Tay Head (Draft)

Possible landing area: 63° 20' 50" S, 55° 32' 46.42 W

Key Features

- Adelie penguins
- Fur seals
- Weddell seals



guide

Description



TOPOGRAPHY

visitor site

Tay Head is a tombolo, or isthmus, that extends from the southern shore of the 40 nm long Joinville Island. Vessels have landed on the East side of the head, but ice can pack in quickly. The landing is fairly straightforward at higher tides, onto smooth gravel beaches, however lower tides reveal rocks and reefs, and an alternate landing may be needed at very low tides.

Landing beaches are found on the East and West sides. From the eastern landing beach, it is approximately .4km (0.25 mi) on flat ground to the Adelie colony.

The Tay Head isthmus is comprised of rock, mud, and rubble that extends approximately 1 km (0.62 mi) from the glacier faces of Joinville Island. The bedrock is primarily composed of Sandstone and Quartzite.

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Adelie penguins, Kelp gull, Brown skua

Regularly sighted: Antarctic tern, Snowy sheathbill, Gentoo penguin, Chinstrap penguin, Wilson's storm petrel, Antarctic shag, Southern giant petrel, South Polar skua

Occasionally sighted: Snow petrel, Cape petrel, Northern giant petrel, Emperor penguin

Regularly hauled out: Antarctic fur seal, Weddell seal



TAATO

Visitor Impact

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of wildlife.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS'

Maximum passengers onboard: 500

Ships per day: 3

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

LANDING AREA

There are shoals on the eastern landing site (63° 20' 50" S, 55° 32' 46.42 W) at low tide.

The walk from the eastern beach is relatively flat and straightforward.

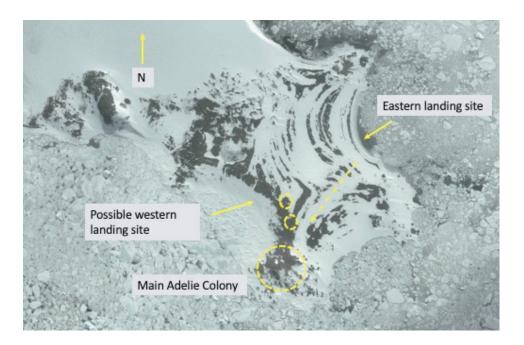
RISK TO VISITOR SAFETY

When operating amongst sea ice or icebergs, be vigilant to local sea and wind currents. Be alert to ice movement in relation to your operation and how it may affect both vessel and shore operations.

Be aware that grounded icebergs will experience a gravitational change with tidal variation. This makes them more unpredictable and more likely to calve or break up.

FREE ROAMING AREAS

Staff should remain vigilant for ground nesting birds when selecting free roaming areas. Maintain appropriate distances from perimiters of main penguin colony.



Historical Information

Tay Head was the site of a past glacial beach scientific study, found with the following citation. Simms, A. et al (2021) Evidence for a "Little Ice Age" glacial advance within the Antarctic Peninsula – Examples from glaciallyoverrun raised beaches.

The Adelie colony formerly qualified as an IBA (Important Bird Area). As numbers of breeding pairs of Adelie Penguins here have declined, it no longer qualifies. (Estimates from: 2002, 17,500 breeding pairs; 2006, 6450; 2010, 4156; 2021, 6769)

The site is named after the Firth of Tay, Scotland.