

Are there trees on Heard Island & McDonald Islands?

At Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI), there are no trees or ferns and the most advanced vascular plants are low-growing herbaceous flowering plants. The vascular flora on Heard Island is the smallest of any major subantarctic island group, reflecting the island's isolation, limited ice-free area and severe climate.

Why are Heard Island and McDonald Islands isolated?

However, the site's isolation assists in reducing anthropogenic impacts upon the site's values. 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.

Are Heard Island and McDonald Islands inhabited?

Community Perspective: this site has been unreviewed so far. Heard Island and McDonald Islands are uninhabited, barren islands located in the Southern Ocean, with a complete absence of alien plants and animals, as well as human impact.

Is there a threat to Heard Island and the McDonald Islands?

Ongoing and accelerating climate change poses an increasing risk of fundamental alterations in biodiversity. Geological processes (primarily volcanism and glacial retreat) continue undisturbed. The overall assessment is that there is a low threat to the World Heritage values of Heard Island and the McDonald Islands if visitation remains low.

Is the climate of Heard Island and McDonald Islands changing?

There is considerable evidence that the climate of Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) is changing. The warmer trend observed at HIMI mirrors similar changes at the nearby Îles Kerguelen and elsewhere in the southern Indian Ocean.

Are there any plants on Heard Island?

One of these species, *Leptinella plumosa*, was only discovered for the first time during the 2003/04 Australian Antarctic program expedition. Heard Island is also the largest subantarctic island with no known human-introduced plants, and there is little human activity on the island, so its terrestrial ecosystems are close to pristine.

The low plant diversity is a result of the islands' isolation, small size, harsh climate, short cool growing season, and, on Heard Island, a significant amount of permanent ice cover. Key ...

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HEARD AND MCDONALD ISLANDS AUSTRALIA Heard Island and the McDonald Islands are in the Southern Ocean, approximately 4,100 km south-west of Perth and 1,700 km from the Antarctic continent. Their distinctive conservation value is as one of the world's rare pristine island ecosystems which have virtually no ...

The low plant diversity is a result of the islands' isolation, small size, harsh climate, short cool growing season, and, on Heard Island, a significant amount of permanent ice cover. Key factors affecting vegetation on subantarctic islands include wind exposure, water availability, soil composition, salt spray, nutrient levels, and ...

Heard Island and McDonald Islands are uninhabited, barren islands located in the Southern Ocean, with a complete absence of alien plants and animals, as well as human impact. The islands have been territories of Australia since 1947, and contain the only two active volcanoes in Australian territory, one of which, Mawson Peak, is the highest ...

Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) are a remote subantarctic island group located about 4,000 km south-west of Western Australia and approximately 1,700 km from the Antarctic continent. The HIMI exclusive economic zone (EEZ) abuts the French EEZ around the Kerguelen Islands.

The distinctive conservation value of these pristine islands is the complete absence of introduced plants and animals - or any other human impact - which makes this site ideal breeding grounds for animals like the southern elephant seal (*Mirounga leonina*) and king penguins (*Aptenodytes patagonicus*), pictured here.

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The Heard-McDonald islands are some of the most remote dynamic islands on Earth. They are volcanically active and support shallow fast-flowing glaciers. They cover about 37,000 ha, and include Australia's highest peak (Big Ben) at 2745m. Both Macquarie and Heard-McDonald Island features The geographic location of Australia's World Heritage

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The distinctive conservation value of Heard and McDonald - one of the world's rare pristine island ecosystems - lies in the complete absence of alien plants and animals, as well as human impact. © UNESCO

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