



## **Franz Josef Land** **Arctic Ocean**

Located just 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) from the North Pole, Franz Josef Land is perpetually coated with ice. Glaciers cover roughly 85 percent of the archipelago's land mass, and sea ice floats in the channels between islands even in the summertime. The Terra satellite observed some of the islands in visible and near-infrared light in August 2011.

The amount of sea ice filling the channels between the islands of Franz Josef Land varies from summer to summer. Most of the ice in this scene is anchored to land, as large glaciers blanket the islands. Yet today's glaciers are tiny compared to the ice sheet that dominated the region about 20,000 years ago. Raised beaches, which preserve evidence of land rising as the crushing weight of overlying glaciers eases (known as isostatic rebound), were first recognized on the islands in the late 19th century.