

Northeast beach of Ardley Island

62° 12'S, 58° 55'W

Beach sector between Faro Point and Braillard Point, on the Northeast coast of Ardley Island, Maxwell Bay, King George Island, South Shetland Islands.

Key features

- Gentoo and Adèle penguins



Description

Topography

A cobble beach extending approximately 500 metres, between two rocky points (Faro and Braillard), gently sloping up to the foot of rocky outcrops situated inland. On the western half of the site, these mark a clearly defined change of slope, which becomes less evident towards the eastern half.

Fauna

Confirmed breeders: Gentoo penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*) and Adèle penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*).

Other species, such as chinstrap penguins (*Pygoscelis antarctica*), Southern giant petrels (*Macronectes giganteus*), kelp gulls (*Larus dominicanus*), skuas (*Catharacta* spp.), Antarctic terns (*Sterna vittata*), Wilson's and black-bellied storm petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*, *Fregetta tropica*) and Cape petrels (*Daption capensis*) are usually observed, given that all these species breed in the surroundings of the site.

Regularly haul out: Southern elephant seal (*Mirounga leonina*), Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*) and Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddelli*).

Flora

Polychromatic lichen associations can be found on the outcrop walls. Small patches of mosses and the green alga *Prasiola crispa* can be found on some areas close to the shoreline.

Other

The whole Ardley Island, except for this site, is an Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASP No. 150) under the Antarctic Treaty. Therefore, entry is prohibited without permit issued by an Antarctic National Competent Authority. Diverse scientific activities are carried out in the island and it is usual to meet researchers in this site.

Visitor impacts

Known impacts

Disturbance of fauna and trampling of vegetation.

Potential impacts

Additional disturbance of fauna.

Landing requirements

Visitors

No more than 20 visitors ashore at any time, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders. Preferably 1 guide per 10 visitors. Personnel from stations located in the surroundings of Ardley should be briefed in, and follow the provisions of these Guidelines.

Visitor areas

Landing area

Access only by sea, at Faro Point, the site's westernmost point, just below the lighthouse.

Closed areas

Entry into the ASP No. 150 is prohibited without a permit.

Guided walking areas

Visitors should be guided all along the site. Special care should be taken around the first outcrops of Braillard Point, in order to avoid entry into the ASPA No. 150. This sector's topography does not allow for a clear recognition of the site's southern limit, which is given by the presence of the first line of penguin nests to the South and East.

Free roaming areas

None

Visitor code of conduct

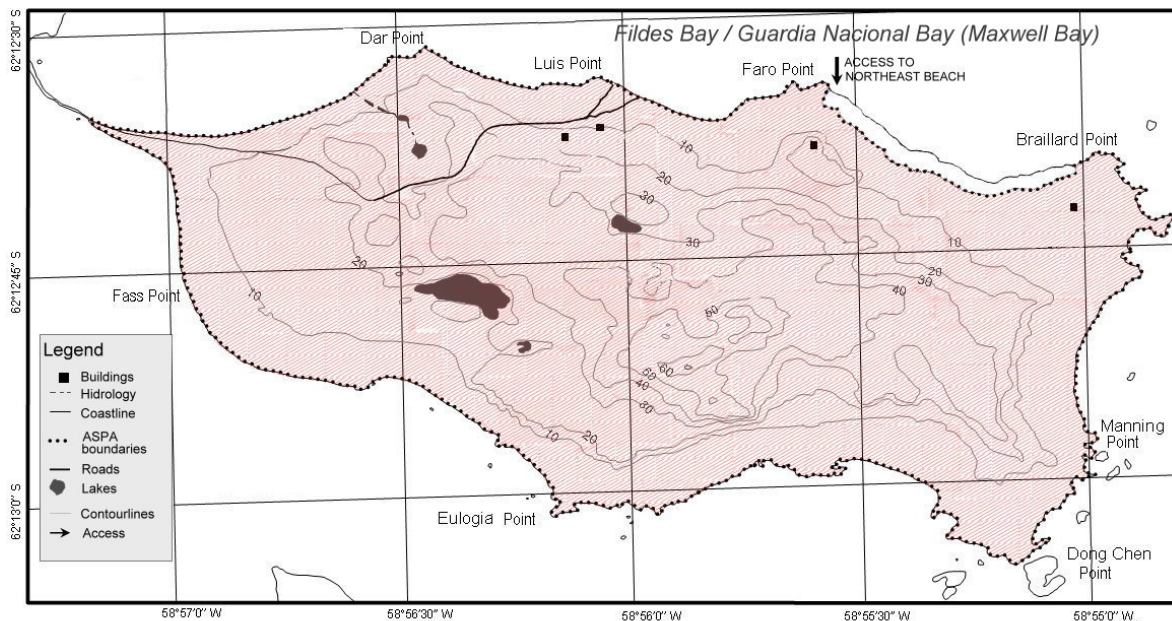
Behaviour ashore

- Walk slowly and carefully. Maintain a precautionary distance of at least 5 metres from penguins or other birds, and increase this distance if any change in behaviour is observed. Animals should never be touched.
- Avoid disrupting penguin routes to and from the sea. Always give animals the right-of-way.
- Do not walk on any vegetation.
- Be careful near fur seals, they may be aggressive. Keep at least 15m distance.
- Respect conduct of scientific activities. Avoid interrupting researchers at work.

Cautionary notes

- Differences between low and high tide at the site may be higher than 2m. Check tide tables when planning visits to the site.
- When approaching the landing site at low tide, be particularly careful, since big boulders are present in the bottom.
- Four different huts can be seen from the visitor's site, but these lie beyond its boundaries, inside the Antarctic Specially Protected Area. These huts should not be used, except in cases of emergency.

Reviewed: 2011



MAP SOURCE
Topographical map 1:2.000
developed by the Joint Project
INACH-IGM N° 153, 2005

Projection: UTM
Datum & Ellipsoide: WGS84
HUSO-21

**Ardley Peninsula
(Ardley Island)**

0 100 400 Meters
Contourlines each 10 m

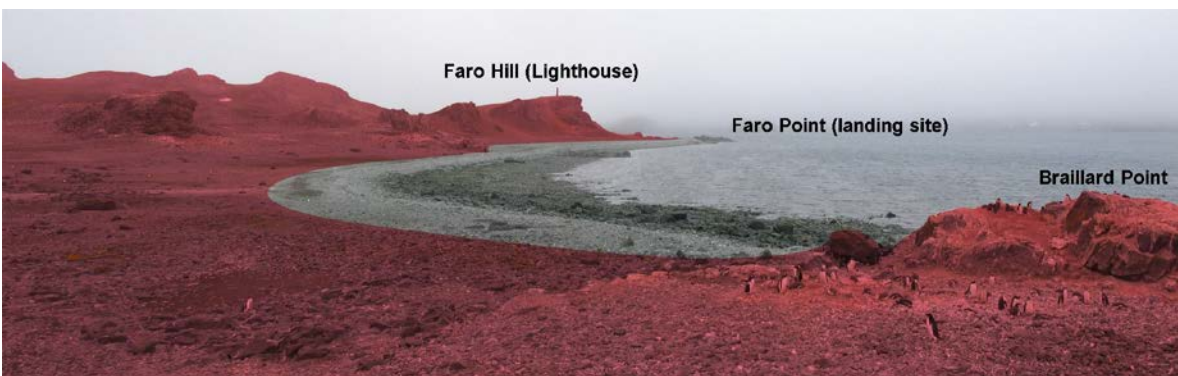
Map of Ardley Peninsula (Ardley Island) showing the visitor site in white, and the access point. Visitors must remain strictly within this coastal strip.



View to the site from Faro Hill. Entry into the ASPA (red area) is prohibited without a permit.



View to the site from Faro Point, the landing point to visit this site. Entry into the ASPA (red area) is prohibited without a permit



View to the site from South of Brallard Point, eastern area of the Northeast beach in Ardley Peninsula (Ardley Island). Entry into the ASPA (red area) is prohibited without a permit.