

38. Point Wild

61°06'00"S, 54°52'00"W
the North Coast of Elephant Island

ANTARCTIC TREATY

visitor site guide



Key Features

- Narrow rocky and gravel point
- Chinstrap penguin colony, mosses & lichens
- Site of Sir Ernest Shackleton's shipwrecked Endurance expedition
- Location of HSM 53 Bust of Captain Luis Alberto Pardo
- Frequently grounded icebergs



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

A small, low lying, narrow, sand and rock point, rising to a small rock outcrop at the northerly end. Steep tidewater glaciers and cliffs fringe the point. Large icebergs often ground on off shore pinnacles.

FAUNA

Wilson's storm-petrel - Suspected Breeders, Snowy sheathbill - Suspected Breeders, Humpback Whale - Seen off-shore, Finback whale - Seen off-shore, Cetaceans - Seen off-shore, Weddell seal - Seen near-shore, Leopard seal - Seen near-shore, Antarctic fur seal - Regularly haul out, Humpback whale - Present late in the season, Finback whale - Present late in the season, Cetaceans - Present late in the season, Kelp gull - Confirmed breeders, Chinstrap Penguin - Confirmed breeders, Antarctic tern - Confirmed breeders

FLORA

Small patches of bearded and crustose lichen species including *Xanthoria* spp., *Buellia* spp., *Caloplaca* spp., *Usnea* spp.

OTHER

The site is the location where the crew of Sir Ernest Shackleton's shipwrecked Endurance expedition camped for four months until rescued in August 1916 by the Chilean Naval vessel Yelcho, commanded by Captain Luis Alberto Pardo. It is the location of HSM 53 which consists of a Bust of Captain Pardo, a monolith and plaques celebrating his rescue of Shackleton's men.

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

None known.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance to wildlife and damage to historic artefacts.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS

Max pax on board: 500

Ships per day: 2

VISITORS

Maximum number of passengers at any time, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders: 30

Curfew time period (from/to), in order to establish a rest period for wildlife: 22:00-04:00

Comments: No more than 30 visitors at any time, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders. However, this is principally a small boat cruising site with occasional opportunistic landings at low tide.

If landing, see Landing Area guidance below.

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

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Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

Landings are often prohibited by the local conditions, and need to be considered on an opportunistic basis, usually with no more than one small boat at a time, depending on sea state, weather conditions and presence of wildlife.

CLOSED AREA

None.

GUIDED WALKING AREA

If setting foot ashore this should be done in small, closely guided groups (of up to 15 visitors) avoiding disturbing any wildlife present.

FREE ROAMING AREA

None.

Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

Artefacts should not be handled or removed from the site. Do not sit on chairs or other furniture, or lay objects down on tables or work surfaces.

If a historic artifact is found, draw it to the attention of a guide: do not disturb or remove it.

All visits are to be conducted in accordance with the General Guidelines for Visitors to the Antarctic.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

Small boat drivers should be aware of submerged rocks and foul waters surrounding the point, in particular to the north and along the eastern shores.

Be aware that glacier or iceberg calving may produce dangerous waves.

COMMENTS

The rock outcrop at the southern part of the point, and the isthmus accessible at low tide connecting the point to the main island.

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