



# D'Hainaut Island, Mikkelsen Harbour, Trinity Island

63°54'S, 60°47'W

## Key features

- Gentoo Penguins
- Whaling Artefacts
- Argentine Refuge



## Description

### TOPOGRAPHY

D'Hainaut Island is a small, largely flat, rocky island (less than 1 sq km). The island is situated in Mikkelsen Harbour a 3km wide bay, lined with ice cliffs, indenting the south side of Trinity Island between Skottsberg and Borge Point. The island is often snow covered until late in the season and there are a number of shallow reefs in the waters surrounding the island.

### FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Gentoo penguins (*Pygoscelis papua*) snowy sheathbills (*Chionis alba*), skuas (*Catharacta* spp.), Dominican gulls (*Larus dominicanus*), Antarctic terns (*Sterna vittata*). Weddell Seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) and Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*) frequently haul out and crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophagus*) and leopard Seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) are regularly sighted in the vicinity.

### FLORA

Snow algae may be extensive in late summer. Moss spp., *Prasiola crispa*, *Xanthoria* spp., *Caloplaca* spp. and *Verrucaria* spp. noted.

### OTHER

There is a small Argentine refuge on the island. In addition, there is a large pile of whalebones and a whalers' water boat located on the northeast shore of the island.

## Visitor impacts

### KNOWN IMPACTS

None known.

### POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of wildlife. Disturbance of historic artefacts.

## Landing Requirements

### SHIPS\*

Ships\* carrying 500 or fewer passengers (however, note visitor restrictions below). One ship at a time. Maximum 3 ships per day (midnight to midnight) but a maximum of 2 ships carrying between 201-500 passengers.

### VISITORS

No more than 100 visitors ashore at any time, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders.

## Visitor Area

### LANDING AREA

The recommended landing is the north east beach in the vicinity of the whalebones and waterboat. There are several possible alternative landing points around the island as tide and snow conditions will dictate access.

If unable to land at the primary landing site, care should be taken to select a landing site away from penguin breeding areas.

### CLOSED AREAS

None.

### GUIDED WALKING AREAS

None.

### FREE ROAMING AREAS

Visitors may roam freely around the island, while taking care in the vicinity of the historic artefacts.

## Visitor code of conduct

### BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

Walk slowly and carefully. Maintain a precautionary distance of 5 metres from wildlife and give animals the right-of-way. Increase this distance if any change in behaviour is observed.

Avoid walking in the deep snow pathways created by penguins.

Care should be taken not to disturb historic artefacts.

The refuge is not to be entered except in the case of an emergency.

### CAUTIONARY NOTES

Boat drivers should be aware of shallow, rocky approaches to the landing beach.

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



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