

## South Island

**Prelims** - Current events of International Importance

**Mains** - Important Geophysical Phenomenon

### Why in News?

A strong 6.7 magnitude earthquake struck off New Zealand's South Island recently.

- It is one of the **larger and southernmost of New Zealand** in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.
- **Straits** - South Island is separated from North Island to the north by **Cook Strait** and from Stewart Island to the south by **Foveaux Strait**.
- **Geography** - Mountainous terrain occupies almost three-quarters of South Island.
- It is dominated by the **Southern Alps** which divide the island and affect both climate and flora.
- The Alps divide the **Westland Plain from the Canterbury Plains**.
- **Fiordland National Park**, distinctive area with numerous coastal fjords (inlets) and high lakes is situated in this island.
  - It is part of the Te Wahipounamu **UNESCO World Heritage site**.



- **Lakes** - Lake Tekapo, Lake Wakatipu, and Lake Pukaki.
- **Urban areas** - Christchurch, Dunedin, and Invercargill.

## References

1. [Alzajeera | Earthquake in New Zealand's South Island](#)
2. [Britannica | South-Island-New-Zealand](#)

