



Turret Point

62°05'S, 57°55'W - Eastern end of King George Island

Key features

- Southern Giant Petrels
- Blue-eyed Shags
- Chinstrap and Adélie Penguins
- Southern Elephant Seals
- Glacial Outwash Plain



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

Turret Point is marked by conspicuous rock stacks that form the eastern limit of King George Bay west of Three Sisters Point. There is a cobble beach on the southern coast and melt pools inland. The beach gently slopes to an extensive, heavily crevassed glacier.

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Adélie penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*), chinstrap penguin (*Pygoscelis antarctica*), southern giant petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*), kelp gull (*Larus dominicanus*), blue-eyed shag (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*), and Antarctic tern (*Sterna vittata*). Suspected breeders: Skuas (*Catharacta, spp.*) and snowy sheathbill (*Chionis alba*). Regularly wallow and haul out: southern elephant seal (*Mirounga leonina*), Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) and Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*).

FLORA

Swards of moss species, the lichens *Xanthoria spp.*, *Caloplaca spp.* and other crustose lichens.

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

None.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Trampling of vegetation en route to the glacier and disturbance of wildlife, particularly southern giant petrels.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Ships carrying 200 or fewer passengers. One ship at a time. Maximum 2 ships per day (midnight to midnight).

VISITORS

No more than 100 visitors ashore at once, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders. 1 guide per 20 visitors. No visitors ashore between 22:00hrs and 04:00hrs (local time). This is in order to establish a rest period for wildlife.

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

Primary: along an exposed broad cobble beach to the south, which may be packed with ice.

Secondary: to the west. If this is used, be sure to stay clear of nesting sites for southern giant petrel at both ends of the beach (Closed Areas A and B).

CLOSED AREAS

Closed Area A: Biodiverse fragile area including nesting southern giant petrels, kelp gulls, chinstrap penguins, blue-eyed shags and elephant seals wallows.

Closed Area B: Nesting southern giant petrels.

Closed Area C: Elevated area above the beach with nesting southern giant petrels.

GUIDED WALKING AREAS

Visitors to the glacier should be guided in small groups following the streambed to avoid trampling of vegetation.

FREE ROAMING AREAS

Visitors may roam freely, but under supervision, between the landing beaches, avoiding the closed areas.

* 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.

When on the same level as, or higher than, nesting southern giant petrels maintain a precautionary distance of at least 50 metres. Increase this distance if any change in the birds' behaviour is observed.

Be careful near Antarctic fur seals, they may be aggressive.

Do not walk on any vegetation.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

While weather conditions can change rapidly anywhere in the Antarctic, this location is particularly prone to such changes.



Turret Point from above - towards the primary landing beach



The glacial melt stream is clearly visible in times of limited snow and ice cover



Vegetation is scattered across the site

