

President Head

Possible landing sites:
62°44'0"S, 061°12'33"W or
62°44'9"S, 61°13'59"W

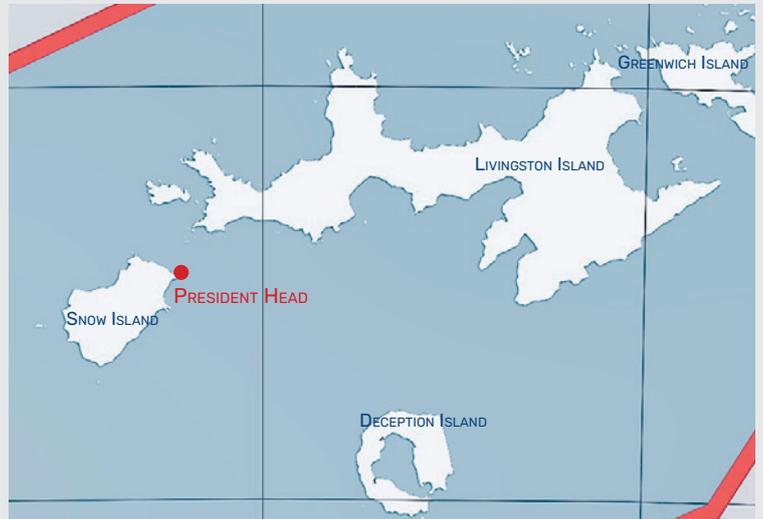
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visitor site guide



Key Features

- Classic South Shetland open beach and low shoreline
- Numerous Elephant seal wallows
- Leopard seals and Weddell seals can often be found ashore basking on the beach
- Many breeding bird species on site including Chinstrap penguins, nesting Southern Giant petrels and Antarctic terns.



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

A headland forming the east end of Snow Island, in the South Shetland Islands. It extends roughly 2.6 km (1.6mi) in an eastnortheast direction, rising to 107m (350ft) at St. Sofroniy Knoll. The adjacent ice-free area is about 303 hectares and includes Calliope Beach on the north side of the peninsula and Oeagrus Beach on its south side.

Shallow water approach to beach with underwater hazards. Often swelly, leading to surf conditions.

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Antarctic Blue-eyed shags, Chinstrap penguins, Gentoo penguins, Southern Giant petrel, Cape petrel, Antarctic terns.

Occasional visitors: Leopard seals, Weddell seals, Elephant seals.

FLORA

Mosses, Lichens, Antarctic hairgrass, Pearlwort.



Visitor Impact

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of wildlife.

Trampling of vegetation.

Erosion of scree slope.

Disturbance of historic artifacts and fossils..

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Maximum passengers on board: 500

Ships per day: 3

Comments: Maximum 3 ships per day (midnight to midnight), of which no more than 1 can carry over 200 passengers.

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

VISITOR NUMBERS

Visitors per guide: 20

No more than 100 visitors ashore at any time, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders.

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

Shallow approach with rocks on approach to beach. Surf/swell conditions are common resulting in surf at landing site.

Elephant seal wallows in proximity of most landing sites.

Easy walk on generally open terrain to primary visitor area.

CLOSED AREA

Rocky headland east of the primary landing site should not be visited due to presence of nesting Southern giant petrels.

Closed site southeast of line across headland –

Coordinates of line:

WPT 1 – 62°43'55.88"S, 061°12'13.05"W

WPT 2 – 62°43'55.02"S, 061°12'10.30"W

WPT 3 – 62°43'53.96"S, 061°12'05.92"W

Giant petrel nests spotted on rocky outcropping at 62°43'56.73"S, 061°12'3.79"W.

GUIDED WALKING AREA

Guided area to west of free roaming area to elephant seal wallow and beyond to area with fossils of ferns.

Wildlife concentrations and vegetation require closely monitored flagged routes for most of the site, if not directly guided walks.

FREE ROAMING AREA

North of closed area with staff supervision, with clear demarcation of boundaries to closed areas due to nesting birds.

Ensure visitor awareness to avoid walking on vegetation in this area. Early season snow coverage may dictate this area to remain guided in order to avoid vegetation.



Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

There are moss beds around the site that can be difficult to determine with early season snow coverage – walking routes around site should be selected to avoid moss beds.

Fossils along headland west of landing site beach – look but don't touch. Be aware of where you walk so as not to trample and potentially damage these fossils.

Maintain increased distance from Elephant seal wallows, nesting Giant petrels, and nesting terns.

Care should be taken on approach to Elephant seal wallows. December–January distribution is generally across the majority of the middle beach area, which can make landing difficult.

Leopard and Weddell seals are often found hauled out on the beach here – care should be taken not to disturb them.

Crevasse risk: if beach is snow covered, the terminus and sides of the glacier are very gradual and it could be possible to walk up onto the glacier and into crevassed terrain without realizing that you are on the glacier. This boundary would be obvious to staff and could be marked or visually identified during the landing.

