11. Turret Point

62°05’00’’S, 57°55’00’’W
Eastern end of King George Island

Key Features
- Southern Giant Petrels
- Blue-eyed Shags
- Chinstrap and Adélie Penguins
- Southern Elephant Seals
- Glacial Outwash Plain

Description

TOPOGRAPHY
Turret Point is marked by conspicuous rock stacks that form the eastern limit of King George Bay west of Three Sisters Point. There is a cobble beach on the southern coast and melt pools inland. The beach gently slopes to an extensive, heavily crevassed glacier.

FAUNA
Snowy sheathbill - Suspected Breeders, Skua - Suspected Breeders, Weddell seal - Regularly haul out, Southern Elephant Seal - Regularly haul out, Antarctic fur seal - Regularly haul out, Southern giant petrel - Confirmed breeders, Kelp gull - Confirmed breeders, Chinstrap Penguin - Confirmed breeders, Blue-eyed shag - Confirmed breeders, Antarctic tern - Confirmed breeders, Adélie penguin - Confirmed breeders

FLORA
Swards of moss species, the lichens Xanthoria spp., Caloplaca spp. and other crustose lichens.

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS
None.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS
Trampling of vegetation en route to the glacier and disturbance of wildlife, particularly southern giant petrels.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS
Max pax on board: 200
Ships per day: 2

VISITORS
Maximum number of passengers at any time, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders: 100
Visitors per guide: 20
Curfew time period (from/to), in order to establish a rest period for wildlife: 22:00-04:00
Comments: One ship at a time. Maximum 2 ships per day (midnight to midnight).
* A ship is defined as a vessel which carries more than 12 passengers.
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Visitor Area

LANDING AREA
Primary: along an exposed broad cobble beach to the south, which may be packed with ice.

Secondary: to the west. If this is used, be sure to stay clear of nesting sites for southern giant petrel at both ends of the beach (Closed Areas A and B).

CLOSED AREA
Closed Area A: Biodiverse fragile area including nesting southern giant petrels, kelp gulls, chinstrap penguins, blue-eyed shags and elephant seals wallows.
Closed Area B: Nesting southern giant petrels.
Closed Area C: Elevated area above the beach with nesting southern giant petrels.

GUIDED WALKING AREA
Visitors to the glacier should be guided in small groups following the streambed to avoid trampling of vegetation.

FREE ROAMING AREA
Visitors may roam freely, but under supervision, between the landing beaches, avoiding the closed areas.

Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE
Do not walk on any vegetation.
When on the same level as, or higher than, nesting southern giant petrels, maintain a precautionary distance of at least 50 metres. Increase this distance if any change in the birds’ behaviour is observed.
Walk slowly and carefully. Maintain a precautionary distance of 5 metres from wildlife and give animals the right-of-way. Increase this distance if any change in behaviour is observed.
Be careful near Antarctic fur seals, they may be aggressive.

CAUTIONARY NOTES
While weather conditions can change rapidly anywhere in the Antarctic, this location is particularly prone to such changes.
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The glacial melt stream is clearly visible in times of limited snow and ice cover.

Vegetation is scattered across the site.