

What research has been done on Heard Island and McDonald Islands?

A 2024 report, Conservation values in the marine environment surrounding Heard Island and the McDonald Islands summarises the latest research in the region. The Parks Australia Science Atlas and the Australian Antarctic program science database contain more information about research conducted in the region.

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...

How many mosses and liverworts live on Heard Island?

Bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) contribute substantially to the overall biodiversity of Heard Island, with 43 mosses and 19 liverworts being recorded, often occupying habitats unsuitable for vascular plants, such as cliff faces.

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Heard Island and McDonald Islands in the Southern Ocean A map of Heard Island and McDonald Islands. Heard Island, by far the largest of the group, is a 368-square-kilometre (142 sq mi) mountainous island covered by 41 glaciers [22] (the island is 80% covered with ice [2]) and dominated by the Big Ben massif.

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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.

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OverviewGeographyHistoryWildlifeAdministration and economySee alsoFurther readingExternal linksHeard Island, by far the largest of the group, is a 368-square-kilometre (142 sq mi) mountainous island covered by 41 glaciers (the island is 80% covered with ice) and dominated by the Big Ben massif. It has a maximum elevation of 2,745 metres (9,006 ft) at Mawson Peak, the historically active volcanic summit of Big Ben, to which the average ascent from shore is steeper than that for any islan...

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RV Investigator will depart on 8 January 2016 for the sub-Antarctic territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands on a 58 day research voyage, which will be led by Professor Mike Coffin from the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, but what do you know about this part of Australia?

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 opportunity to observe ongoing geomorphic processes and glacial dynamics.

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