

Flandres Bay – Marine Only (Draft)

Centre of Flandres Bay
63° 03.36' S // 063° 12.184' W

IAATO

visitor site guide



Key Features

- Small boat cruising
- Glacial landscape and drifting glacial ice



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

A vast glacial bay open to the southern Gerlache Strait. It is 16 km (10 mi) deep and several km/miles wide.

It has many smaller sub-bays and several small islands but is poorly charted.

Unknown, though the nearby Lemaire Channel consists of layered sediments which may be turbidites.

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Antarctic shag.

Present: Kelp gull, Brown skua, Wilson's storm petrel, Antarctic tern, Weddell seal, Crabeater seal, Humpback whale.

Visitor Area

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Possible disturbance of wildlife

VISITOR SAFETY

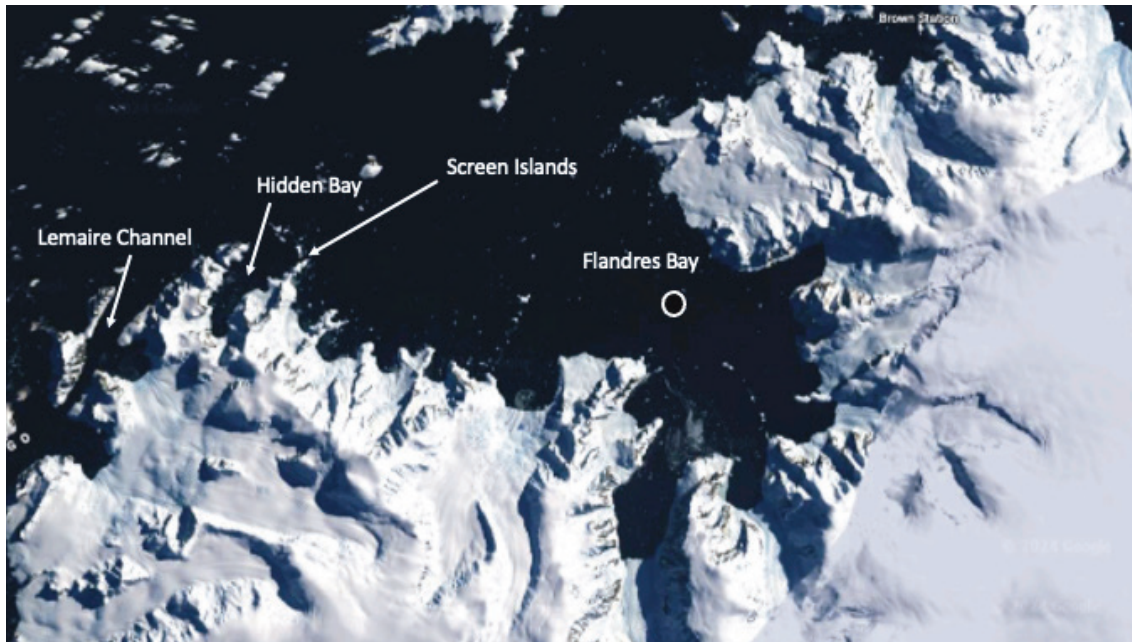
Small boats cruising in the vicinity of tide water glaciers should keep at least 200 meters (600 ft) from tide water glaciers to avoid both direct hits and the largest waves. For high activity glaciers this should be increased to 400 meters (1200 ft).

The 200 meters (600 ft) distance should be increased in narrow fjords, in shallow fjords, or locations with ice cliffs higher than 40-50 meters (120-150 ft).

When operating amongst sea ice or icebergs, be vigilant to local sea and wind currents. Be alert to ice movement in relation to your operation and how it may affect both vessel and shore operations.

FREE ROAMING AREAS

In the presence of whales, all vessels should slow down to no more than 10 knots. Be prepared to slow down to 5 knots if you reach the 400 m (1300 ft) distance. At 400 m (1300 ft) engines must be in idle if safe for the vessel to do so. Allow whales to pass. Never approach cetaceans from the front or directly behind. Approach to the side of the animal, at an angle. Do not position the vessel in the projected path of the whale. Please refer to IAATO Operational Procedures for Watching Whales for more information.



Historical Information

Discovered by the Belgian Antarctic Expedition in February 1898, who likely named it for the Flanders region of Belgium.