

OCEAN HARBOUR WALK

Extended Walk Visitor Management Plan

v2015



Walk rating: Green

Staff/guest ratio 1/20 (minimum)

Max guests 100

Distance: 6km

Height Gain: 300m

Map: Barff Peninsula, Series BAS 25

INTRODUCTION

This is a pleasant and relatively straightforward walk, though it traverses a considerable area of boggy ground. It provides an excellent approach into Ocean Harbour as the views are spectacular.

There is little or no wildlife on Sorling Beach, but Ocean Harbour supports a dense population of breeding fur seals, elephant seals and often contains groups of king penguins.

The route described avoids the watercourse that descends into Ocean Harbour from the col as there are many wet, slippery slopes above small crags and drops. Instead it traverses the hillside for a short distance before descending steep grass. Note that slips and falls are likely on this terrain and walk leaders should endeavor to find a relatively dry route down. Walking boots are recommended for this reason.

Extended walks should never be undertaken if guides or visitors have any concerns. Careful consideration must be given to the fitness and ability of visitors intending to undertake the walk before participation can be approved. The remote location, lack of medical facilities and highly changeable weather mean that the consequences of an accident on an extended walk will be far more serious than would otherwise be the case in other less remote locations. For this reason alone, it is inappropriate to treat these walks as something that 'anyone can do'.

It is a condition of the visit permit that Visit Permit Holders (and all staff) adhere Site Visitor Management Plans and guidelines for extended walks. Permit Holders must ensure that all other staff and guides are equally well briefed and that they adhere to all SVMP's.



WALK PLANNING AND PREPARATION

○ Walk Grading

Extended walks have all been graded on the basis of length, terrain and technical difficulty.

The Ocean Harbour Walk has been graded as green.

Green Walk:

- Straightforward walk, which might cover large distances, but poses little technical difficulty and does not require difficult navigation or route choices en route.
- Minimum staff (guide) to visitor ratio: 1:20. Additional staff should accompany the walk to ensure adequate staffing levels are maintained at all times to manage and respond to any incident arising.
- Suitable for adequately fit novice hill walkers. Robust footwear is essential, and walking boots are recommended.
- Maximum group size 100 visitors (plus guides / staff). Guides are strongly encouraged to manage walkers in discrete groups, rather than one long extended chain.

○ Waypoints

The waypoints have been produced as an aid to navigation on the walks. In the majority of cases, these provide a tangible point to head towards in poor visibility; the ground covered between the points is at the discretion of the leader and will depend on, for example, the nature and experience of the group.

○ Staff Experience

Leading guides should ideally hold recognised qualifications (for example Mountain Leader Award).

All staff should be able to use GPS, map and compass and hold a current first aid qualification. Previous hill walking and guiding experience is important. Every staff member is expected to have sufficient experience to be able to independently and confidently manage and navigate a group of visitors down off a hill to safety.

OCEAN HARBOUR WALK

EXTENDED WALK VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



○ **Staff Equipment**

There should be sufficient equipment carried by the each staff member to keep a group sheltered from the elements, raise the alarm if necessary, deal with immediate first aid, and have the tools to navigate independently.

This should include:

- Compass and whistle
- Local area map (plus GPS as required)
- Spare food and drink
- Spare clothing
- Basic first aid kit
- VHF

As a group, the staff should ensure they carry:

- 1 Iridium phone (minimum)
- 2 GPS units and spare batteries (minimum), more are required for larger groups
- Spare walking poles
- Group shelters to accommodate the complete party distributed between staff members

○ **Visitors Equipment**

Visitor's personal equipment should include:

- Spare clothing
- Hat and gloves
- Emergency food & Drink (or access to these at all times)
- Personal medication (in case of delay ashore)
- Walking poles (if they normally used).

Careful consideration must always be given to footwear. Wellington boots should be avoided, particularly if visitors are not steady on their feet. Walking boots are strongly encouraged and recommended for this walk, due to the slippery conditions.

Guides should pay close attention to the footwear worn by the visitors.

○ **Medical Provision**

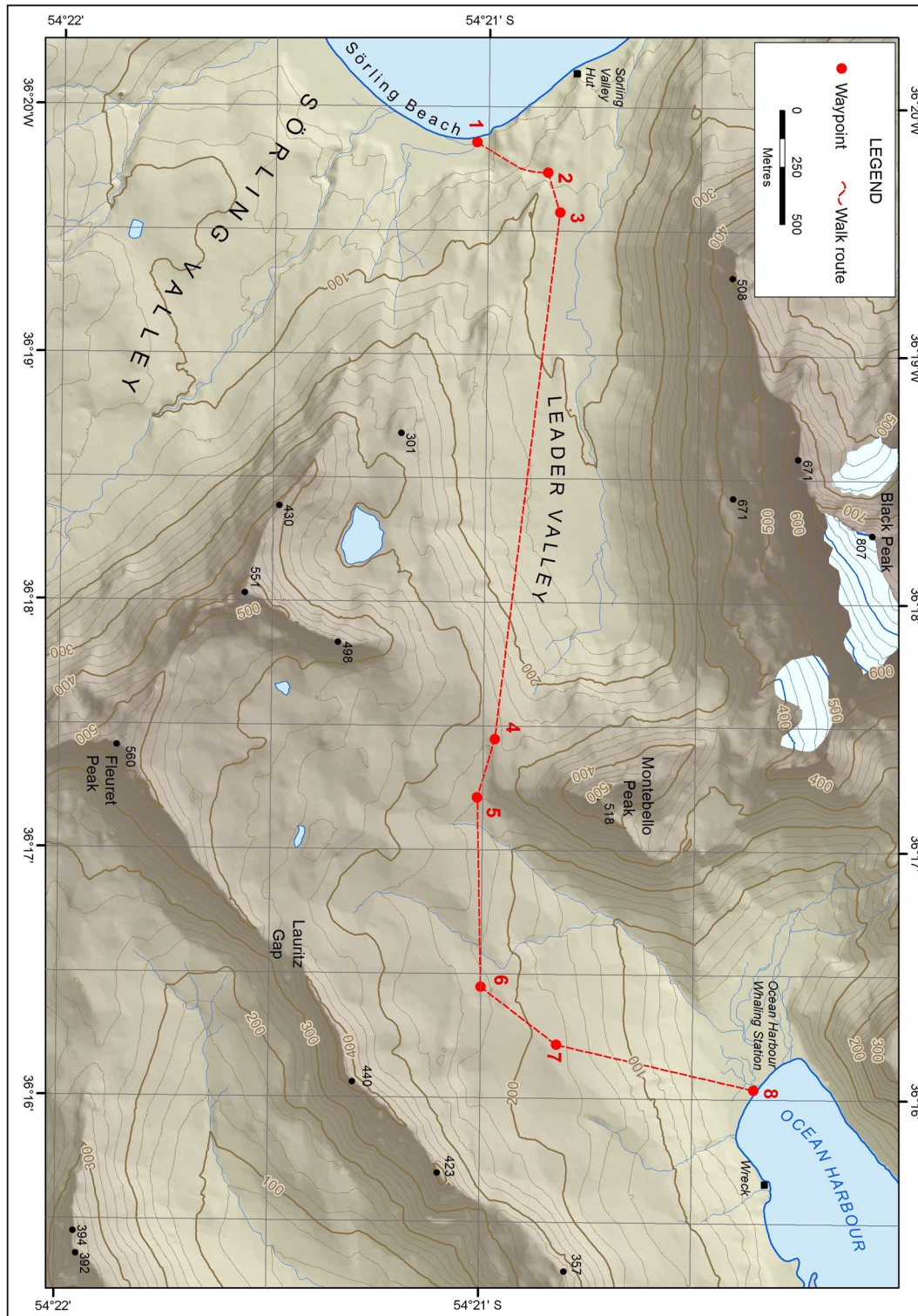
It is a requirement of visiting vessels to be self sufficient in every respect, including medical cover. The visit permit holder and leading guide must both check and ensure that there is adequate medical provision and a tested medical response plan in place to rapidly respond to any injury sustained during the walk or medical trauma incident.

All incidents, accidents and injuries, no matter how minor, must be reported to GSGSSI.

OCEAN HARBOUR WALK EXTENDED WALK VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



ROUTE DETAILS

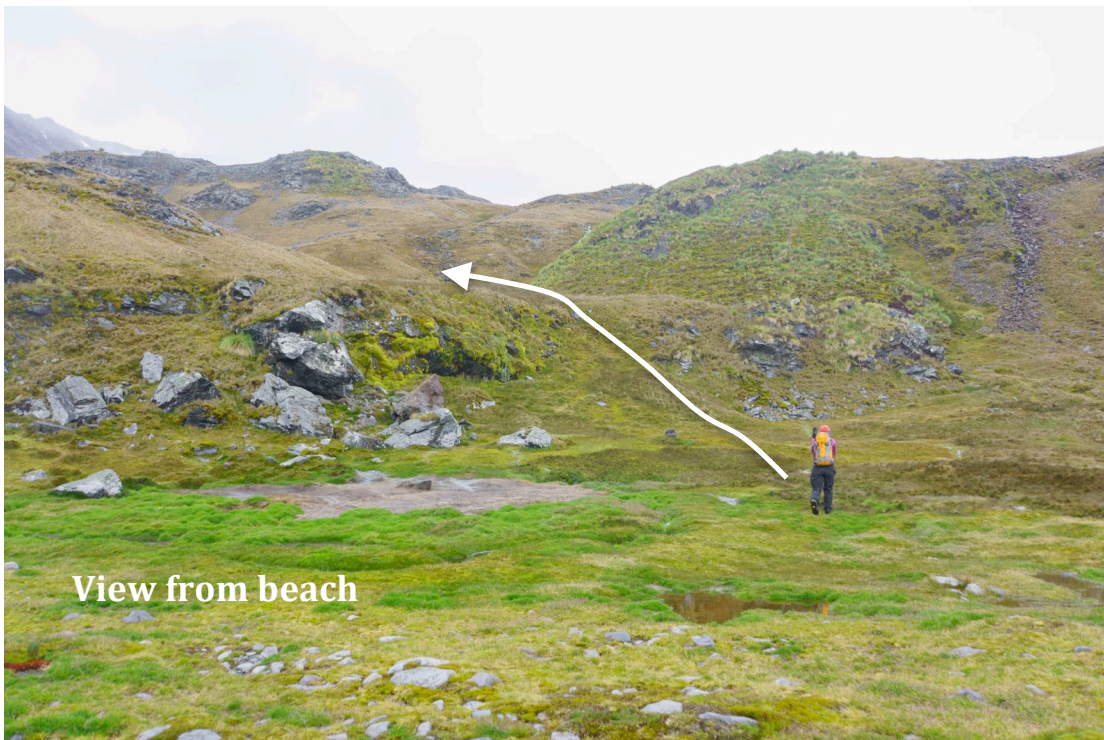


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WPT 1 NE End of Sorling Beach
54° 21.028' S
036° 19.856' W

While it is possible to land anywhere along the beach, this is the best place from which to start the walk to Ocean Harbour. Head north initially up the streambed, then continue gently upwards up wet grassy slopes which will take you to the foot of a ridge.



Note that there are numerous skua known to breed in this vicinity. Great care should be taken to avoid their nests. If adult birds become agitated and start to dive bomb the group, an alternate route should be taken.

OCEAN HARBOUR WALK EXTENDED WALK VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



WPT 2 Area of flat bog
54° 20.860' S
036° 19.735' W

At this waypoint turn east into the broad main valley. Note spectacular views behind.

WPT 3 Area of small tarns
54° 20.831' S
036° 19.574' W

Follow the wide valley, keeping to the south side. Rise gradually to the right hand col ahead of you, crossing a number of deeply incised streams en route.



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WPT 4 Higher of two cairns
54° 20.973' S
036° 17.447' W

From this cairn head ESE to a lower cairn.

WPT 5 Lower cairn
54° 21.013' S
036° 17.211' W

While there are many possible places to descend, the route described here is low angled and relatively dry. While it would be tempting to follow the streambed visible from this cairn, it should be avoided as there are many slippery slopes above sizable drops into the watercourse.



From WPT 5 contour around the head of the valley, crossing two streams to get to a rocky knoll.

OCEAN HARBOUR WALK

EXTENDED WALK VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



WPT 6 Rocky knoll
54° 21.001' S
036° 16.447' W

Descend a broad ridge ENE, skirting the top of a gully en route. This leads you to the top of the steepening grass slopes that drop into Ocean Harbour.

Should you wish to extend your walk slightly, it is possible to continue along the ridge to a point directly south of the wreck and descend from there, but below a more direct route is described.

WPT 7 Top of the steepening grass slopes
54° 20.821' S
036° 16.215' W

Head N down these grassy slopes, picking the driest and least mossy line.

WPT 8 Beach
54° 20.355' S
036° 16.038' W

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