

Kerr Point (Draft)

Kerr point is located East side of Rongé island, off the coast of Graham Land, between Cuverville and Danco island.

Landing site: 64°42'21.73"S
62°38'10.06"W

Ship's Anchorage: 64°42'5.68"S
62°37'30.53"W

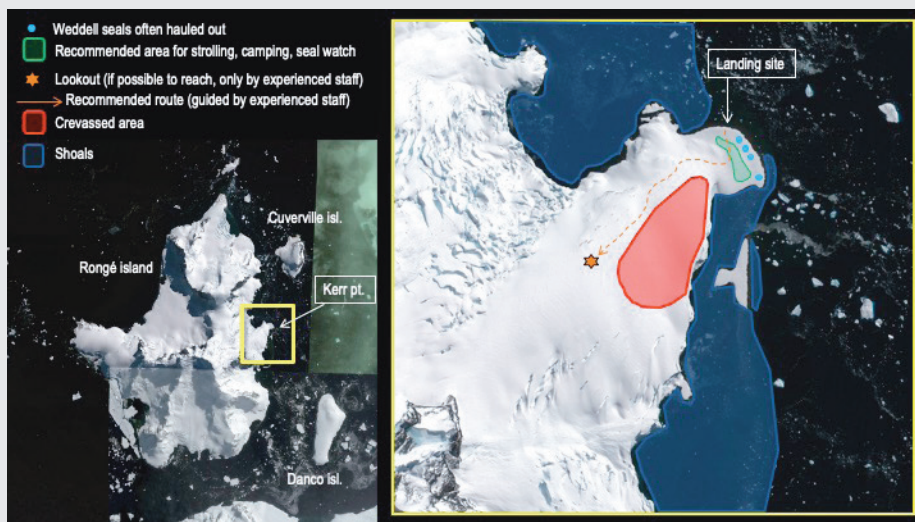
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visitor site guide



Key Features

- Weddell seals (occasional)
- Silence, solitude
- View point
- Good area for camping, quiet and well sheltered from elements (evaluate snow slope for stability)



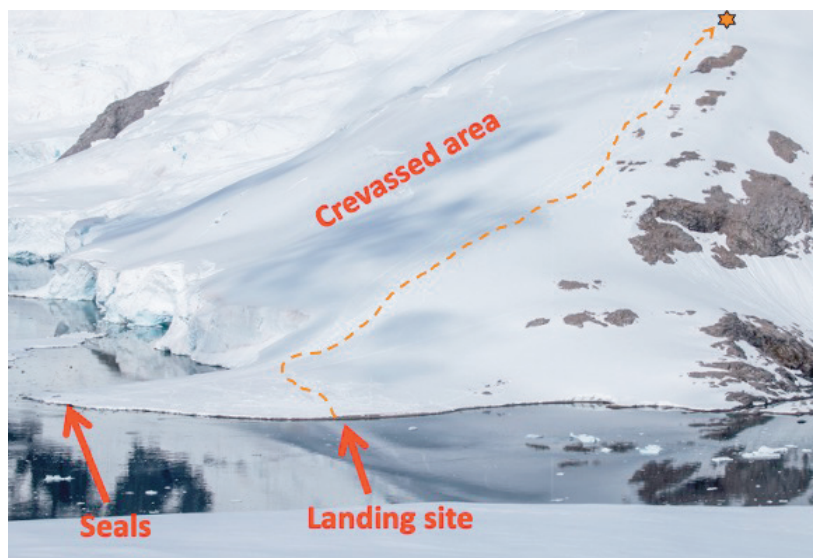
Description

TOPOGRAPHY

The site, often easily accessible is small but sheltered and offers great view on the Arctowski Peninsula, Cuverville and Danco islands. It is quiet and often Weddell seals are hauled out. This is a popular spot for camping and possibly some mountaineering activities.

The coastline all around is shallow with sunken rocks and medium to large size boulders, which makes landing difficult and unstable. The favorable place to land is located on the Northern part of the point.

The point is about 200m (650ft) wide and 100m (325ft) deep, covered by a thin and permanent layer of snow above a flat layer of boulders. The point is bounded North and South by glacial ice fronts and the flat area ends West with a steep snow slope going up around 25% / 30% incline.



FAUNA

No confirmed breeders.

Pinnipeds often hauled out: Weddell seal and very few fur seals even late in the season

Occasional visitors: Penguins and other birdlife

Cetaceans: Humpbacks are regular visitors in the Errera Channel

Visitor Impact

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of Weddell seals. They can gather in large numbers.

Conditions for landing need to be assessed on a case by case basis.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Maximum 3 ships per day, with no more than 2 being Category 2.

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

VISITOR NUMBERS

Maximum of 100 guests ashore (excluding guides) – Expedition Leader to assess site and reduce maximum number of guests ashore to ensure that wildlife is not impacted (recommend 60 passengers when seals are present as long as minimum distances can be kept). When there are no Weddell seals hauled out, this site can be managed with 100 guests.

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

There are shoals upon approach. The seabed on the Southern coast of the point and the Southeast is not accessible due to boulders the Northern coast is more accessible.

Monitor the tide to avoid the shoals. The preferred place for landing is somewhere on the Northern/Eastern corner of the point. Where you land depends also on the tide, as the coast is scattered with boulders.

The areas of the seabed North and South of the point closer to the ice front are very shallow, with boulders and shoals which can block access.

There may be a lot of Weddell seals resting on the point, and they can be quite spread therefore making landings impossible. Always maintain minimum distances from wildlife and back away at any sign of disturbance.

VISITOR SAFETY

Landing passengers will take time due to the nature of the boulder beach. The walking is easier once on snow.

Excursions up the snow slope must be accompanied with experienced staff for crevassed areas. Stay close to the rocky ridge to minimize the risk.

Glaciers surrounding are of small size. However, if a bigger calving event occurs this might produce a mini tsunami over the shoals and around the coastline.

The point is not far from the Northern side of Errera channel where tidal current moves in an axis North/South, bringing. The area can become iced in quickly.



GUIDED WALKING AREA

Guided Walk with appropriate crevasse trained guides: route to the viewpoint follows a route sticking to the ridge of the snow slope, close to the rocks that you leave to your left-hand side going up.

Approximate area of the viewpoint: 64°42'34.69"S 62°38'40.18"W, about 800m long walk (2600ft) starting from the landing site.

FREE ROAMING AREA

On the flat area

Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

- Aid on the boulders around the landing area to disembark and embark the passengers from/to the zodiacs as the terrain is very uneven.
- Monitoring of wildlife disturbance will be needed.

