

Text YD. Bar-Ness

The surface of Earth is mostly ocean and in the middle of these vast waters are lonely and isolated bits of dry land. Remoteness can be measured by distance to continental land, other islands, other humans, or by ease of access. Determining which islands are the most remote is an excellent exercise in map reading and geography. Here, we look at a selection of candidates for the most isolated spots of land.

NORTH  
ATLANTIC  
OCEAN

SOUTH  
AMERICA

SOUTH  
ATLANTIC  
OCEAN



**Pitcairn**  
**25°04'S 130°06'W**  
**THE PACIFIC OCEAN'S MOST REMOTE ISLAND GROUP**  
 First settled temporarily by Polynesian mariners, Pitcairn was famously inhabited by Tahitian and English mutineers from the British ship *Bounty*. Their descendants live there to this day, more than 2,000 kilometres from Tahiti and 5,000 kilometres from New Zealand.

**Bouvet Island**

**54°25.8'S 3°22.8'E**

**THE MOST REMOTE ISLAND**

Bouvet Island is a small, uninhabited volcanic island in the far South Atlantic claimed by Norway during the early days of Antarctic exploration. The crater rim of the island is 780 metres tall, and almost the entire land mass is covered by ice. From the cold shores of Bouvet Island, it is 1,700 kilometres to the Queen Maud coast of Antarctica.





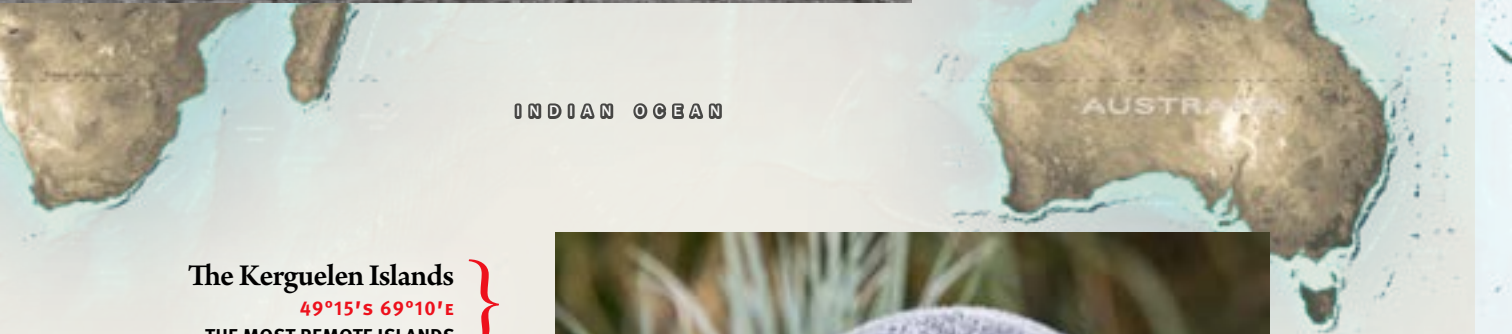
**Tristan de Cunha**

37°4's 12°19'W

**THE MOST REMOTE INHABITED ISLAND**

The volcanic island of Tristan de Cunha in the South Atlantic is the most remote island on Earth. First settled by humans in 1810, it is now part of the British Commonwealth. The 300 inhabitants live more than 2,400 kilometres from the coast of South Africa.

NORTH  
PACIFIC  
OCEAN



INDIAN OCEAN

AUSTRALIA

**The Kerguelen Islands**

49°15's 69°10'E

**THE MOST REMOTE ISLANDS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN**

Claimed by France, these islands were visited by passing whaling crews. It is now maintained as a research base and has been involved in historical geomagnetic studies. Vegetated only by a single species of cabbage, lichens and moss, it is now also home to grazing sheep and released trout. The Kerguelen Islands are 3,700 kilometres from South Africa and 4,200 kilometres from Western Australia.



SOUTHERN  
OCEAN

