

Coral Sea Islands

(territory of Australia)

Geography

Location: Oceania, islands in the Coral Sea, northeast of Australia

Map references: Oceania

Area:

total area: less than 3 sq km

land area: less than 3 sq km

note: includes numerous small islands and reefs scattered over a sea area of about 1 million sq km, with Willis Islets the most important

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 3,095 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive fishing zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 3 nm

Climate: tropical

Terrain: sand and coral reefs and islands (or cays)

Natural resources: negligible

Land use:

arable land: 0%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 0%

forest and woodland: 0%

other: 100% (mostly grass or scrub cover)

Irrigated land: 0 sq km

Environment:

current issues: no permanent fresh water resources

natural hazards: occasional, tropical cyclones

Note: important nesting area for birds and turtles

People

Population: no indigenous inhabitants

Transportation

Ports: none; offshore anchorage only

Defence Forces

Note: defense is the responsibility of Australia; visited regularly by the Royal Australian Navy; Australia has control over the activities of visitors