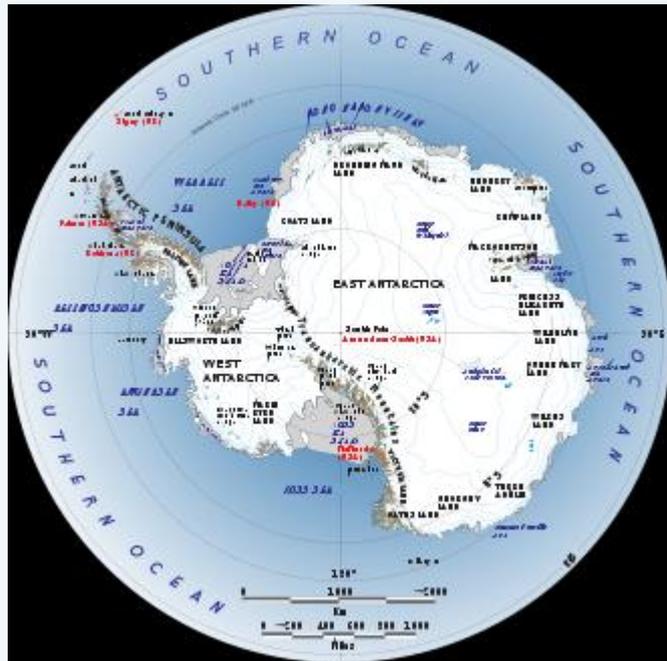


# Antarctica



Area (Overall)	14,000,000 km <sup>2</sup>
(ice-free)	280,000 km <sup>2</sup>
(ice-covered)	13,720,000 km <sup>2</sup>

Population:	
(permanent)	0
(non-permanent)	approx. 1,000

Official Territorial claims	Antarctic Treaty System: Argentina (1943), Australia 1933), Chile (1940), France (1924), New Zealand (1923), Norway (1939), Peter Island (1929 Norway), UK (1908).
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Reserved the right to make claims	Russia, USA
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Time Zones	None
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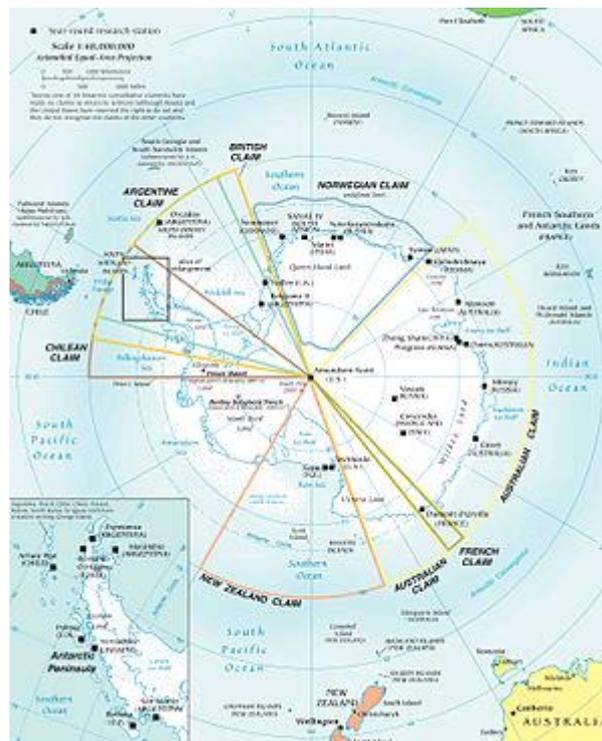
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Argentina Australia Chile France New Zealand Norway United Kingdom

This group of countries participating as members of Antarctica Treaty have a territorial interest in the Antarctic continent but the provisions of the Treaty do not allow them to make their claims while it is in force.

-  Brazil has a designated 'zone of interest' that is not an actual claim.
-  Peru has formally reserved its right to make a claim.
-  Russia has reserved its right to claim.
-  South Africa has formally reserved its right to make a claim.
-  Spain has formally reserved its right to make a claim.
-  United States has formally reserved its right to make a claim, but currently does not recognize any claims made in Antarctica.



Antarctica is Earth's southernmost continent, encapsulating the South Pole. It is situated in the Antarctic region of the southern hemisphere, almost entirely south of the Antarctic Circle, and is surrounded by the Southern Ocean. It is the fifth-largest continent in area after Asia, Africa, North America, and South America. About 98% of Antarctica is covered by ice.

Antarctica, on average, is the coldest, driest, and windiest continent. Antarctica is considered a desert. The temperature in Antarctica can reach -89 degrees Celsius (-129 degrees Fahrenheit). There are no permanent human residents, but anywhere from 1,000 to 5,000 people reside throughout the year at the research stations scattered across the continent. Only cold-adapted plants and animals survive there, including penguins, seals, nematodes, tardigrades, mites, many types of algae and other microorganisms, and tundra vegetation.