



**Antarctica :: Bouvet Island**  
(territory of Norway)

**Introduction :: Bouvet Island**

**Background:**

This uninhabited, volcanic, Antarctic island is almost entirely covered by glaciers making it difficult to approach; it is recognized as the most remote island on Earth. Bouvet Island was discovered in 1739 by a French naval officer after whom it is named. No claim was made until 1825, when the British flag was raised. In 1928, the UK waived its claim in favor of Norway, which had occupied the island the previous year. In 1971, Norway designated Bouvet Island and the adjacent territorial waters a nature reserve. Since 1977, Norway has run an automated meteorological station and studied foraging strategies and distribution of fur seals and penguins on the island.

**Geography :: Bouvet Island**

**Location:**

island in the South Atlantic Ocean, southwest of the Cape of Good Hope (South Africa)

**Geographic coordinates:**

54 26 S, 3 24 E

**Map references:**

Antarctic Region

**Area:**

**total:** 49 sq km

**country comparison to the world:** 233

**land:** 49 sq km

**water:** 0 sq km

**Area - comparative:**

about 0.3 times the size of Washington, DC

**Land boundaries:**

0 km

**Coastline:**

29.6 km

**Maritime claims:**

**territorial sea:** 4 nm

**Climate:**

antarctic

**Terrain:**

volcanic; coast is mostly inaccessible

**Elevation extremes:**

**lowest point:** South Atlantic Ocean 0 m

**highest point:** Olav Peak 935 m

**Natural resources:**

none

**Land use:**

**arable land:** 0%

**permanent crops:** 0%

**other:** 100% (93% ice) (2011)

**Natural hazards:**

NA

**Environment - current issues:**

NA

**Geography - note:**

covered by glacial ice; declared a nature reserve by Norway

**People and Society :: Bouvet Island**

**Population:**

uninhabited

## Government :: Bouvet Island

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### Country name:

conventional long form: none

conventional short form: Bouvet Island

### Dependency status:

territory of Norway; administered by the Polar Department of the Ministry of Justice and Oslo Police

### Legal system:

the laws of Norway, where applicable, apply

### Flag description:

the flag of Norway is used

## Economy :: Bouvet Island

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### Economy - overview:

no economic activity; declared a nature reserve

## Communications :: Bouvet Island

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### Internet country code:

.bv

### Internet hosts:

6 (2012)

country comparison to the world: 230

### Communications - note:

has an automatic meteorological station

## Transportation :: Bouvet Island

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### Ports and terminals:

none; offshore anchorage only

## Military :: Bouvet Island

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### Military - note:

defense is the responsibility of Norway

## Transnational Issues :: Bouvet Island

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### Disputes - international:

none