

SUMMARY OF THE ARCTIC ARCHIPELAGOS AND ISLANDS OFF EURASIA

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These Arctic lands include a diverse range of archipelagos and separate islands. The positions given are approximately the middle point for smaller islands and their limits for larger ones and groups. Names are given in the forms recommended by the Union Géographique Internationale with, where the name has varied through double transliteration, the original form, and, in other cases, an English translation. Sightings, landings, and winterings are the first recorded; there may have been previous ones for some islands. Islands only a short distance off the continental mainland are not included. In easterly order the islands are:

JAN MAYEN 70·83°-71·17°N, 8°-9°W

One isolated active volcanic island (latest eruption 1985); in the Greenland Sea.
Area 373 km². Highest elevation: 2277 m (Beerenberg, volcano). 33% glacierized.
Discovered 1614 by a Netherlands whaling voyage (Jan Jacobz. May aboard *de goude Cath*).
First wintering 1633-34 (by whalers, all perished); meteorological station, established 1921, open.
Norwegian territory; annexed in 1929.

SPITSBERGEN ARKIPELAGO (Acute Peaks) 76·50°-80·80°N, 10°-34°E

Four main islands and about 150 lesser ones; in the Barents Sea, of sedimentary origin with igneous overlay.
Area: 62 842 km². Highest elevation: 1713 m (Newtontoppen). 60% glacierized.
Possibly sighted 1194; discovered 1596 by a Dutch whaling voyage (Jacob Heemskerck aboard *Hazewind*).
First wintering 1630-31 (by whalers); permanent settlement (coal mine) established 1906, currently
3 remain open, 1 other settlement occupied and 4 meteorological stations open.
Norwegian territory, part of Svalbard; under the Spitsbergen Treaty of 1920, with Ostrov Viktoria of Russia.

BJØRNØYA (Bear Island) 74·60°N, 19°E

One isolated island; in the Barents Sea, of sedimentary origin with igneous overlay.
Area: 178 km². Highest elevation: 536 m (Urd, Miseryfjellet). Unglacierized.
Discovered 1596 by a Dutch whaling voyage (Jacob Heemskerck aboard *Hazewind*).
First wintering 1823-24 (whalers); meteorological station, established 1923, open.
Norwegian territory, part of Svalbard; under the Spitsbergen Treaty of 1920.

ZEMLYA FRANTSA-IOSIFA (Franz Josef Land) 79·73°-81·93°N, 37°-65·50°E

A group of about 200 islands; in the Barents Sea, of sedimentary origin with igneous overlay.
Area: 16 100 km². Highest elevation: 620 m (Gora Parnas). 85% glacierized.
Possibly sighted 1865; discovered 1873 by an Austrian expedition (Julius Payer aboard *Tegethoff*).
First wintering 1873-74 (exploring ship); polar station established 1929, 4 others and a military station
open until 1998; 1 polar station and a large military base currently open.
Russian territory annexed in 1926; part of Arkangel'skaya Oblast. National Park proclaimed in 2010.

NOVAYA ZEMLYA ('New Land') 70·67°-77°N, 51°-69°E

Two main islands, several small ones; between the Barents Sea and Kara Sea, of igneous origin.
Area: 83 000 km². Highest elevation: 1547 m (Pik Sedov). 27% glacierized.
Possibly sighted 1032, known to Russian sealers from 13th century.
First known wintering 1596-97 (shipwrecked explorers); polar station established 1877, currently 1 open
military station, established 1954, open.
Russian territory; part of Arkangel'skaya Oblast. Northern extent proclaimed a National Park in 2009.

OSTROVA KARSKOGO MORYA (Kara Sea Islands) 79·50°N-77·67°N, 76·70°E-82·26°E

Three small separate and isolated islands: Ostrova Vize, Ushakova, and Uyedineniya; in the Kara Sea,
of sedimentary origin.
Area: 677 km². Highest elevation: 294 m (Ushakova). Vize and Uyedineniya unglacierized,
Ushakova 45% glacierized
Discovered: Uyedineniya 1878 by Norwegian hunters (Edvard Johannesen aboard *Nordland*),
Vize 1930 by a Soviet Union expedition (Vladimir Voronin aboard *Georgiy Sedov*),
Ushakova 1935 by a Soviet Union expedition (Georgiy Ushakov aboard *Sadko*).
First winterings: Uyedineniya 1934-35 (polar station established 1934, closed 1994); Vize 1945-46
(polar station, established 1945, closed 1999); Ushakova, 1954-55 (polar station, established 1954, closed 1993).
Russian territory; part of Taymyrskiy Autonomous Okrug.

SEVERNAYA ZEMLYA ('Northern Land') 77-83°-81-25°N, 90°-108°E (originally Zemlya Nikolaya II)

Four main islands and several smaller ones; between the Kara Sea and East Siberian Sea, of sedimentary origin with igneous intrusions.

Area: 36 800 km². Highest elevation: 965 m (Lednik Karpunskogo). 48% glacierized.

Discovered 1913 by a Russian expedition (Boris Vilkitskiy aboard *Vaygach*).

First wintering 1930-31, polar station established 1943 and 4 others opened; military station opened in 1954 closed 1998, re-established 2015 and open for winter.

Russian territory; part of Taymyrskiy Autonomous Okrug.

NOVOSIBIRSKIYE OSTROVA (New Siberian Islands) 73°-77°N, 133°-158-50°E

Three groups of islands: Ostrova Lyakhovskiy (2 southern), Ostrova Anzhu (3 main), Ostrova De-Longa (5 distant minor), with several small offliers; between the Laptev and East Siberian Sea, of sedimentary origin.

Area: 38 000 km². Highest elevation: 426 m (O. Bennett). Ova De-Longa 50% glacierized, others unglacierized.

Southern group discovered 1711 by a Russian expedition (Merkuriy Vagin), main group in 1773 by Russian mercantile voyage (Ivan Lyakhov); remainder 1881 (United States expedition, George de Long aboard *Jeanette*) and 1913 (Russian expedition, Aleksey Zhokhov aboard *Taymyr* and Per Novopashenny aboard *Vaygach*).

First known wintering 1901-02; polar station established 1928, 3 more opened, last closed 1998. Large wintering military station established 2014.

Russian territory; part of Sakha-Yakutiya Republic. National Park since 1992.

OSTROV VRANGELYA (Wrangel Island) 71-33°N, 178°E-177°W

One isolated island with outlier of Ostrov Gera'd (Herald Island, 71-38°N, 175-67°W, 65 km E);

between the in East Siberian Sea and Chukchi Sea, of sedimentary origin with igneous intrusions.

Area: 7711 km². Highest elevation: 1096 m (Gora Sovetskaya). Unglacierized.

Existence surmised 1824 (Russian expedition, Ferdinand Vrangl'), sighted 1849 (British expedition, Henry Kellett aboard *Herald*), probable first landing 1866 (German expedition, Eduard Dallman aboard *W. C. Talbot*).

First wintering 1912-13; settlement established 1926, later 2 military bases and 3 polar stations opened; currently 1 polar station ns a large military base open for winter.

Russian territory proclaimed in 1916; part of Chukotskiy Autonomous Okrug. National Park proclaimed in 1976.

