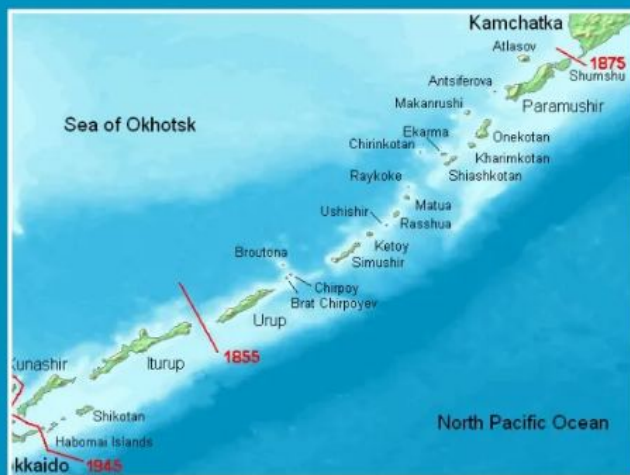


Kuril Islands

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KURIL ISLANDS

Kuril Islands Latest News

Russian President Vladimir Putin has visited the disputed Kuril Islands for the first time, travelling to Iturup as Moscow's relations with Japan remain deeply strained over Russia's war in Ukraine.

About Kuril Islands

- The Kuril Islands is an island group in the **Russian Far East** that forms the **boundary between the Pacific Ocean** and the **Sea of Okhotsk**.
- The archipelago, **administered as part of Sakhalin Oblast (Russia)**, **extends** for about 1,300 kilometers from the **Kamchatka Peninsula's (Russia) southern tip to Hokkaido's (Japan) northeastern corner**.
- The archipelago comprises **56 islands** and several islets and rocks and covers over 15,600 sq.km.
- The islands are divided into the Greater and Lesser Kuril Chains and have a total population of over 20,000 people.
- These are part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire** belt and have **over 100 volcanoes**, of which **35** are said to be **active volcanoes** along with hot springs.

- The **climate** in the islands is **severe**, with **long, cold, snowy winters** and **cool, wet, foggy summers**.
- **Vegetation** ranges from **tundra on the northern islands** to **dense forest on the larger southern islands**.
- The **principal centers** are the **towns of Kurilsk on Iturup, the largest island**, Severo-Kurilsk on Paramushir, and Yuzhno-Kurilsk on Kunashir.
- Although **Russia administers all the Kuril Islands**, some islands are at the heart of the Russo-Japanese feud known as the Kuril Islands dispute.
- **Japan considers the four southernmost islands as part of its Northern Territories**.
- Tokyo claims that the disputed islands have been part of Japan since the early 19th century.
- **As a result of this dispute, Russia and Japan have never formally concluded a peace treaty to end World War II.**

News: TOI

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