

# Package ‘rpaleoclim’

May 9, 2026

**Title** Download Paleoclimate Data from 'PaleoClim'

**Version** 1.1.0

**Description** 'PaleoClim' <<http://www.paleoclim.org>> (Brown et al. 2019, <[doi:10.1038/sdata.2018.254](https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2018.254)>) is a set of free, high resolution paleoclimate surfaces covering the whole globe. It includes data on surface temperature, precipitation and the standard bioclimatic variables commonly used in ecological modelling, derived from the 'HadCM3' general circulation model and downscaled to a spatial resolution of up to 2.5 minutes. Simulations are available for key time periods from the Late Holocene to mid-Pliocene. Data on current and Last Glacial Maximum climate is derived from 'CHELSA' (Karger et al. 2017, <[doi:10.1038/sdata.2017.122](https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2017.122)>) and reprocessed by 'PaleoClim' to match their format; it is available at up to 30 seconds resolution. This package provides a simple interface for downloading 'PaleoClim' data in R, with support for caching and filtering retrieved data by period, resolution, and geographic extent.

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**URL** <https://rpaleoclim.joeroe.io>, <https://github.com/joeroe/rpaleoclim>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/joeroe/rpaleoclim/issues>

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**Imports** curl, fs, httr, rlang, terra (>= 1.5-12), utils

**Suggests** knitr, covr, raster (>= 3.5-1), testthat (>= 3.0.0),  
rmarkdown

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

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## Contents

load_paleoclim . . . . .	2
paleoclim . . . . .	2

<b>Index</b>	<b>4</b>
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load_paleoclim	<i>Load data from PaleoClim</i>
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### Description

Loads a PaleoClim data file (.zip format) into R as a SpatRaster.

### Usage

```
load_paleoclim(file, as = c("terra", "raster"))
```

### Arguments

file	Character. Path to a *.zip file downloaded from PaleoClim.
as	Character. as = "raster" returns a RasterStack object (see <a href="#">raster::stack()</a> ) instead of the default raster from the terra package. It is provided for backwards compatibility and will be removed in future versions. Requires the raster package.

### Value

SpatRaster object (see [terra::rast\(\)](#)) with each bioclimatic variable as a separate named layer.

### Examples

```
file <- system.file("testdata", "LH_v1_10m_cropped.zip",
                    package = "rpaleoclim")
load_paleoclim(file)
```

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paleoclim	<i>Retrieve data from PaleoClim</i>
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### Description

Downloads data from PaleoClim (<http://www.paleoclim.org>) and loads it into R as a SpatRaster object.

**Usage**

```
paleoclim(
  period = c("lh", "mh", "eh", "yds", "ba", "hs1", "lig", "mis19", "mpwp", "m2", "cur",
            "lgm"),
  resolution = c("10m", "5m", "2_5m", "30s"),
  region = NULL,
  as = c("terra", "raster"),
  skip_cache = FALSE,
  cache_path = fs::path_temp(),
  quiet = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

period	Character. Time period to retrieve.
resolution	Character. Resolution to retrieve.
region	SpatExtent object or object that can be coerced to SpatExtent (see <code>terra::ext()</code> ), describing the region to be retrieved. If NULL, defaults to the whole globe.
as	Character. <code>as = "raster"</code> returns a RasterStack object (see <code>raster::stack()</code> ) instead of the default raster from the terra package. It is provided for backwards compatibility and will be removed in future versions. Requires the raster package.
skip_cache	Logical. If TRUE, cached data will be ignored.
cache_path	Logical. Path to directory where downloaded files should be saved. Defaults to R's temporary directory.
quiet	Logical. If TRUE, suppresses messages and download progress information.

**Details**

See <http://www.paleoclim.org> for details of the datasets and codings. Data at 30s resolution is only available for 'cur' and 'lgm'.

By default, `paleoclim()` will read previously downloaded files in R's temporary directory if available. Use `skip_cache = TRUE` to override this. `cache_path` can also be set to another directory. This can be useful if you want to reuse downloaded data between sessions.

**Value**

SpatRaster object (see `terra::rast()`) with each bioclimatic variable as a separate named layer.

**Examples**

```
paleoclim("lh", "10m")
```

# Index

`load_paleoclim`, 2

`paleoclim`, 2

`raster::stack()`, 2, 3

`terra::ext()`, 3

`terra::rast()`, 2, 3