



# Coral Sea Islands



Background	The widely scattered Coral Sea Islands were first charted in 1803, but they were too small to host permanent human habitation. The 1870s and 1880s saw attempts at guano mining, but these were soon abandoned. The islands became an Australian territory in 1969, and the boundaries were extended in 1997. A small meteorological staff has operated on the Willis Islets since 1921, and several other islands host unmanned weather stations, beacons, and lighthouses. Much of the territory lies within national marine nature reserves.
Area	total : 3 sq km less than land: 3 sq km less than water: 0 sq km
Climate	tropical
Natural resources	fish
Population	total: no indigenous inhabitants (2021)
Diplomatic representation from the US	embassy: none (territory of Australia)