

Chiriguano Bay - Marine Only

Possible anchoring position:
64.28.3 S 062.31.7 W

Also noted as Markmann Bay
on some charts.

Chiriguano Bay is not well charted.

IAATO

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 for all weather conditions except for southerly or south-westerly winds
- The inner bay provides excellent conditions for zodiac cruising and kayak operations
- Possible marine mammal sightings.



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

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

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Cormorants (very small colony - perhaps no more than 10 individuals) on the NW entrance.

Visitors: Humpback and Minke whales, Gentoo penguins, Adelle penguins and Chinstrap penguins, Crabeater seals early in the season, Weddell seals and Leopard seals often seen on ice floes.

Visitor Impact

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of marine wildlife with prolonged small boat movement.

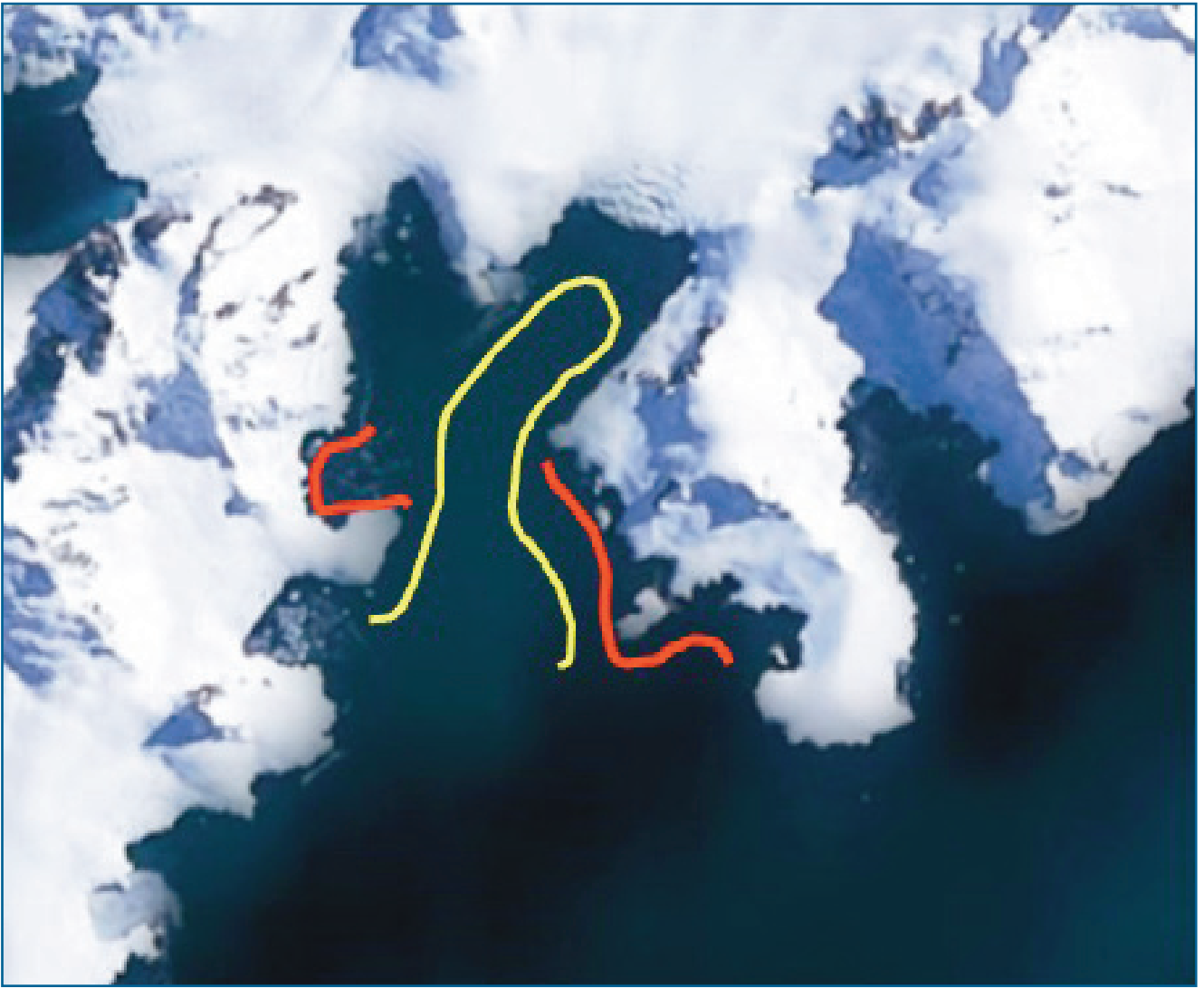
Visitor Area

ACTIVITY AREA

Since this is a bay that opens to the south, 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.



SUGGESTED* MARINE ACTIVITY AREAS:

Red - Kayak

Yellow - Zodiac Cruises

*Always assess local conditions, and exact areas for marine activities should be up to the discretion of experienced guides.