

Yankee Harbour

62°32'S, 59°47'W - South-western Greenwich Island.

ANTARCTIC TREATY

visitor site guide



Key features

- Gentoo Penguins
- Open walking areas
- Artefacts from sealing operations



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

A small glacial-edged harbour, enclosed by a curved gravel spit. A large terraced beach area includes a melt-pool to the east. Beyond the beach, steep scree slopes rise to a rugged knife-edge summit.

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Gentoo penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*) and skuas (*Catharacta, spp.*). Suspected breeders: Snowy sheathbill (*Chionis alba*) and Wilson's storm-petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*). Regularly haul out: Southern elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*), Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*), and Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*).

FLORA

Deschampsia antarctica, *Colobanthus quitensis*, swards of moss species, *Xanthoria spp.* and other crustose lichens, and the green alga *Prasiola crispa*.

OTHER

Artefacts from early sealing activities may be found along the inner shoreline.

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

None.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of wildlife, damage to the sealing remains and trampling vegetation.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Ships carrying 500 or fewer passengers. One ship at a time. No more than 3 ships carrying more than 200 passengers 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), 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 gravel spit, preferably on the inside.

CLOSED AREAS

Raised terraces above the melt pool with nesting gentoo penguins and the scree slopes above.

GUIDED WALKING AREAS

None.

FREE ROAMING AREAS

Visitors may roam freely under supervision anywhere on the site, except for the closed area. Longer walks are possible along the curved spit, towards the glacial moraine on the southeastern side, and towards the glacier in the northeast.

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 Antarctic fur seals, they may be aggressive. Do not walk on any vegetation.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

Be careful around the sealing remains to avoid damage and do not move any artefacts. Be careful of the wires around the navigational mast. Be aware that glacier calving may produce dangerous waves.

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

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Yankee Harbour from above: showing the gravel spit enclosing the landing beach



Yankee Harbour landing site



Artefacts from early sealing activities (a trypot) found on the inner shoreline

