

Global Change Data Encyclopedia

Boundary Data of Kuril Islands

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Kuril Islands are located between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Pacific Ocean. Geolocation is from 43°21'38"N to 50°55'21"N and 145°23'55"E to 156°30'49"E. The Kuril Islands are consisted of a series of lands from northeast near the Kamchatka peninsula to southwest near the Hokkaido of Japan (Figure 1). These islands are Shumshu Island, Atlasov Island, Paramushir Island, Antsiferova Island, Makanrushi Island, Pmelptam Island, Kharimkotan Island, Ekarma Island, Chirinkotan Island, Shiashkotan Island, Raykoke Island, Matua Island, Ras-shua Island, Ushishir Island, Ketoy Island, Simushir Island, Broutona Island, Chirpoy Island, Brat Chirpoyev Island, Urup Island, Iturup Island, Kunashir Island, Shikotan Island and Habomai Islands. The total area of the islands is 10,299.72 km² with the coastline of 3,012.70 km, the biggest one is the Iturup Island, its area is 3,163.76 km²^[1]. The Kuril Islands are located between the Okhotsk Plate and the Pacific Plate, earthquakes and volcanos are frequency. All islands of the Kuril Islands are in Russia's jurisdiction although Japan claim four of them, including the Iturup Island, Kunashir Island, Shikotan island and the Habomai Islands. The geo-location, area, coastline of the main islands of Kuril Islands are shown in Table 1.

Between the islands are the main channels of communication, such as the Iturup Strait, the Nemuro Strait, etc. The Alaid Volcano, on Atlasov Island, is 2,339 m above sea level, the highest point of the group. The Kuril Islands are located in the junction zone of the Okhotsk plate and the Pacific plate, the Kuril Trench is 170–200 km from the island. According to the

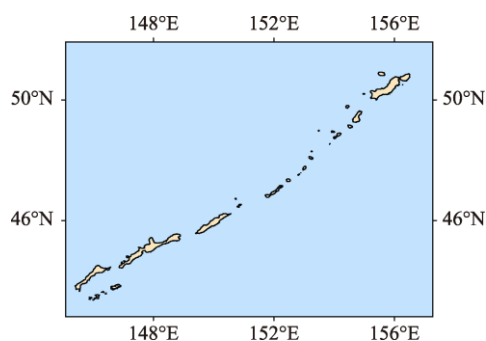


Figure 1 Coastline data of Kuril Islands

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United States Geological Survey (USGS), 9 earthquakes with magnitude 8 or above have occurred since 1923, including earthquake of magnitude 9 in 1952.

Table 1 Main islands of Kuril Islands

Name of islands	Geo-location	Area (km ²)	Coastline (km)
Atlasov Island	50°48'11"N–50°55'22"N, 155°27'26"E–155°40'47"E	152.63	56.51
Shumshu Island	50°37'36"N–50°52'16"N, 156°10'23"E–156°30'49"E	383.91	101.29
Antsiferova Island	50°11'5"N–50°12'48"N, 154°57'25"E–155°0'51"E	8.69	13.10
Paramushir Island	49°59'56"N–50°46'7"N, 155°11'55"E–156°10'13"E	2,037.28	321.24
Makanrushi Island	49°43'39"N–49°49'3"N, 154°23'10"E–154°29'34"E	50.09	29.70
Onkotan Island	49°15'23"N–49°38'3"N, 154°36'38"E–154°55'4"E	429.40	133.35
Kharimkotan Island	49°41'1"N–49°10'8"N, 154°27'8"E–154°36'16"E	77.15	36.89
Chirinkotan Island	48°57'59"N–48°59'35"N, 153°28'4"E–153°30'19"E	5.75	9.69
Ekarma Island	48°55'17"N–48°58'22"N, 153°54'1"E–154°0'44"E	32.12	29.43
Shiashkotan Island	48°43'6"N–48°54'13"N, 153°58'29"E–154°13'42"E	117.64	74.01
Raykoke Island	48°16'57"N–48°18'5"N, 153°13'58"E–153°16'9"E	4.20	9.41
Matua Island	48°2'12"N–48°7'26"N, 153°9'33"E–153°16'44"E	52.92	35.01
Rasshua Island	47°40'28"N–47°48'21"N, 152°57'21"E–153°3'46"E	63.89	43.78
Ushishir Island	47°30'7"N–47°31'42"N, 152°47'38"E–152°49'42"E	3.59	15.73
Ketoy Island	47°17'32"N–47°22'42"N, 152°24'38"E–152°32'38"E	71.90	35.79
Simushir Island	46°46'7"N–47°10'4"N, 151°42'18"E–152°17'33"E	338.91	190.61
Broutona Island	46°42'7"N–46°44'21"N, 150°42'30"E–150°45'2"E	8.20	13.16
Chirpoy Island	46°29'43"N–46°32'46"N, 150°49'45"E–150°55'10"E	19.85	25.54
Brat Chirpoyev/ Chirihoinan Island	46°26'30"N–46°29'6"N, 150°46'42"E–150°50'45"E	13.06	21.46
Urup Island	45°34'8"N–46°13'48"N, 149°23'48"E–150°34'18"E	1,429.95	341.97
Iturup Island	44°25'26"N–45°33'25"N, 146°51'30"E–148°53'37"E	3,163.76	684.10
Shikotan Island	43°42'5"N–43°53'25"N, 146°35'8"E–146°55'11"E	245.08	180.01
Kunashir Island	43°39'9"N–44°27'17"N, 145°23'55"E–146°34'26"E	1,489.91	367.82
Polonskogo Island	43°37'3"N–43°39'5"N, 146°16'10"E–146°21'26"E	10.63	24.25
Zelyony Island	43°27'30"N–43°32'56"N, 146°3'33"E–146°12'17"E	58.01	41.47
Yuri Island	43°25'00"N–43°27'44"N, 145°51'44"E–145°57'20"E	12.15	32.21
Tanfilyeva Island	43°24'7"N–43°26'53"N, 146°1'29"E–146°6'34"E	9.62	33.83
Anuchina Island	43°21'38"N–43°22'42"N, 145°59'12"E–146°1'21"E	1.98	11.77

The Kuril Islands are currently under Russian jurisdiction. Of these, the Southern Kuril Islands (Japan is known as the “Northern Territory”), including Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan and Habomai Islands, are the disputed territory between Japan and Russia.

The dataset is developed based on the Google Earth images and references maps. It is archived in the .kmz and .shp formats with the data size of 4.17 MB.

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