

Enterprise Island (Draft)

The main landing area on Enterprise:
64° 32' 21" S 61° 59' 37" W

Pythia Island possible landing area:
64° 32' 22" S 61° 58' 49" W

Peer Sites: Foyen Harbour

IAATO

visitor site guide



Key Features

- Visiting Governøren Harbour with the wreck of the Governøren
- Downhill skiing, snowshoeing with appropriate permits and experienced guides
- Possible site for a short overnight stay
- Opportunistic marine mammal viewing



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

Enterprise island is a low-lying island to the north of Nansen Island. Smaller scattered islands lie to the east and south forming areas for anchorages in what is known as Foyen Bay. A small indent in Enterprise Island forms Governøren Harbour with the wreck of the Governøren. This and other sheltered areas around the islands are still used today for anchorages.

The main landing is on the eastern side of the island. This landing is a low-lying snow shelf with exposed rocks at the waterline depending on the time of year. The shelf is approximately 100M wide and makes for a straightforward transition and access point to the slopes behind leading to the island's high point.

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Antarctic shags, Antarctic terns (inside Governøren wreck)

Present: Brown skua, Wilson's storm petrel, Kelp gull, Weddell seal, Crabeater seal, Antarctic fur seal

Occasional: Chinstrap penguin, Humpback whale, Minke whale

Visitor Impact

Transitional impacts of short duration include tracks, footprints and marks on the snow.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Maximum passengers onboard: 500

Ships per day: 3

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

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

All areas on the eastern side of the Island especially between Thor Island and Enterprise Island should be assessed for tidal state before departing.

VISITOR SAFETY

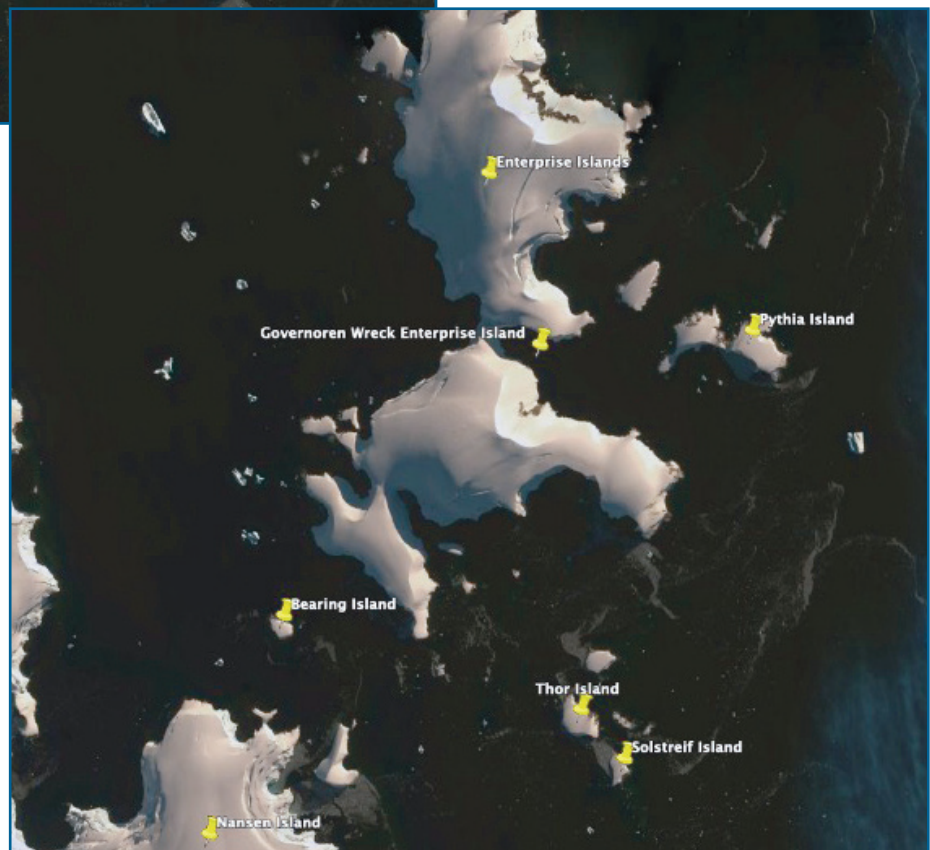
Avalanche Terrain – Avalanches have been observed and photographed in the area – mostly on the eastern slopes of Enterprise Island. Avalanche terrain should be recognised and mitigation techniques employed to minimise risk. Avoidance or using qualified guides for snowpack and terrain assessment, avalanche equipment for rescue.

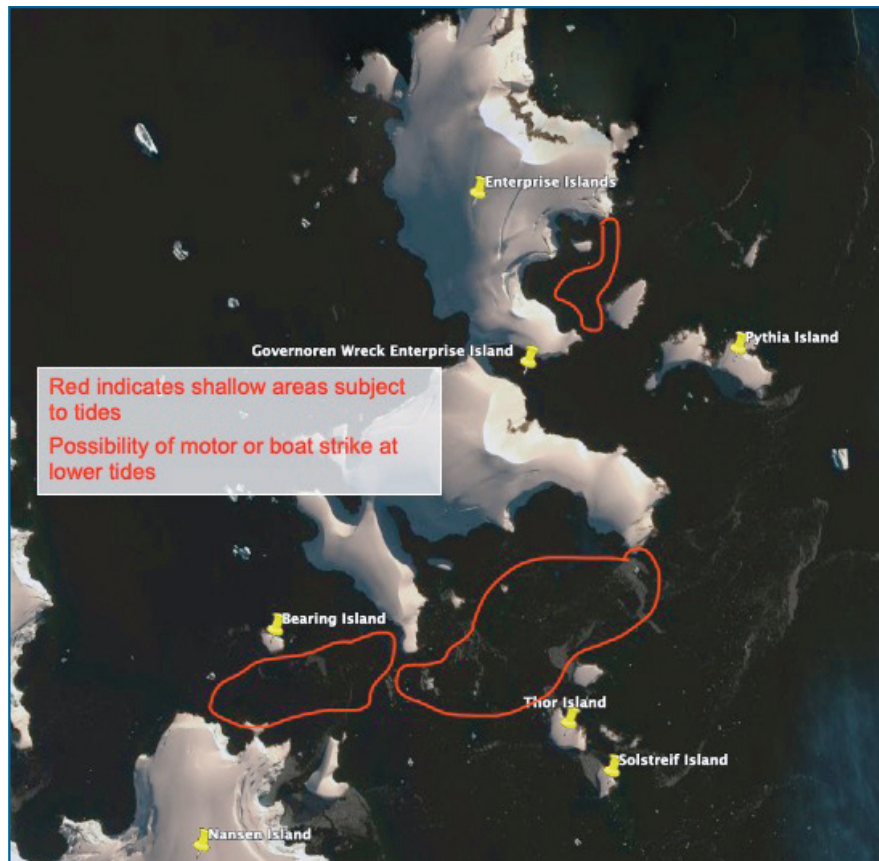
Icefall risk and Tsunami danger zones – avalanche and icefall are possible especially on the eastern slopes of Enterprise Island. This has resulted in incidents with near misses from tsunamis and propelled ice shrapnel. A zodiac has been flipped due to a

tsunami type wave. Shallow areas at low tide would exacerbate the wave height and risk of breaking waves. Small, grounded bergs and ice add to the impact risk to small boats. Boat drivers should plan routes to allow an escape route. The wreck area is frequently visited and has avalanche terrain and icefall danger. Landings and Zodiac cruising to be undertaken with assessment by qualified guides and staff.

Crevasses – Enterprise has several areas of large crevasses. The smaller islands including Pythia should be assessed for crevasse risk at every landing. Mitigation including the use of ropes and harnesses for glacier travel should be considered.

In early Summer, large areas of brash and bergs may accumulate making zodiac cruising slow or impossible. Wind changes can push ice into the area from Bancroft bay rapidly. Wind and ice conditions should be assessed before excursions.





RESTRICTED ZONES

Visitors should not get on the Gouvernøren wreck.

Refer to Visitor Safety section above.

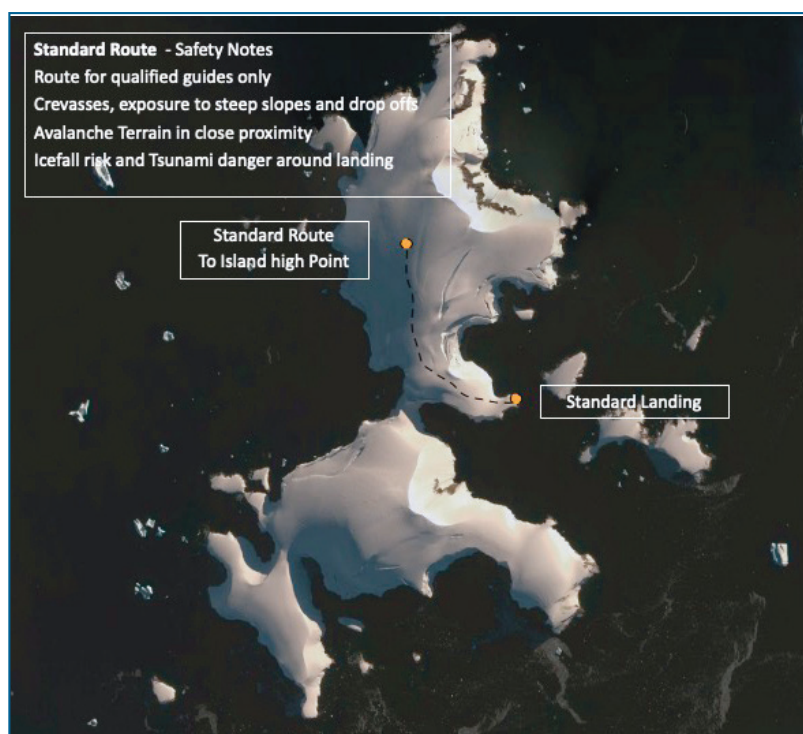
GUIDED WALKING AREA

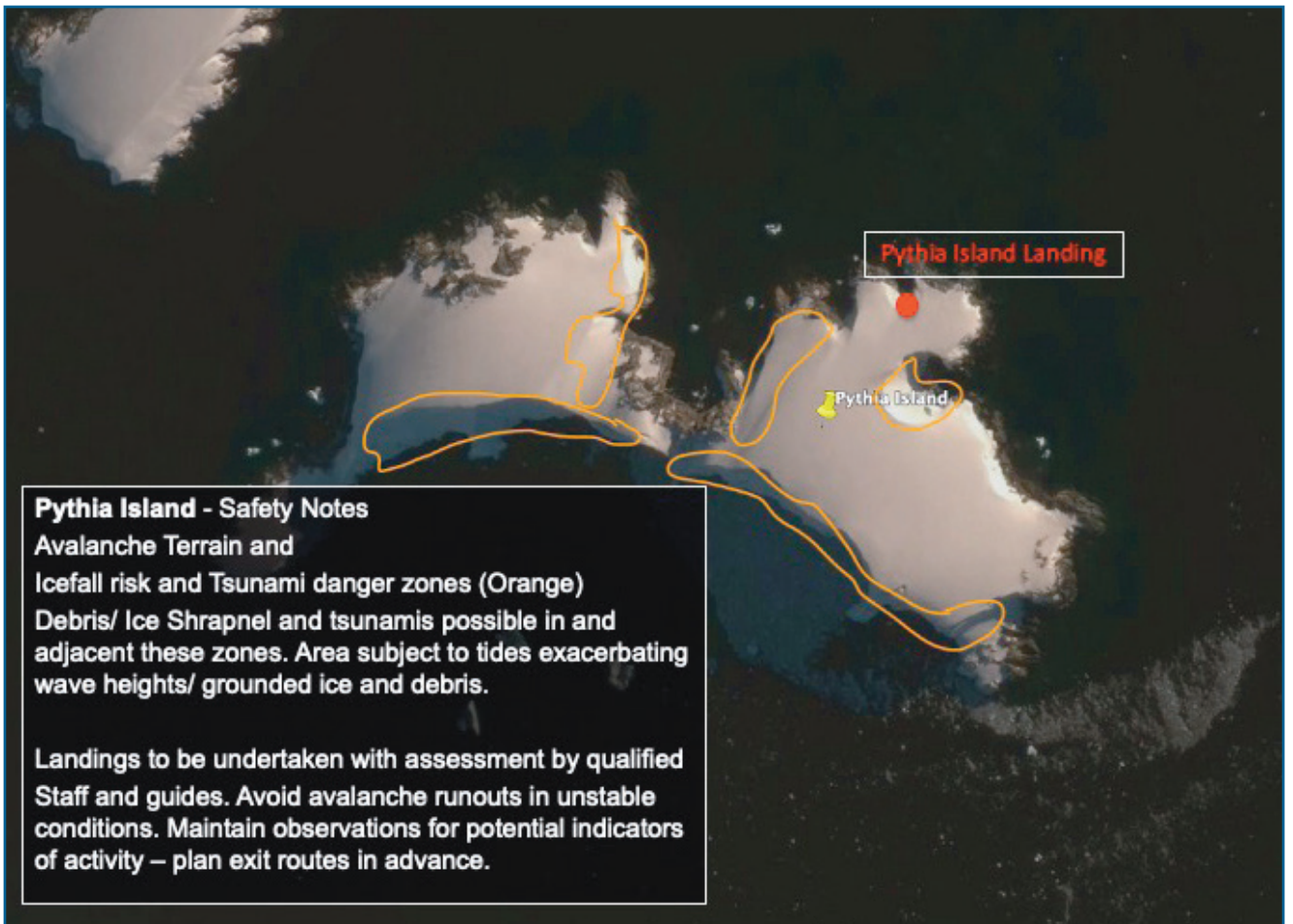
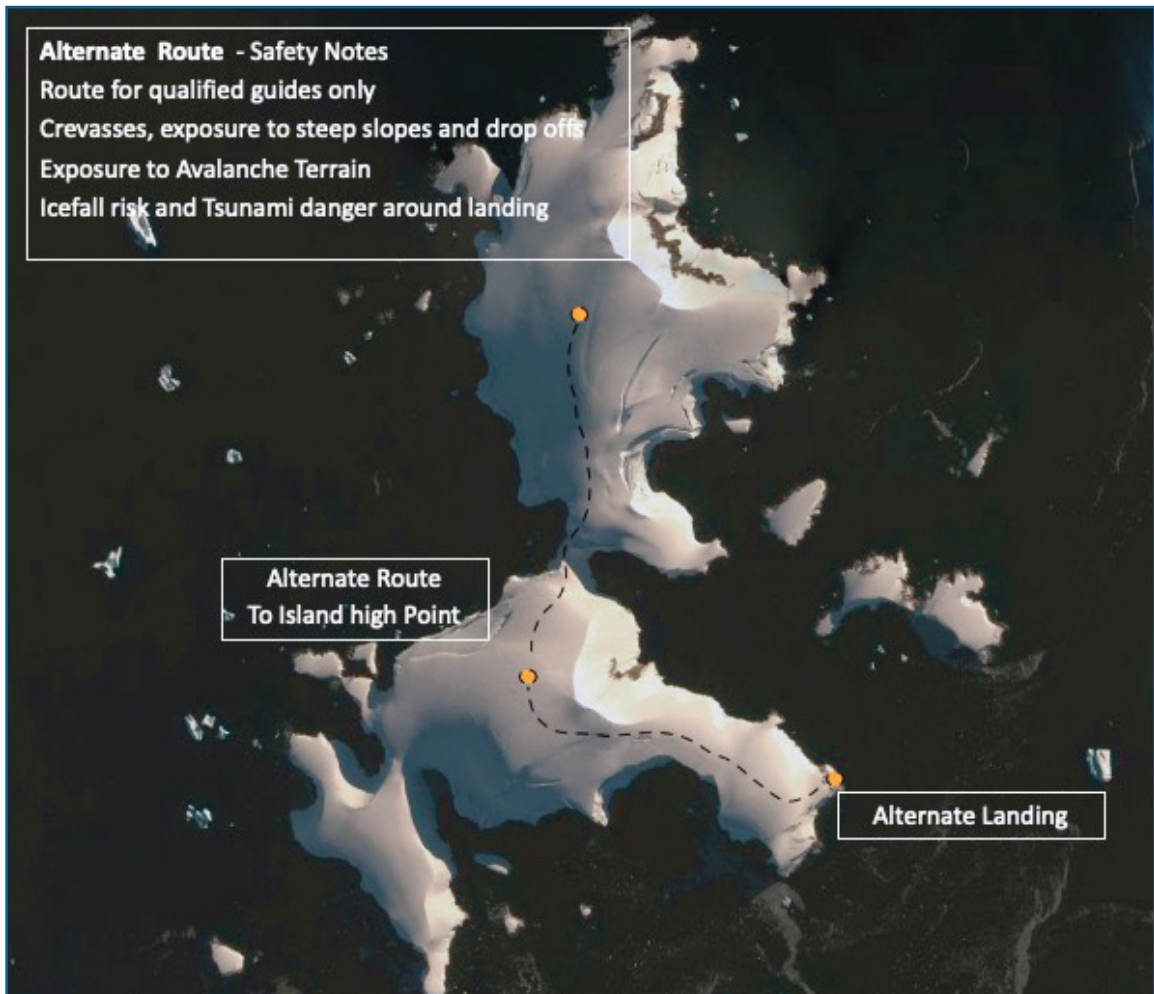
Area where visitors can walk is limited, and generally landings are only done by smaller vessels. Any landing should be fully assessed for appropriate visitor numbers and safety.

Refer to Visitor Safety section for possible risks. Known hazards including crevasses, avalanche terrain and ice cliffs exist.

SEASONALITY

Early season may see significant snow accumulations on slopes above small boat cruising routes. Possible risk of avalanche increases from the end of December through early January near the Gouvernøren wreck, where the slopes will be among the first aspects to have a wet slide avalanche which will expose the ice beneath.







Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

All landings should be assessed by appropriately qualified staff and guides.

Historical Information

The area was a major centre of summer whaling from 1916 – 1930. This island and Nansen Island were first charted as one feature and named "Ile Nansen" by the BelgAE under Gerlache in 1898. The name Enterprise comes from acknowledgement of the enterprise of the early whalers.

Multiple historical artifacts from the whaling era scattered around the area. This includes waterboats, Samson posts, steel boxes and is the site of the grounded whaling factory vessel Guvernøren.