

2022 CHANGES TO NOMADMANIA REGIONS – A GUIDE

NomadMania has always aimed to have the most rational division of the world into regions. As such, a division into approximately 1,300 regions always seemed an appropriate number more or less – and how we assembled the pieces has been largely determined by 5 criteria: territory, population, cultural interest and diversity, economic strength and international tourist appeal which are assessed through a tool we have called the ‘optimal’ number of regions per country.

We have additionally had a number of rules on how we divide countries, territories and islands, which we have recently amended and you can read here. The launch of our M@P (Many Quirky Places) list has meant that we now officially have two ‘main’ lists of regions – our ‘primary’ Masterlist, comprised of 1,301 regions, and our M@P list, which allows for more extreme, unusual, out of the ordinary destinations to be included. In light of M@P, through 3 different Committees involving more than 20 people, some decisions have been made which ‘rationalise’ our main Masterlist. The M@P has had 1,111 regions since the start of the 2022, but as of April 14, 2022, this number will now be 1,151 with more additions expected as of June.

The basic result of the existence of M@P is that a number of regions have been moved from the ‘Masterlist’ to the M@P list, with their position on the Masterlist taken by other regions, mainly split in order to better meet the ‘optimal’ number of regions. The rationale has been that some of the Masterlist regions are much too small and insignificant to warrant being there and are much more suited to the ‘quirky’ list.

In what follows, we present all the changes, starting with the regions that are moving to the M@P list, following with the ‘new’ regions on the Masterlist and finally discussing some further issues, including regions which have not been moved, and why. Regions are presented in the order of ‘Megaregion’ which starts with Europe, then Asia, Africa, Americas, Oceania and Antarctica/Arctic.

Please note:

1. This is not nuclear physics – there is no right or wrong, and all Committee members needed to consider things based on their own understanding; some changes were more unanimous than others, with a few being subject to a lot of debate and the need to be examined by further Committees.
2. Almost all areas moving from the Masterlist to M@P make up much less than 1% of the total territory of the country they belong to – in some cases so much less that to make sense from a territory perspective our Masterlist would have to include more than 10,000 regions to accommodate these ‘rationally’. The only exceptions are the Phoenix islands and the Sovereign Bases on Cyprus.
3. No regions are ‘deleted’ – they are all in M@P now, in some cases in a much more detailed division. All of you get ‘credit’ for your visited regions, which are now marked as such in the corresponding entries on M@P.

REGIONS MOVING FROM THE NOMADMANIA MASTERLIST TO THE M@P LIST

REGION	SOME STATS	RATIONALE
Italy – Aeolian islands	115 km ² /0,038% of Italy	Extremely small, its inclusion doesn't make sense when larger Italian archipelagos are on M@P
Italy – Pelagie islands and Pantelleria	108 km ² /0,035%	Same as above despite the greater distance from the mainland
Russia – Kuril Islands	10503 km ² /0,06%	Tiny percentage of country which is oversplit according to the optimal anyway (current 93 splits versus an optimal of 80), disputed territory, very small population
Disputed – Spratlys/Paracel	All together 10 km ²	Disputed, largely spread out, tiny land area with no real 'sights'
Japan - Ogasawara	104 km ² /0,027%	Tiny percentage of country, small population, very 'quirky' so ideal on M@P
Taiwan – Matsu & Kinmen	183 kms ² /0,5%	Very small percentage and population, while large local tourist appeal, they are indeed quirky
Iran – Kish island	91,5km ² /0,0055%	Despite a different 'open' visa regime, this is much too small to warrant its own region; a new Iran island region replaces this and makes much better sense of the area
Cyprus – Sovereign British Area	254 km ² /2,7% of the whole island	Mainly military area with barely any sights, it is much better placed on M@P
Indonesia – Biak island	2455 km ² /0,12%	In a country full of archipelagos, there is little distinctive to this one with very little to see and do.
Malaysia - Labuan	92 km ² /0,027%	Notable mainly as a duty-free zone and with a separate status, there is little else to justify this on the Masterlist in a country which was oversplit based on its optimal
BIOT (Chagos)	60 km ² /less than 0,02% of total UK realm	Uninhabited since 1973 apart from military, its inclusion as a territory serves to justify its occupation against UN rulings; very little of note to see.

Equatorial Guinea - Annobon	17 km ² /0,06%	Tiny percentage; geographically and culturally interesting but given its size and EG low overall optimal, a 3 rd split for EG is hardly justified
Canada – Haida Gwaii	10180 km ² /0,1%	Very small, underpopulated and largely unknown, all that make this an ideal M@P
US - Aleutians	17670 km ² /0,17%	Very small overall area despite a unique geographical position
US - Kodiak	9311 km ² /0,094%	Its main distinction is as 2 nd largest US island but that alone doesn't merit a region in such a large country
Chile – Juan Fernandez	100 km ² /0,013%	Subject to a long debate, in the end its lack of significant tourist appeal better suits this to M@P
UK – Falklands (becomes one region on the Masterlist)	12,173 km ²	It has been decided that, in general, territories will no longer be split unless there are special considerations; the Falklands will now make a number of different M@P regions
Australia – Lord Howe	14 km ² /0,00018%	Smallest in terms of % of the total country, with a population only 600 and no special territory status, despite its WHS, this belongs to M@P
Australia – Torres Strait islands	566 km ² /0,0073%	Culturally interesting but much too small to merit its own region; this is now 'devolved' into 4 M@P regions
Papua New Guinea – Trobriand islands	450 km ² /0,1%	In a country with many archipelagos, there is little of note to this one other than its historical fame more than 100 years ago.
Kiribati – Phoenix islands	32,3km ² /4%	This will be joined with the Line islands into one region; the main consideration here was the absence of a permanently established population, the few people living on Kanton island are government workers; additionally a 3-way split of Kiribati was deemed unjustified.
Cook Islands (becomes one region on the Masterlist)	236 km ² total (north islands group 21 km ²)	The tiny population of the outer islands and their huge distances make them ideal candidates for M@P; their small size and the fact that this is a territory, not a

		sovereign state mean a split on the Masterlist is unjustified.
New Zealand – Chatham islands	920 km ² /0,34%	A long debate continued about these given their distance from the rest of the country and their not so tiny size; however ultimately given the very little in terms of Series items, this will be devolved into 2 M@Ps – the main island as one, and Pitt island as the other; additionally NZ was way too generously divided into 5 regions based on its optimal, so a current 4 is more balanced.
US Minor Outlying Islands	34,2 km ²	Spread across a number of uninhabited islands which are already all on M@P, accepting this as a region in the Masterlist was deemed unnecessary and given the lack of population and tiny size, incorrect. This region is not being moved as such, but all of its parts are each a M@P region.
Australia – Heard and McDonald	368 km ²	Entirely uninhabited territories which have no presence – even military – and are generally small certainly belong to M@P
Norway – Bouvet island	49 km ²	Same as above
Norway – Jan Mayen	377 km ²	Despite the military presence here, it was decided that its place is best on M@P
Russia – Wrangel island	7600 km ² /0,044%	Unlike the other Arctic archipelagos which are much larger, this lone island was deemed best belonging to M@P

REGIONS BEING ADDED TO THE MASTERLIST

Note: We have programmed this so that if you had ‘ticked’ the old region as visited, the tick will move to the FIRST mentioned in the ‘new regions’ column; you will need to manually add the other ‘new regions’ if you have visited them by either going to Quick Enter or to Post Trip and editing your entries.

OLD REGION	NEW REGIONS	RATIONALE
Italy – Sicily	Italy – Sicily West Italy – Sicily East	Sicily with many WHS and considerable tourist appeal, deserves a split; this also compensates for the ‘loss’ of Aeolian and Pelagie islands as standalone regions
Germany – Lower Saxony	Germany – Lower Saxony East Germany.- Lower Saxony West	One of the largest regions of Germany whose optimal is much higher than its divisions
Germany – North-Rhine Westphalia	Germany – Rhineland Germany – Westphalen-Lippe	As above, additionally one of the most populated and economically important regions of the country
United Kingdom – England – SouthEast	UK – England – Thames Valley UK – England – Sussex, Kent	A region will a mass of sights and almost 20% of England’s population, it deserves a further split
Japan – Chugoku	Japan – Chugoku East Japan – Chugoku West	Japan is also undersplit based on its optimal and Chugoku one of the main still unsplit regions
Taiwan – all regions	Taiwan is still split in 3 regions but the allocation is changing as follows Taiwan North West Taiwan South Taiwan East	Northwest now includes Matsu and Kinmen; the less visited Eastern regions of Taiwan are now a different ‘new’ region.
Iran – Kish	Iran – Hormoz Strait islands	All islands in the area including Qeshm now form an Iran island region
Iran – North- Central including Tehran	Iran – Greater Tehran Iran – North-Central (Qom etc)	Tehran becomes a stand-alone region justified by its enormous size

Saudi Arabia – Al Qasim and Hal	Saudi Arabia – Al Qasim Saudi Arabia.- Hail	A further split in a country whose optimal is much larger than its NM regions
Bangladesh – Dhaka and Sylhet regions	Bangladesh – Greater Dhaka Bangladesh – Mymensingh, Sylhet and northern Dhaka province	Dhaka as a huge metropolis becomes a standalone NM region; the rest of Dhaka province is reallocated either to the ‘new’ region north, or south of the river together with Barisal and Khulna.
Pakistan – Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Pakistan – Khyber Pakhtunkhwa South Pakistan. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa North	In an undersplit country, NM now divides this region which is extremely varied geographically as well as culturally
Indonesia – Java West	Indonesia – Greater Jakarta Indonesia – Java West (except for Jakarta)	Jakarta, the world’s second largest urban agglomeration, is now a standalone NM region.
Philippines – Luzon Central (including Manila)	Philippines – Greater Manila Philippines – Luzon Central (except Manila)	Manila, the world’s fourth largest urban agglomeration, is now a standalone NM region
Algeria – Sahara East	Algeria – Sahara Central Algeria – Sahara Southeast	Undersplit Algeria (Africa’s largest country) gets an additional region which highlights its desert areas.
Nigeria – all regions except Lagos	Nigeria has been totally re-split; the ‘new region’ now – which you will have to mark if you have been there – is Nigeria - Northwest (Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara); please check all the regions to see how they have changed	Nigeria is also undersplit and is expected to soon be the world’s 5 th largest country by population; our new division also takes into account that Abuja itself does not deserve to be a standalone region, unlike Lagos
Chad – North	Chad – Ennedi & South Borkou Chad – Tibesti & North Borkou	Undersplit and culturally interesting Chad gets a 5 th split with Tibesti
Congo DR – Equateur	Congo DR – Equateur & Tshuapa Congo DR – Mongala & Ubangi	DR Congo taken together has the largest

		combination of territory & population; massively undersplit, NM is finally adding 3 regions to give it its full worth
Congo DR – Katanga	Congo DR– Haut-Katanga/Lualaba Congo DR – Tanganyika/Haut-Lomami	As above
Congo DR – Orientale	Congo DR – Tshopo (Kisangani) Congo DR – Ituri, Haut/Bas Uele	As above
Ethiopia – Amhara	Ethiopia – Amhara West Ethiopia – Amhara East	Undersplit and culturally interesting Ethiopia gets a split to Amhara, one of its most visited regions
USA – Alaska	Alaska is being reorganized and the ‘new’ region is Alaska – Interior (Fairbanks)	The Aleutians and Kodiak are now together with Alaska – South (Anchorage) on the Masterlist
USA – Arizona	USA – Arizona South USA – Arizona North	Undersplit US gets more splits to some of its largest and travel-significant states
USA – California	The ‘new region’ is California – Interior which takes in the Sierra Nevada and Desert areas from both North and South California regions	As above
USA – Nevada	USA – Nevada South USA – Nevada North	As above
Mexico – Yucatan and Quintana Roo	Mexico – Quintana Roo Mexico – Yucatan	Splitting two of Mexico’s largest states including tourist hub Quintana Roo getting its own region
Mexico – Central Highlands incl. Guanajuato	Mexico – Guanajuato Mexico – Central Highlands (Queretaro, Hidalgo)	A further split in the culturally significant heartland of Mexico
Bolivia – Potosi, Chiquisaca, Tarija	Bolivia – Chiquisaca, Tarija Bolivia – Tarija	Bolivia’s optimal is closer to 8 and so a 6 th split is the least NM can do to approach this.
Peru – South Sierra	Peru – Southern Sierra (Cusco) Peru – Central Sierra (Ayacucho)	Peru’s optimal is also higher so NM is adding a 9 th region to approach this

REGIONS WITH MINOR CHANGES TO THE MASTERLIST/MAPPING

Bosnia and Herzegovina	We have remapped this to make clear that the Odzak and Orasje-Domaljevac exclaves are part of the Federation; more substantially, we have moved the Una-Sana Canton to the Herzegovina region as it geographically better fits that.
Slovenia	Postojna region, statistically – rather oddly – is part of Slovenia-East, but for NomadMania it is now moved to the West, as this is what makes sense looking at the map.
Iraq	There have been minor changes to Kurdistan and Nineveh regions as we have realized what the exact areas of control are; for example Acre, even though technically in Nineveh province is in fact part of Kurdistan control now, so this has been reflected in our mapping; the effect of this is that if you have visited Lalish, this is in Kurdistan and can't count as a visit to the Arab-controlled areas which include Mosul.
Turkey	Reallocation of the provinces of Corum and Amasya to Black Sea Coast West and Tokat to Black Sea Coast East to reflect their historical divisions.
Morocco	Essaouira province shifts over to be included with Safi and Marrakesh rather than with the South Atlantic Coast region as it was until now
Guatemala	Minor changes to generally adhere to Guatemala's 8 divisions in regions; mainly Huehuetenango moving to the Central region, while Chimaltenango goes to the West/Pacific region. In general, Guatemala, like Honduras, has been extremely hard to split due to its topography and administrative divisions.
Peru	Two small changes; San Martin province goes to the Amazon region of Peru, which loses Ucayali province – the latter goes with Madre de Dios to form a much larger region.

REGIONS WITH CHANGES CONSIDERED BUT ULTIMATELY REJECTED

Greece – North Aegean Islands	Though Greece's optimal is 6.5 and the country has 9 regions (including Athos), this change was overruled as the 5 main islands of this region make up 3% of Greece's territory and they have significant religious and natural sights including 2 WHS.
Spain – Ceuta and Melilla	The proposal to merge this into one single Spanish Africa region was rejected, firstly as Spain's optimal is higher and second

	considering the large distance and strategic importance of the regions.
UK – Orkneys and Shetlands	The proposal to merge these was rejected as the island groups are very different.
Norway – Lofoten	Norway's optimal of 5.5 justifies this region and the considerable tourist appeal of this led the Committees to reject this
Sweden – Gotland	Similarly to the above in terms of reasoning.
Disputed – Golan Heights	This was one of the most difficult decisions as NomadMania in general wishes to avoid having disputed regions in our list. However ultimately it was decided that the historical importance of the region is such that it is more than just 'quirky'.
Malaysia - Penang	Despite a small size, the cultural wealth and tourist appeal of this region cannot be underestimated.
Colombia – San Andres & Providencia	Despite a very small size, this is very significant for regional tourism and is in fact in a different continent, as it is located in North America.
Brazil – Fernando de Noronha	A long discussion on this one; ultimately its iconic status for Brazilians swung in favour of keeping it on the MasterList despite its tiny size.
French Southern & Antarctic	This is by far the largest uninhabited territory – not including Antarctica itself, the territory is still more than 7,500 km ² . This led the Committees to keep it on the Masterlist.
Canada – Ellesmere/Victoria islands	The proposal to merge these vast sparsely inhabited areas was rejected due to the sheer size of the expanse and its eclectic tourist appeal.
Russia – Franz Josef Land, New Siberian islands, Novaya Zemlya, Severnaya Zemlya	These archipelagos are all considerable in size and form the backbone of our Arctic megaregion; though uninhabited, their size and strategic importance cannot be underestimated. Unlike Wrangel which is a single island, here we have a number of islands making up large archipelagos.