

Chiriguano Bay - Marine Only (Draft)

Anchoring Position:
64.28.3 S 062.31.7 W

Also noted as Markmann Bay
on some charts.

Chiriguano Bay is not well charted.

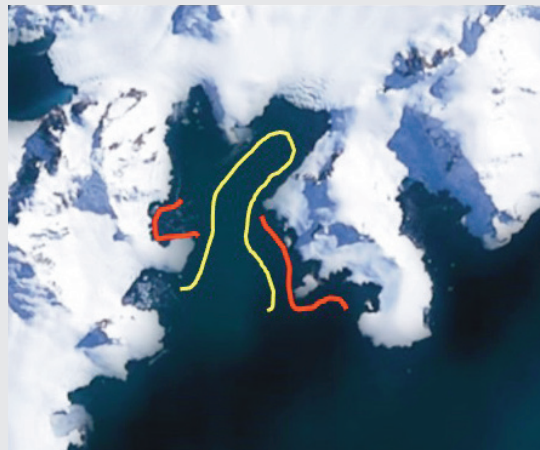
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visitor site guide



Key Features

- Chiriguano Bay is on the north side of the Gerlache Strait and indents the southwestern end of Brabant Island. Given its location it is an excellent marine site (no landing site) for all weather conditions except for southerly or south-westerly winds.
- The inner bay provides excellent conditions for zodiac cruising and kayak operations.
- This is a great place to zodiac cruise in search of wildlife.



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

Sheltered bay facing S-SW on the SW corner of Brabant Island

FAUNA

Cormorants breeding in a very small colony (perhaps no more than 10 individuals) on the NW entrance.

Humpback & Minke whales frequently seen in the bay.

Gentoo penguins, Adelle penguins and chinstrap penguins seen frequently in the bay; however, no rookeries observed.

Crabeater Seals early in the season have been seen. Weddell seals and leopard seals often seen on ice floes.

Visitor Impact

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

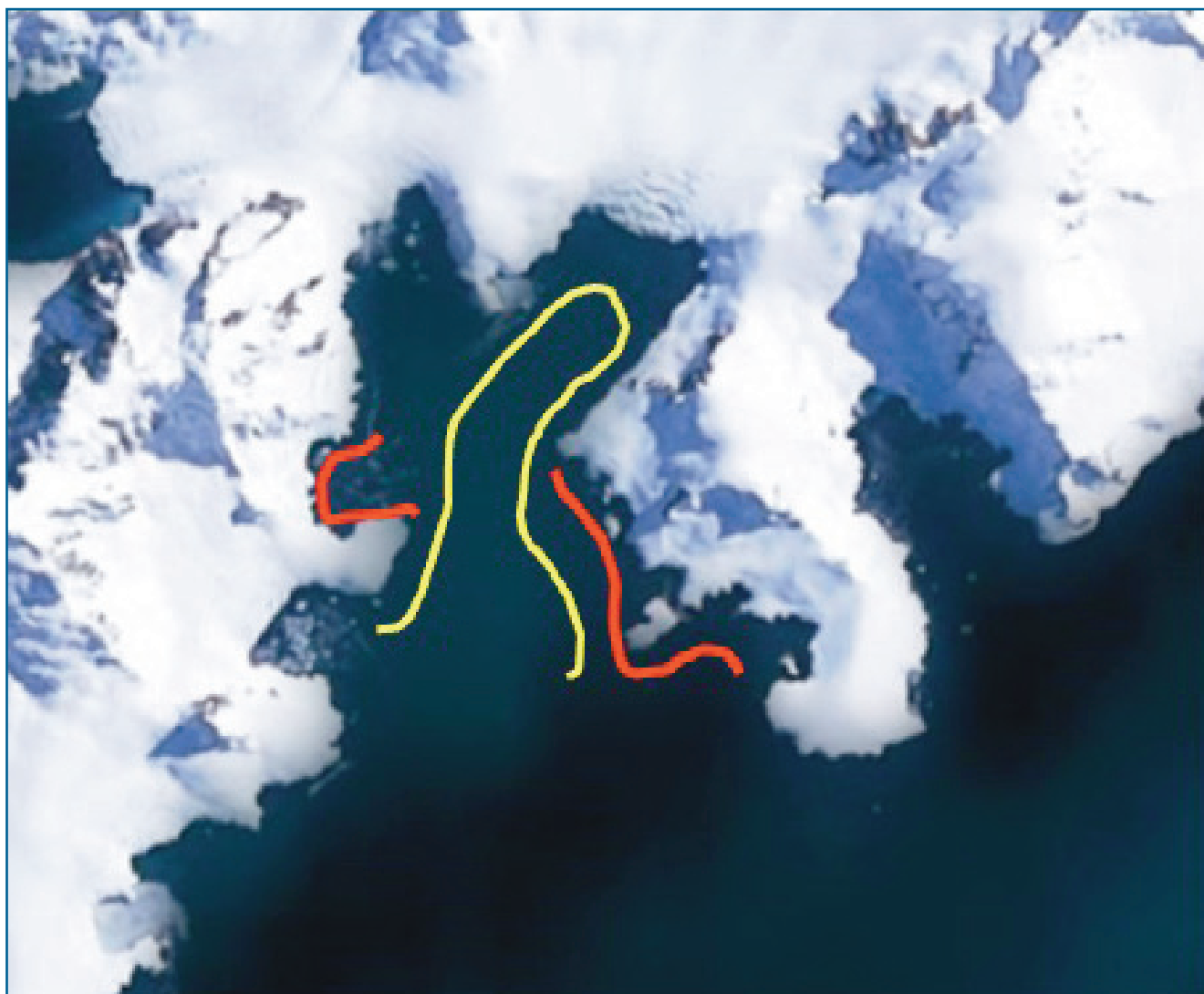
Minimal as we do not land and interaction with wildlife on the water follows protocols

Landing Requirements

Since this is a bay that opens to the S, it is of difficult access early in the season (Oct, early Nov) due to fast ice – it requires several big storms with southerly winds to break the ice out of the inner bay.

Chiriguano Bay can only accommodate one vessel at the time, due to the size of the bay.

As with all small boat operation in Antarctica, care must be taken to watch for changing ice conditions as the tide and wind can easily move sea ice and brash ice around. Some parts of the shoreline have glacial faces and care should be taken to maintain a safe distance from ice faces.



Red - Kayak

Yellow - Zodiac Cruises