



# Jan Mayen



**Background** This desolate, mountainous island in the Arctic Ocean was named after a Dutch whaling captain who indisputably discovered it in 1614 (earlier claims are inconclusive). Visited only occasionally by seal hunters and trappers over the centuries, the island came under Norwegian sovereignty in 1929. The long dormant Beerenberg volcano, the northernmost active volcano on earth, resumed activity in 1970, and the most recent eruption occurred in 1985.

**Area** total : 377 sq km  
land: 377 sq km  
water: 0 sq km

**Climate** arctic maritime with frequent storms and persistent fog

**Natural resources** none

**Population** total: no permanent inhabitants