

PERI-ANTARCTIC ISLANDS

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These are the 19 islands and archipelagos around Antarctica which are included in the area of interest of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. The Peri-Antarctic Islands include the Sub-Antarctic ones and those farther south with associated features. The positions given are approximately the middle point for smaller islands and their limits for larger ones and groups. Names are given in the form recommended by the Union Géographique Internationale. Sightings, landings, and winterings are, in all cases, the earliest definite dates; there may have been previous ones for some islands. The glacierized area is currently decreasing on several islands; thus proportions for some may be less than listed. Territorial sovereignty over some islands is disputed and some have changed by agreement. In easterly order, from the prime meridian, the islands are:

BOUVETØYA; 54·42°S, 03·37°E

One isolated volcanic island (with fumaroles) and offlier; in the Southern Ocean (the most isolated land on Earth).

Area: 54 km². Highest elevation: 778 m (Olavtoppen). 93% glacierized.

Sighted 1739, first landing 1822 (by sealers). Uninhabited, no wintering population recorded.

Norwegian dependency (Biland).

PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS; 46·60° to 46·97°S, 37·58° to 38·02°E

Two islands (Marion Island and Prince Edward Island) with offliers, 19 km apart, of volcanic origin (Marion Island active in 1980); in the Indian Ocean.

Area: 335 km² (290 km² and 45 km² respectively). Highest elevation: 1231 m (Mascarin Peak, Marion Island). One small ice-cap, on Marion Island (1% glacierized).

Sighted 1663, first landing 1799 (by sealers). Permanent occupation (scientific station) from 1947 (sealers have previously wintered).

South African territory, part of Western Cape Province (transferred from Britain in 1949).

ILES CROZET; 45·95° to 46·50°S, 50·33° to 52·58°E

Two island groups (Occidental: Ile aux Cochons with Ilots des Apôtres and Ile des Pingouins, Oriental: Ile de la Possession and Ile de l'Est) with islets and rocks, about 100 km apart, of ancient volcanic origin; in the Indian Ocean.

Area: 325 km². Highest elevation: 1090 m (Pic Marion-Dufresne, Ile de l'Est). Unglacierized.

Sighted and first landing 1772, sealers arrived 1804. Permanent occupation (scientific station) from 1963 (sealers have previously wintered).

French territory, part of Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises.

ILES KERGUELEN; 48·58° to 49·73°S, 68·72° to 70·58°E

One major island (Grande Terre), several minor ones, about 300 islets and rocks, and outliers; partly volcanic (with thermal springs); in the Indian Ocean.

Area: 7215 km². Highest elevation: 1849 m (Grand Ross). 10% glacierized.

Sighted and first landing 1772, sealers arrived 1791. Permanent occupation (scientific station) from 1951 (sealers, pastoralists, and scientific personnel have previously wintered). Whaling and sealing stations operated 1908-14, 1920-29, and 1951-56.

French territory, part of Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises.

HEARD ISLAND; 52·97° to 53·20°S, 73·25° to 73·83°E

One main volcanic island (currently active), McDonald Islands (rapidly enlarging volcanically) lie 38 km W and Shag Island lies 11 km N; in the Southern Ocean.

Area: 390 km². Highest elevation: 2745 m (Mawson Peak). 72% glacierized.

Sighted 1853, first landing 1855 (by sealers). Uninhabited (sealers and scientific personnel have wintered).

Australian External Territory, Heard Island and McDonald Islands (transferred from Britain in 1947).

ILE AMSTERDAM; 37·83°S, 77·52°E

One small volcanic island, 90 km N of Ile Saint-Paul; in the Indian Ocean.

Area: 85 km². Highest elevation: 881 m (Mont de la Dives). Unglacierized.

Sighted 1522, first landing 1696, sealers arrived 1789. Permanent occupation (scientific station) from 1949 (sealers and pastoralists have previously wintered).

French territory, part of Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises.

ILE SAINT-PAUL; 38·72°S, 77·53°E

One small volcanic island (with fumaroles and thermal springs) and offlier, 90 km S of Ile Amsterdam; in the Indian Ocean.

Area: 7 km². Highest elevation: 268 m (Crête de la Novara). Unglacierized.

Sighted 1618, first landing 1696, sealers arrived 1789. Uninhabited (sealers and fishermen have wintered). Fishing station and a later lobster cannery, operated sporadically between 1819 and 1931.

French territory, part of Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises.

MACQUARIE ISLAND; 54·62°S, 158·97°E

One main island; outliers Judge and Clerk Islands 11 km N, and Bishop and Clerk Islands 37 km S; mainly of ancient volcanic origin with basement rocks and marine sediments; in the Pacific Ocean.

Area: 128 km². Highest elevation: 433 m (Mount Hamilton). Unglacierized.

Sighted and first landing 1810 (by sealers). Permanent occupation (scientific station) from 1948 (sealers and scientific

personnel have previously wintered). Sealing and penguin oil station operated 1888-1919. Australian State territory, a Dependency of Tasmania.

BALLENY ISLANDS; 66·25° to 67·58°S, 162·50° to 165·00°E

190 km chain of three main volcanic islands (Young, Buckle, and Sturge Islands, volcanically active in 1899), with offliers; in the Southern Ocean.

Area: 822 km². Highest elevation: 1705 m (Brown Peak, Sturge Island). 95% glacierized.

Sighted and first landing 1839. Never inhabited.

New Zealand territory, part of Ross Dependency. (Under the ægis of the Antarctic Treaty.)

AUCKLAND ISLANDS; 50·48° to 50·93°S, 165·87° to 166·33°E

One main island with several smaller ones and offliers, of ancient volcanic origin; in the Pacific Ocean.

Area: 626 km². Highest elevation: 705 m (Mount Dick, Adams Island). Unglacierized.

Sighted 1806, first landing 1807 (by sealers). Uninhabited (coast-watchers operated from 1941 to 1945, sealers, Maori and Moriori, colonial settlers, and pastoralists have previously wintered).

New Zealand territory, part of Southland Region.

CAMPBELL ISLAND; 52·55°S, 169·15°E

One main island with offliers, of ancient volcanic origin; in the Pacific Ocean.

Area: 113 km². Highest elevation: 569 m (Mount Honey). Unglacierized.

Sighted and first landing 1810 (by sealers). Uninhabited (coast-watchers and scientific station operated from 1941 to 1995, whalers, sealers, and pastoralists have previously wintered). Minor whaling stations operated 1909-14.

New Zealand territory, part of Southland Region.

SCOTT ISLAND; 67·30°S, 179·97°W

One small island with an isolated stack, of volcanic origin; in the Southern Ocean.

Area: 0·4 km². Highest elevation: 63 m (Haggits Pillar). About 80% glacierized.

Sighted and first landing 1902. Uninhabitable.

New Zealand territory, part of Ross Dependency. (Under the ægis of the Antarctic Treaty.)

PETER I ØY; 68·85°S, 90·62°W

One isolated island, offlier, and rocks, of volcanic origin; in the Southern Ocean.

Area: 157 km². Highest elevation: 1640 m (Lars Christensentoppen). 95% glacierized.

Sighted 1821, first landing 1929. Never inhabited.

Norwegian dependency (Biland). (Under the ægis of the Antarctic Treaty.)

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS; 61·00° to 63·37°S, 53·83° to 62·83°W

540 km chain of four main groups, including eleven major islands (Elephant and Clarence Islands; King George and Nelson Islands; Robert, Greenwich, Livingston, Snow, and Deception Islands; Smith and Low Islands), many minor ones, with numerous islets and rocks; some volcanic (Deception Island active in 1971, many fumaroles and thermal springs); average about 120 km north of the Antarctic Peninsula; in the Southern Ocean.

Area: 3687 km². Highest elevation: 2105 m (Mount Foster, Smith Island). About 80% glacierized.

Sighted and first landing 1819, sealers arrived 1820. Permanent occupation (military and scientific stations) from 1944 (sealers have previously wintered unintentionally). Summer whaling station operated at Deception Island 1912-31.

Part of British Antarctic Territory; also claimed by Argentina, part of 'Antártida Argentina'; and Chile, part of 'Territorio Chileno Antártico'. (Under the ægis of the Antarctic Treaty.)

SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS; 60·50° to 60·83°S, 44·25° to 46·25°W

Four major islands (Coronation, Laurie, Powell, and Signy Islands), several minor ones, with offlying islets and rocks; Inaccessible Islands 30 km W; of metamorphic origin; in the Southern Ocean.

Area: 622 km². Highest elevation: 1265 m (Mount Nivea, Coronation Island). 85% glacierized.

Sighted and first landing 1821 (by sealers). Permanent occupation (scientific station) from 1903. Summer whaling station operated at Signy Island 1920-26.

Part of British Antarctic Territory; also claimed by Argentina, part of 'Antártida Argentina'. (Under the ægis of the Antarctic Treaty.)

SHAG ROCKS; 55·55°S, 42·03°W

Six isolated rocks, and outlying Black Rock; about 250 km W of South Georgia; of sedimentary origin; in the Southern Ocean.

Area: 0·2 km². Highest elevation: 71 m. Unglacierized.

Probably sighted 1762, confirmed 1819, first landing 1956. Uninhabitable.

British territory, part of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands; also claimed by Argentina, part of the 'Islas del Atlántico Sur'.

SOUTH GEORGIA; 53·50° to 55·00°S, 35·50° to 38·67°W

One main island, several small ones, many islets and rocks; outlying Clerke Rocks 65 km SE; mainly of sedimentary origin; in the Southern Ocean.

Area: 3755 km². Highest elevation: 2934 m (Mount Paget). 57% glacierized.

Probably sighted 1675, confirmed 1756, first landing 1775, sealers arrived 1786. Permanent occupation (whaling, scientific, and military stations) from 1904 (sealers and scientific personnel have previously wintered). Whaling and sealing stations operated 1904-65.

British territory, part of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands; also claimed by Argentina, part of the 'Islas del Atlántico Sur'.

SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS; 56·30° to 59·47°S, 26·23° to 28·18°W

390 km chain of eleven small volcanic islands (several active); in the Southern Ocean.

Area: 310 km². Highest elevation: 1375 m (Mount Belinda, Montagu Island). 80% glacierized.

Sighted 1775, first landing 1818 (by sealers). Uninhabited (scientific and military personnel have wintered).

British territory, part of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands; also claimed by Argentina, part of the 'Islas del Atlántico Sur'.

GOUGH ISLAND; 40·32°S, 09·95°W

One island and several rocks, of ancient volcanic origin; in the Atlantic Ocean.

Area: 65 km². Highest elevation: 910 m (Edinburgh Peak). Unglacierized.

Probably sighted 1505, first landing 1675, sealers arrived 1804. Permanent occupation (scientific station) from 1955 (sealers have previously wintered).

British territory, part of the Dependencies of Saint Helena.

ANTARCTICA (for comparative purposes)

A continent (5th largest), partly volcanic (several active), a relic of the super-continent Gondwana, with ice shelves, offlying and outlying islands.

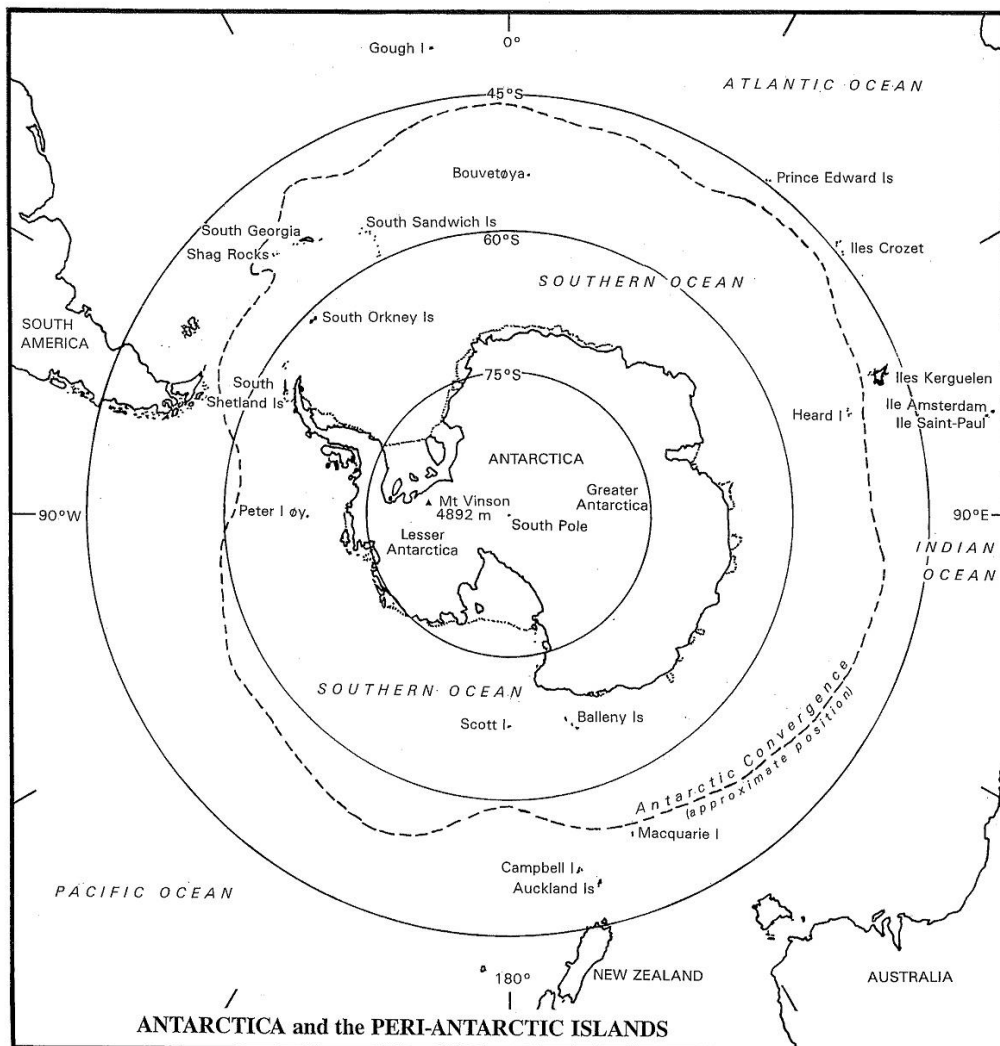
Area 13·83 x 10⁶ km²; divided into sub-continents of Greater Antarctica (10·32 x 10⁶ km²) and Lesser Antarctica (3·51 x 10⁶ km²) which are separated by the Transantarctic Mountains. Highest elevation 4892 m (Mount Vinson). 99·77% glacierized.

Sighted and first landing 1820 (by sealers). Permanent occupation (scientific and military stations) from 1944 (scientific personnel have previously wintered).

Seven sovereign claims have been made over Antarctica, three of which overlap. (Under the aegis of the Antarctic Treaty.)

NON-EXISTENT SOUTHERN OCEAN ISLANDS

This curious assortment of 19 non-existent Antarctic islands and rocks have all appeared on charts: Aurora Islands, Burdwood's Island, The Chimneys, Dougherty's Island (or Keates Island), Elizabethides, Emerald Island, Isla Grande, Macy's Island, Middle Island, New South Greenland, Nimrod Island, Pagoda Rock, Royal Company Island, Sevilla Rocks, Strathfillan Rock, Swain's Island, Thompson Island, Trulsklippen, and Undine Rock.



The Peri-Antarctic Islands to the same scale

