

Antarctica

(**Antarctica** is the southernmost continent and contains the geographic South Pole. It is within the Antarctic region of the Southern Hemisphere. At 14,000,000 square kilometres (5,400,000 square miles), it is the fifth-largest continent. For comparison, Antarctica is nearly twice the size of Australia. Approximately 98% of the continent is covered by ice that averages 1.9 km (1.2 mi; 6,200 ft) in thickness.

There is no official government and there are no permanent residents. Approximately 5,000 people temporarily live on Antarctica, but not usually year round.

