

Snow Hill

64°22'S, 56°59'W - North coast of Snow Hill Island, at Admiralty sound (Weddell Sea).

Key features

- Wooden hut of the expedition led by Otto Nordenskjöld (1902)
- Presence of basalt dikes



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

The hut is found on the northeast coast of Snow Hill Island. The relief is characterized by three distinct units: the topography gradually rises from the coastline to the 5-10m contour in terraced sedimentary levels. On one of these is found the Nordenskjöld hut. From there up to the 170m contour, the relief consists of steep slopes (15-40°), which are highly dissected by deep fluvial valleys. This area has abundant fossils of marine origin and is traversed by basalt dikes that run NE-SW. Due to their greater resistance to erosion, these constitute important topographic features. The most important feature is Haslum Crag, a small volcanic neck. At the 170m contour, the topography descends gradually to the Weddell Sea.

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: 3-5 nests of kelp gull (*Larus dominicanus*) and Antarctic tern (*Sterna vittata*) 500 meters northeast of the hut on the northwest facing slope.

FLORA

Virtually absent.

OTHER

Wooden hut on Snow Hill Island built in February 1902 by the main party of the Swedish South Polar Expedition led by Otto Nordenskjöld. It was designated as Historical Site and Monument number 38 in the framework of the Antarctic Treaty. The hut contains original objects from the expedition and functions as a living museum, which is managed by Argentina and Sweden.

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

Some acts of vandalism in the hut's interior have been recorded.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Worsening of erosive processes -naturally rapid in the area of the location of the hut- due to trampling. Fire. Small fuel leaks.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Ships carrying 500 or fewer passengers**. One ship at a time. Ships should contact the hut with 24 hours of anticipation to confirm the visit.

VISITORS

No more than 100 visitors ashore at any time. Maximum visitor numbers are exclusive of expedition guides and leaders. One guide for every 20 visitors. Visits to the hut may only be made with the prior agreement of the head of the hut. Visits to the interior of the hut should be conducted in groups of no more than 5 persons at a time. No visitors to the hut between 19:00hrs and 08:00hrs (local time).

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

On the beach facing the hut, northeast of the Comerci channel (see map).

CLOSED AREAS

Closed Area A: The northeast and southwestern ends of the small terrace on which the hut is located, to avoid the acceleration of erosive processes. These areas are clearly marked with stakes and rope.
Closed Area B: The entire area with steep slopes, with the exception of the ascending path. This area has important paleontological deposits.

GUIDED WALKING AREAS

Visitors should use the path that is shown in the map to go to the hut and return to the landing area. To climb the terrace on which the hut is found, they should use the stairs. More than 10 persons at a time are not permitted on the terrace on which the hut is located. Ascent of the slope that is behind the hut will be carried out using the path (see map) marked by a row of flags. The final section has a fixed rope to assist visitors in completing the ascent. Given that the slope is steep, groups that use the path cannot exceed 10 people at a time and should be assisted by a guide***.

FREE ROAMING AREAS

Visitors can move freely under supervision along the glaciofluvial plain around the landing site and extending southwest of the Comerci channel (see map). The free roaming area ends at the slope ridge.

* A ship is defined as a vessel which carries more than 12 passengers.

** For ships with more than 200 passengers aboard, ascent to the terrace on which the hut is located, as well as entry into the hut, is restricted.

*** Visitors that engage in any of these activities do so on their own account and at their own risk. Argentina and Sweden will not assume responsibility for any personal injury or material damages that visitors might incur.

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Visitor Code of Conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

Be careful around the hut and on the small terrace on which it sits. Do not step on, move or damage the structures built to prop up the foundations of the hut. Before entering the hut, visitors should clean their boots. Removing snow and humidity from clothes and backpacks is recommended. Do not touch any object that is on display or the personal items of people living in the hut or in associated camps. Smoking is strictly prohibited. Collection of fossils or any other type of material from the ground is prohibited.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

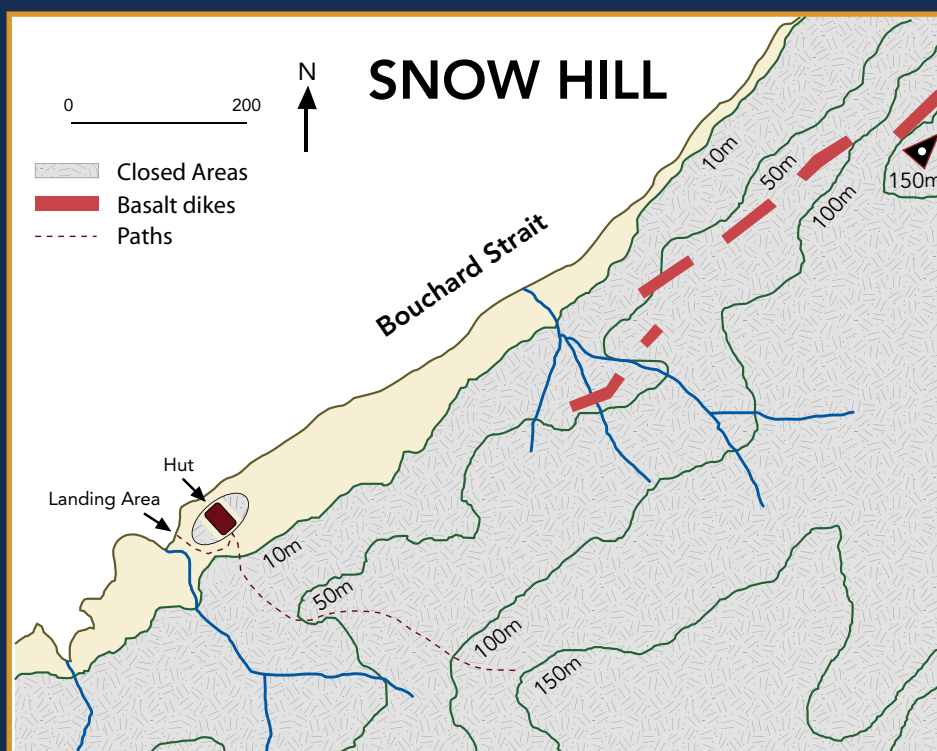
Be extremely cautious when climbing the slope southeast of the hut.



View of the hut and surrounding areas



Details about the hut



Map of the location of the Nordenskjöld hut