



Petermann Island

65°10'S, 64°10'W - Located in the Penola Strait, south of Hovgaard Island.

Key features

- Gentoo and Adélie Penguins
- Blue-eyed Shags
- Mountainous Scenery
- Cairn (Historic Site and Monument No. 27) and Commemorative Cross.



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

This 1km-long island rises up to approximately 150 metres above sea level. An ice-cap covers part of the northwestern end of the island and a potentially crevassed permanent ice-slope largely covers the southern end of the island. Many small cobbled bays indent its coastline, with nearly continuous rocky outcrops along the shore.

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Adélie penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*), gentoo penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*), blue-eyed shag (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*), Wilson's storm petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*), snowy sheathbill (*Chionis alba*), and south polar skua (*Catharacta maccormicki*).

FLORA

Deschampsia antarctica; swards of moss species; *Xanthoria* spp., *Caloplaca* spp., and other crustose lichens; and the green alga *Prasiola crispa* are present. Snow algae may be extensive.

OTHER

On the site there is an Argentine refuge hut. A commemorative cross and Historic Site and Monument No. 27 is also located on the site.

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

None.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of wildlife and trampling of vegetation.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Ships carrying 500 or fewer passengers. One ship at a time. Maximum 3 ships per day (midnight to midnight), of which no more than 2 may be vessels carrying more than 200 passengers.

VISITORS

No more than 100 visitors ashore at any time, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders. 1 guide per 20 visitors. No visitors ashore between 22:00hrs and 04:00hrs (local time), except for those engaged in organised overnight stays. This is in order to establish a resting period for the wildlife.

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

Along the shoreline in Port Circumcision.

CLOSED AREAS

Closed Area A: Breeding Adélie penguins and blue-eyed shags in the vicinity of the basaltic dyke at the northeastern tip of the island.

Closed Area B: Breeding Adélie penguins at higher elevations northwest of Port Circumcision.

Closed Area C: Southwestern end of the island, with breeding skuas, gentoo penguins and Wilson's storm petrels, and vegetation.

GUIDED WALKING AREAS

Visit to the Historic Site and Monument on Megalestris Hill or to the view point at the southern end of the island should be in guided groups.

FREE ROAMING AREAS

Visitors may roam freely, but under close supervision, except in the closed or guided walking areas. Given the irregular topography at this site, guides should be aware that it is more difficult to ensure the necessary supervision of visitors. Note that the area north of Closed Areas A and B has less room for visitors, and a higher likelihood of disruption to the wildlife. Therefore, guides should discourage visits to this area.

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



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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.

Be careful near skuas. They may be aggressive.

Do not walk on any vegetation.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

Do not enter the refuge hut or damage, remove or destroy the designated Antarctic Historic Site and Monument, or the commemorative cross.

Respect scientific and monitoring activities.



Petermann Island - refuge hut, historical features and scientific activities



Commemorative cross



Blue eyed shags in the vicinity of the basaltic dyke (NE Petermann Island)

