

Global Change Data Encyclopedia

British Isles, United Kingdom

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The British Isles, the geographic term for the group of islands, is located northwest of Europe. Between the Europe and the British Isles are the English Channel and Strait of Dover, southeast of the British Isles. Its geo-location is 49°51'48"N–60°50'46"N, 10°40'53"W–1°45'46"E^[1] (Figure 1, Figure 2).

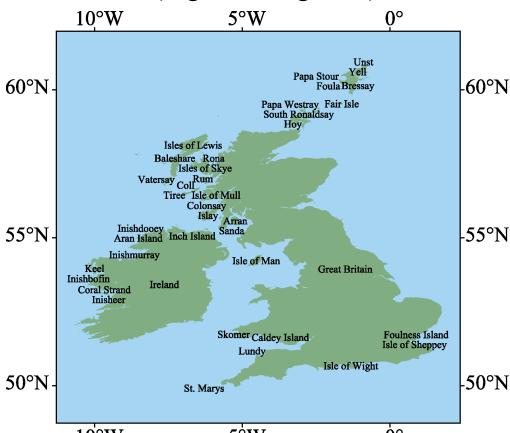


Figure 1 Map of British Isles (.shp format)



Figure 2 Map of British Isles (.kmz format)

There are 11,918 islands in the British Isles, including small islands, isles and independent rocks with area bigger than 10 m². Together England, Wales, and Scotland constitute Great Britain, the larger of the two principal islands, while Northern Ireland and the republic of Ireland constitute the second largest island, Ireland. The Great Britain Island area is 219,126.00 km² and its coastline is 13,197.60 km. the Ireland area is 83,473.40 km² and its

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[2] Liu, C., Zhang, Y. H., Shi, R. X., et al. British Isles [DB/OL]. Global Change Research Data Publishing & Repository, 2019. DOI: 10.3974/geodb.2019.05.06.V1.

coastline is 7,261.43 km. Besides the two large islands, there are some isles in the British Isles such as the Isles of Scilly off the southwest coast, the Isle of Wight off the southern coast, the Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands off the northern coast, the Hebrides off the northwestern coast, the isle of Anglesey off the western coast, and so on. A series of small islands are also included^[2], which are Islay, South Ronaldsay, Arran, Baleshare, Yell, Keel, Hoy, Unst, Rum, Tiree, Coll, Vatersay, Raasay, Sanday, Westray, Rousay, Colonsay, Stronsay, Foulness Island, Coral Strand, Eigg, Orkney Island, Shapinsay, Bressay, Lismore, and so on. The total area of the British Isles is 315,813.97 km² and the total coastline of it is 35,152.00 km (Table 1).

Table 1 Geo-location, area and coastline of main islands of the British Isles

Name of island	Geo-location	Center of island	Area (km ²)	Coastline (km)
Great Britain	49°57'28"N–58°40'20"N, 6°13'42"W–1°45'46"E	53°56'38"N, 2°31'21"W	219,126.00	13,197.60
Ireland	51°26'51"N–55°23'2"N, 10°28'48"W–5°25'56"W	53°25'33"N, 7°53'5"W	83,473.40	7,261.43
Isles of Lewis	57°43'39"N–58°30'59"N, 7°8'11"W–6°8'6"W	58°7'59"N, 6°39'31"W	2,169.36	934.16
Isles of Skye	57°1'3"N–57°42'30"N, °47'23"W–5°38'51"W	57°21'41"N, 6°14'49"W	1,655.27	628.33
Isle of Mull	56°15'50"N–56°39'25"N, 6°23'9"W–5°38'45"W	56°26'48"N, 6°1'16"W	898.55	395.66
Islay	55°34'43"N–55°56'20"N, 6°31'34"W–6°1'8"W	55°45'39"N, 6°14'45"W	625.12	244.22
South Ronaldsay	58°43'46"N–59°9'16"N, 3°22'5"W–2°42'10"W	58°59'28"N, 3°5'38"W	581.85	368.51
Isle of Man	54°3'12"N–54°25'5"N, 4°47'40"W–4°18'29"W	54°13'42"N, 4°32'16"W	571.65	167.40
Arran	55°26'1"N–55°43'17"N, 5°23'52"W–5°4'44"W	55°34'18"N, 5°14'15"W	432.41	98.56
Isle of Wight	50°34'29"N–50°46'3"N, 1°35'12"W–1°4'9"W	50°40'30"N, 1°17'51"W	383.55	158.51
Baleshare	57°29'48"N–57°44'21"N, 7°32'59"W–7°3'46"W	57°36'6"N, 7°17'23"W	337.69	438.12
Yell	60°28'58"N–60°44'3"N, 1°12'19"W–0°58'52"W	60°36'23"N, 1°5'37"W	212.92	186.70
Keel	53°52'25"N–54°1'52"N, 10°15'32"W–9°54'51"W	53°57'59"N, 10°2'12"W	153.25	121.03
Hoy	58°46'17"N–58°55'57"N, 3°26'12"W–3°7'47"W	58°51'5"N, 3°17'39"W	146.38	95.42
Unst	60°40'11"N–60°50'46"N, 0°59'4"W–0°45'28"W	60°45'32"N, 0°52'56"W	122.03	124.82
Rum	56°56'5"N–57°3'38"N, 6°27'38"W–6°14'17"W	57°0'1"N, 6°20'7"W	108.52	54.04
Isle of Sheppey	51°21'16"N–51°26'57"N, 0°43'18"E–0°57'3"E	51°23'49"N, 0°50'4"E	91.06	54.02
Tiree	56°26'23"N–56°33'24"N, 7°0'28"W–6°43'24"W	56°30'3"N, 6°53'5"W	82.37	96.47
Coll	56°33'45"N–56°41'30"N, 6°42'38"W–6°27'2"W	56°37'44"N, 6°33'40"W	77.36	102.52
Vatersay	56°54'31"N–57°3'33"N, 7°34'58"W–7°22'30"W	56°58'42"N, 7°28'43"W	72.62	125.82
Raasay	57°19'42"N–57°30'24"N, 6°5'19"W–5°58'42"W	57°24'8"N, 6°2'21"W	62.29	63.35
Sanday	59°11'2"N–59°18'48"N, 2°42'6"W–2°23'22"W	59°15'28"N, 2°33'56"W	52.40	106.90

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Name of island	Geo-location	Center of island	Area (km ²)	Coastline (km)
Westray	59°13'39"N–59°21'37"N, 3°4'24"W–2°50'11"W	59°17'46"N, 2°57'38"W	49.15	79.36
Rousay	59°7'35"N–59°12'1"N, 3°7'14"W–2°57'8"W	59°9'38"N, 3°2'13"W	48.07	36.34
Colonsay	56°1'41"N–56°8'2"N, 6°16'56"W–6°7'58"W	56°4'32"N, 6°12'18"W	42.30	57.57
Stronsay	59°4'11"N–59°9'45"N, 2°41'27"W–2°31'34"W	59°6'30"N, 2°36'32"W	37.29	65.84
Foulness Island	51°33'22"N–51°37'31"N, 0°49'58"E–0°57'39"E	51°35'29"N, 0°53'24"E	31.84	31.96
Coral Strand	53°13'8"N–53°17'6"N, 9°46'20"W–9°38'30"W	53°14'54"N, 9°41'20"W	31.27	58.40
Eigg	56°52'17"N–56°56'41"N, 6°12'40"W–6°6'42"W	56°54'15"N, 6°9'17"W	31.08	30.01
Orkney Island	59°8'16"N–59°15'4"N, 2°49'42"W–2°44'0"W	59°11'20"N, 2°46'30"W	28.91	40.79
Shapinsay	59°1'1"N–59°5'16"N, 2°56'7"W–2°47'53"W	59°2'56"N, 2°51'34"W	28.75	40.37
Bressay	60°6'9"N–60°11'22"N, 1°8'52"W–1°2'43"W	60°8'55"N, 1°5'40"W	27.99	40.19
Isle of Scalpay	57°16'22"N–57°19'36"N, 6°1'26"W–5°55'12"W	57°17'59"N, 5°58'16"W	25.83	22.92
Lismore	56°27'39"N–56°33'44"N, 5°35'56"W–5°25'35"W	56°30'40"N, 5°30'55"W	23.08	41.16
Whalsay	60°19'34"N–60°23'6"N, 1°2'20"W–0°53'59"W	60°21'19"N, 0°58'45"W	19.92	36.24
Aran Island	54°58'2"N–55°1'24"N, 8°34'12"W–8°29'3"W	54°59'29"N, 8°31'43"W	19.22	36.93
Canvey Island	51°30'23"N–51°32'50"N, 0°31'4"E–0°38'8"E	51°31'31"N, 0°34'28"E	18.97	30.60
Clare Island	53°47'19"N–53°49'44"N, 10°3'8"W–9°56'28"W	53°48'15"N, 9°59'44"W	17.53	29.16
Scarba	56°9'32"N–56°12'3"N, 5°45'9"W–5°40'12"W	56°10'36"N, 5°42'32"W	14.87	21.02
Isle of Gigha	55°38'45"N–55°43'48"N, 5°46'30"W–5°42'41"W	55°41'7"N, 5°44'40"W	14.77	44.21
Luing	56°11'16"N–56°16'16"N, 5°39'57"W–5°37'3"W	56°13'49"N, 5°38'29"W	14.64	28.39
Taransay	57°52'29"N–57°55'19"N, 7°5'24"W–6°59'14"W	57°53'56"N, 7°1'45"W	14.62	26.33
Inch Island	55°2'51"N–55°5'6"N, 7°31'60"W–7°27'0"W	55°3'57"N, 7°29'43"W	13.46	16.15
Foula	60°6'33"N–60°9'30"N, 2°7'3"W–2°2'23"W	60°8'12"N, 2°4'29"W	13.45	20.89
Canna	57°2'30"N–57°4'17"N, 6°36'47"W–6°29'5"W	57°3'29"N, 6°33'2"W	11.94	29.17
Inishbofin	53°36'20"N–53°38'14"N, 10°15'44"W–10°9'28"W	53°37'15"N, 10°12'43"W	11.72	39.85
Scarp	58°0'9"N–58°2'18"N, 7°10'21"W–7°5'56"W	58°1'16"N, 7°7'59"W	10.63	18.64
Inishmaan	53°3'53"N–53°6'11"N, 9°37'13"W–9°33'40"W	53°5'2"N, 9°35'24"W	10.47	15.27
Lettermore	53°16'45"N–53°18'35"N, 9°43'21"W–9°37'48"W	53°17'45"N, 9°40'38"W	10.42	21.49
Soay	57°7'43"N–57°9'57"N, 6°15'23"W–6°10'47"W	57°8'53"N, 6°13'8"W	10.41	18.27
Rona	57°30'52"N–57°35'2"N, 6°0'4"W–5°57'12"W	57°32'56"N, 5°58'35"W	10.18	42.29
Flotta	58°48'46"N–58°50'59"N, 3°8'55"W–3°3'50"W	58°49'46"N, 3°6'36"W	10.10	22.85

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Name of island	Geo-location	Center of island	Area (km ²)	Coastline (km)
Iona	56°18'24"N–56°21'5"N, 6°26'42"W–6°22'51"W	56°19'45"N, 6°24'40"W	9.19	19.13
Papa Westray	59°19'23"N–59°23'11"N, 2°54'41"W–2°52'4"W	59°21'13"N, 2°53'27"W	8.95	19.24
Papa Stour	60°18'54"N–60°20'47"N, 1°44'17"W–1°39'39"W	60°19'53"N, 1°41'60"W	8.39	34.51
Fair Isle	59°30'41"N–59°33'15"N, 1°39'38"W–1°35'48"W	59°31'60"N, 1°37'48"W	8.31	29.76
Pabbay	57°45'32"N–57°47'8"N, 7°16'5"W–7°11'56"W	57°46'21"N, 7°13'58"W	8.20	12.47
North Ronaldsay	59°20'50"N–59°23'34"N, 2°27'4"W–2°22'11"W	59°22'16"N, 2°25'4"W	8.10	20.45
Scalpay	57°50'59"N–57°52'45"N, 6°42'51"W–6°38'26"W	57°51'53"N, 6°40'33"W	7.77	26.06
Erriskay	57°3'9"N–57°5'55"N, 7°19'20"W–7°16'6"W	57°4'29"N, 7°17'35"W	7.70	22.68
St. Marys	49°54'10"N–49°56'17"N, 6°19'45"W–6°16'31"W	49°55'15"N, 6°17'55"W	7.37	23.48
Inisheer	53°2'40"N–53°4'9"N, 9°33'24"W–9°30'3"W	53°3'25"N, 9°31'43"W	6.75	11.71
Muck	56°49'25"N–56°51'13"N, 6°16'50"W–6°12'51"W	56°50'12"N, 6°14'49"W	6.35	23.43
Egilsay	59°7'26"N–59°10'13"N, 2°56'43"W–2°54'25"W	59°9'5"N, 2°55'35"W	6.35	14.07
Lundy	51°9'29"N–51°12'10"N, 4°40'53"W–4°38'56"W	51°10'41"N, 4°40'12"W	4.83	16.09
Sundray	56°52'48"N–56°54'9"N, 7°32'25"W–7°29'21"W	56°53'33"N, 7°30'58"W	4.57	13.92
Graemsay	58°55'11"N–58°56'28"N, 3°18'54"W–3°15'55"W	58°55'47"N, 3°17'26"W	4.16	9.40
Stroma	58°39'59"N–58°41'50"N, 3°8'29"W–3°6'0"W	58°40'49"N, 3°7'7"W	4.04	11.96
Anna Island	55°0'35"N–55°3'11"N, 8°26'22"W–8°24'24"W	55°1'52"N, 8°25'17"W	3.88	21.39
Wyre	59°6'37"N–59°7'40"N, 3°0'48"W–2°57'4"W	59°7'6"N, 2°58'25"W	3.22	9.67
Tresco	49°56'21"N–49°58'5"N, 6°21'8"W–6°19'9"W	49°57'16"N, 6°20'3"W	3.14	11.19
Fara	58°49'58"N–58°51'26"N, 3°10'55"W–3°8'57"W	58°50'37"N, 3°9'58"W	3.06	7.94
Gairsay	59°4'18"N–59°5'31"N, 2°59'37"W–2°56'45"W	59°4'56"N, 2°58'18"W	3.01	10.42
Skomer	51°43'42"N–51°44'43"N, 5°18'54"W–5°16'8"W	51°44'13"N, 5°17'41"W	2.97	13.34
Boreray	57°41'59"N–57°43'12"N, 7°18'8"W–7°16'26"W	57°42'38"N, 7°17'18"W	2.63	6.99
Ramsey	51°51'6"N–51°52'45"N, 5°21'13"W–5°19'47"W	51°51'58"N, 5°20'25"W	2.59	14.74
Caldey Island	51°37'46"N–51°38'39"N, 4°43'14"W–4°40'28"W	51°38'14"N, 4°41'33"W	2.30	10.26
Untitled Placemark	57°2'35"N–57°3'22"N, 6°30'56"W–6°27'56"W	57°2'56"N, 6°29'32"W	2.21	12.83
Ensay	57°45'4"N–57°46'31"N, 7°5'55"W–7°4'14"W	57°45'48"N, 7°4'58"W	2.08	7.83
Brownsea Island	50°41'10"N–50°41'51"N, 1°59'17"W–1°57'21"W	50°41'29"N, 1°58'18"W	2.07	5.97
Gola	55°4'49"N–55°5'46"N, 8°22'51"W–8°20'52"W	55°5'19"N, 8°21'56"W	2.04	10.26

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Name of island	Geo-location	Center of island	Area (km ²)	Coastline (km)
St. Agnus	49°52'56"N–49°53'56"N, 6°21'26"W–6°19'30"W	49°53'30"N, 6°20'29"W	1.99	13.28
Achillberg Island	53°51'25"N–53°52'26"N, 9°58'8"W–9°56'33"W	53°51'58"N, 9°57'15"W	1.85	7.32
Sanda	55°16'28"N–55°17'11"N, 5°35'52"W–5°33'55"W	55°16'51"N, 5°34'54"W	1.64	6.37
Bryher	49°56'30"N–49°58'2"N, 6°21'57"W–6°20'51"W	49°57'12"N, 6°21'22"W	1.61	13.32
Eday	59°12'6"N–59°13'39"N, 2°49'53"W–2°48'52"W	59°12'52"N, 2°49'26"W	1.58	7.29
Ovey Island	55°2'51"N–55°3'43"N, 8°27'45"W–8°26'19"W	55°3'16"N, 8°27'3"W	1.48	8.28
Rutland Island	54°58'7"N–54°58'60"N, 8°28'7"W–8°26'44"W	54°58'31"N, 8°27'27"W	1.42	5.97
Mealasta	58°4'18"N–58°5'15"N, 7°8'26"W–7°7'1"W	58°4'47"N, 7°7'36"W	1.40	8.95
Swona	58°44'4"N–58°45'0"N, 3°4'26"W–3°2'59"W	58°44'33"N, 3°3'32"W	1.14	6.09
Inishmurray	54°25'42"N–54°26'12"N, 8°40'25"W–8°38'39"W	54°25'58"N, 8°39'37"W	1.12	4.89
Auskerry	59°1'29"N–59°2'21"N, 2°34'41"W–2°33'25"W	59°1'54"N, 2°34'11"W	1.07	5.19
Cava	58°52'18"N–58°53'16"N, 3°10'46"W–3°9'23"W	58°52'42"N, 3°10'6"W	0.99	4.95
Shetland Island	60°44'23"N–60°45'39"N, 0°47'60"W–0°47'4"W	60°44'55"N, 0°47'31"W	0.97	8.04
Ailsa Craig	55°14'48"N–55°15'29"N, 5°7'28"W–5°6'24"W	55°15'8"N, 5°7'1"W	0.94	3.82
Eighter Island	54°59'0"N–54°59'49"N, 8°28'47"W–8°27'9"W	54°59'23"N, 8°27'54"W	0.94	8.26
Little Colonsay	56°26'46"N–56°27'22"N, 6°16'5"W–6°14'57"W	56°27'4"N, 6°15'33"W	0.88	4.56
Inishsirrer	55°6'45"N–55°7'31"N, 8°21'2"W–8°19'14"W	55°7'9"N, 8°20'15"W	0.76	6.86
Lunga	56°28'48"N–56°29'51"N, 6°26'9"W–6°25'0"W	56°29'18"N, 6°25'30"W	0.74	5.82
Inishmeane	55°5'58"N–55°6'33"N, 8°20'42"W–8°19'48"W	55°6'16"N, 8°20'15"W	0.65	3.87
Inishkeeragh	54°57'11"N–54°57'46"N, 8°30'21"W–8°29'19"W	54°57'28"N, 8°29'49"W	0.63	6.97
Inishdooey	55°11'11"N–55°11'50"N, 8°10'8"W–8°9'36"W	55°11'33"N, 8°9'51"W	0.45	3.89
Rathlin O'Birne Island	54°39'38"N–54°40'7"N, 8°50'0"W–8°49'19"W	54°39'51"N, 8°49'40"W	0.39	3.20
Tormarcus	55°3'36"N–55°3'59"N, 8°23'12"W–8°22'35"W	55°3'49"N, 8°22'53"W	0.28	3.03
Illancrone	54°56'5"N–54°56'38"N, 8°29'10"W–8°28'29"W	54°56'24"N, 8°28'48"W	0.23	3.61
Inishmeal	54°57'58"N–54°58'34"N, 8°26'27"W–8°25'55"W	54°58'16"N, 8°26'10"W	0.22	4.47
Lahan Island	54°59'52"N–55°0'9"N, 8°27'48"W–8°27'9"W	55°0'0"N, 8°27'31"W	0.18	2.59
Rinrainy Island	54°59'36"N–54°59'51"N, 8°27'34"W–8°26'52"W	54°59'43"N, 8°27'14"W	0.14	3.30
Umfra Island	55°6'2"N–55°6'17"N, 8°22'14"W–8°21'44"W	55°6'8"N, 8°21'60"W	0.12	1.77
Inishillinty	55°2'31"N–55°2'45"N, 8°24'56"W–8°24'34"W	55°2'38"N, 8°24'44"W	0.09	1.70
Edernish	54°58'51"N–54°59'1"N, 8°27'35"W–8°27'6"W	54°58'56"N, 8°27'19"W	0.08	1.57

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Name of island	Geo-location	Center of island	Area (km ²)	Coastline (km)
Umfra Island	55°6'2"N–55°6'17"N, 8°22'14"W–8°21'44"W	55°6'8"N, 8°21'60"W	0.12	1.77
Inishillintry	55°2'31"N–55°2'45"N, 8°24'56"W–8°24'34"W	55°2'38"N, 8°24'44"W	0.09	1.70
Edernish	54°58'51"N–54°59'1"N, 8°27'35"W–8°27'6"W	54°58'56"N, 8°27'19"W	0.08	1.57
Go Island	55°4'37"N–55°4'48"N, 8°21'55"W–8°21'41"W	55°4'43"N, 8°21'48"W	0.07	1.11
Allagh Island	55°4'41"N–55°4'51"N, 8°22'18"W–8°22'5"W	55°4'46"N, 8°22'11"W	0.05	1.02
Fall Island	55°0'13"N–55°0'22"N, 8°27'20"W–8°27'7"W	55°0'17"N, 8°27'13"W	0.04	1.25
Illanannaff	54°59'51"N–54°59'60"N, 8°27'57"W–8°27'39"W	54°59'56"N, 8°27'47"W	0.04	0.97
Tullavane	54°58'35"N–54°58'45"N, 8°26'37"W–8°26'25"W	54°58'40"N, 8°26'32"W	0.03	0.96
Inishcoo	54°59'30"N–54°59'35"N, 8°27'56"W–8°27'39"W	54°59'33"N, 8°27'47"W	0.03	0.85
Tornacolpaph Island	55°6'6"N–55°6'15"N, 8°21'53"W–8°21'45"W	55°6'10"N, 8°21'49"W	0.02	0.65
Torboy	55°3'12"N–55°3'17"N, 8°25'56"W–8°25'47"W	55°3'14"N, 8°25'52"W	0.01	0.53
Illanglass	55°2'25"N–55°2'32"N, 8°23'25"W–8°23'20"W	55°2'29"N, 8°23'22"W	0.01	0.45
Gull Island	54°39'46"N–54°39'51"N, 8°50'5"W–8°49'59"W	54°39'49"N, 8°50'2"W	0.01	0.38
Torragaum	55°5'54"N–55°5'58"N, 8°22'1"W–8°21'54"W	55°5'56"N, 8°21'57"W	0.01	0.41
Toratrave	55°3'4"N–55°3'8"N, 8°26'8"W–8°26'1"W	55°3'6"N, 8°26'5"W	0.01	0.39
Torbane	54°59'48"N–54°59'50"N, 8°27'44"W–8°27'38"W	54°59'49"N, 8°27'41"W	0.01	0.29

The dataset was developed based on the Google Earth and related maps and references, and its spatial vector data is from EU_I2_shoreline_m_gg_2015shp.rar of the Global Multiple Scale Shorelines Dataset Based on Google Earth Images (2015)^[3]. The dataset is consisted of 15 data files and archived in the .kmz and .shp^[4] data formats with the data size of 244 MB (Compressed to 101 MB in two files).

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- [1] British Isles Terminology [OL]. Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc./Kenny Chmielewski. <https://www.britannica.com/place/United-Kingdom>.
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Data Computing Environment

- [4] ESRI. ArcGIS campus license of Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

URL for Data Downloading

<http://www.geodoi.ac.cn/WebEn/doi.aspx?Id=1304>.

Or search through: <http://www.geodoi.ac.cn>.