

Palaver Point (Draft)

Possible landing site:
64° 08' 53" S 61° 45' 28" W

IAATO

visitor site guide



Key Features

- Chinstrap penguin colony
- Elevated viewpoint with view of glaciers and Crocker Passage



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

A small rocky point on the west side of Two Hummock Island, Palaver Point is exposed to swell and wind from the north and northwest. Site orientation may cause access to landings to be challenging or enable sea ice to be cleared out by air and sea currents. The accumulation of snow and ice allows quick access to flat terrain before walking to the viewpoint on a gentle slope.

Sedimentary rocky coastline with a mix of metamorphic rocks. The small cove and the beach are composed mainly by loose boulders and pebbles.





FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Chinstrap penguin, Antarctic shag, Brown skua, Kelp gull

Present: Snowy sheathbill, Antarctic fur seal

FLORA

Several species of lichens can be observed, and small beds of green mosses are located between boulders near the main penguin rookeries.

Visitor Impact

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of wildlife

Trampling of vegetation

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Maximum passengers onboard: 500

Ships per day: 3

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

Maximum 3 ships per day, only 1 of which may have more than 200 passengers

** Evaluate the safety of walking routes to establish maximum visitors to the site. Potential risk of slippery ice and steep, exposed rock may limit visitor numbers.

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

A possible landing site is a small rocky point, next to a cove that allows only one vessel to enter at a time. It is very exposed to north wind and to swell from the same direction.

Another possible landing site is located approximately 60m (200ft) to the east of the prior landing site. It is a bigger rocky point that can offer an alternative if the other site is blocked by wildlife or accumulation of brash ice.

There are rocks partially submerged in front of and in proximity to the landing sites. At low tide, ripples can be observed. Bergy bits and growlers are sometimes grounded on the rocks and may be visible.

When facing the landing areas, there is a large rock port-stern position about 2m (6ft) away from the first possible landing beach. It is suggested to mark the rock for the duration of landed activities for ease of small boat traffic.

Evaluate possible landing sites for wildlife concentration. Groups of penguins have been observed near the possible landing sites, as well as late season Antarctic fur seals use the rocks and beach.

From either landing, walk directly to the north following the depression between the rock formations, keeping the main nesting penguin colony on the right-hand side.

VISITOR SAFETY

Slippery rocks at the landing sites, uneven terrain next to the penguin rookeries are the main objective risks at the beginning of the season.

Slippery rocks in the landing site, uneven terrain and large areas of frozen ground and slippery ice are the main risks at the end of the season.

Check for snow cornices at landing sites.

RESTRICTED ZONES

The path between the two penguin rookeries located directly above the possible landing sites should be avoided since there is not enough room to maintain adequate distance from penguin highways.

The polygon coordinates are:

64° 08' 54" S 61° 45' 25" W

64° 08' 54" S 61° 45' 23" W

64° 08' 56" S 61° 45' 24" W

64° 08' 56" S 61° 45' 25" W

GUIDED WALKING AREA

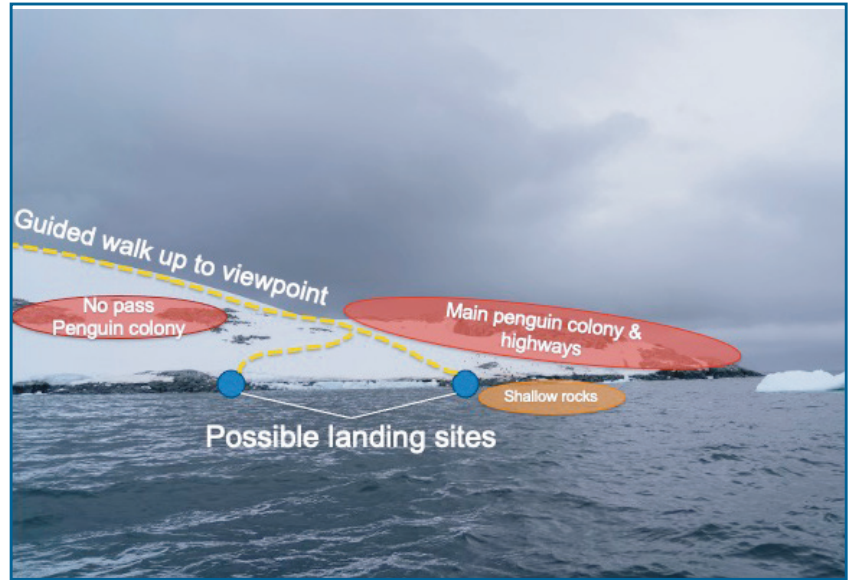
The main route is straightforward uphill from the primary landing site. Near the viewpoint, rocky areas must be checked for the presence of nesting skuas. Flagged route must be followed all the times, and extra crowd control near the penguin rookery is highly recommended.

SEASONALITY

Approach to possible landing sites at all times should be done with caution due to transiting penguins. At the beginning of the season, the snow conditions are optimal to open the trail to the viewpoint, which may assist in management of visitors at the colony.

Later in the season, uneven terrain at the landing sites that is exposed by melting snow may prove difficult for some visitors. Presence of ice at the landing sites and initial slope may make access to the viewpoint more difficult and visitor numbers at the main penguin rookery may need to be reduced.

Landing after mid-February is not recommended due to wildlife concentration and presence of ice makes visitor area much less accessible



Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

- Chinstrap penguin nests are mostly located above the eye level, and those that are at the same height tend to be the most visited ones and with a major pressure to observe behaviour, eggs and/or chicks. In the main rookery, extra attention to penguins walking to their nests must be always kept to avoid changes in penguin behaviour.
- Be aware of uneven terrain and slippery surfaces.

