australian territory, Mawson Peak.



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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...

Mawson Peak on Heard Island is the highest Australian mountain (at 2,745 meters, it is taller than Mt. Kosciuszko in Australia proper), and one of only two active volcanoes located in Australian territory, the other being McDonald Island; in 1992, McDonald Island broke its dormancy and began erupting; it has erupted several times since, most ...

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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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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.





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