



PORT LOCKROY 2023-24

Visitor Guidelines and Working Together





VISITOR GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

The UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT, registered charity no. 1160847) has produced this information sheet which provides the essential information you need to know before visiting us at Goudier Island. This should be read alongside the [Antarctic Treaty visitor site guidelines for Goudier Island](#).

PREPARING FOR A VISIT

Visits to Port Lockroy should be booked via the IAATO ship scheduler as usual and any subsequent changes should also be made there. If you want to book a landing at short notice (less than 48 hours) please do so via the ship's scheduler and let the Port Lockroy team know the date and time. Please be aware they do not have access to the live IAATO ship scheduler during the season and cannot make last-minute changes.

Please be aware the Guidelines state that the maximum number of visitors to Port Lockroy each day is 350. In the event of a double-booking which may exceed the visitor limit, the ship that booked first will be given priority and we will try to reschedule the later booking.

Port Lockroy landing times are:

0900 – 1300 & 1400 – 1800

Max Daily Visitors allowed: 350.

Maximum number of visitors at any time: 60*

Visitors allowed inside the base at any one time: 35*

***Please note the Base Leader may inform you of reduced numbers allowed due to severe weather conditions, this is for the benefit of health & safety of both Staff and Visitors. Heavy snow during 22-23 season caused a temporary lowering of these figures.**

The aim is to minimize the disturbance caused by Visitors to the Port Lockroy gentoo penguin colony. Please plan your visit accordingly. Expedition staff may land 15mins beforehand for a visit briefing with the Port Lockroy team.

A few days before your visit the Port Lockroy team will contact you via email to make final arrangements for your visit, and inform you of any changes.

- What are the main nationalities of your guests?
- How many guests do you plan to land?
- Do you plan to land any crew?
- Do you have any special guests, visiting scientists, photographers/media or permits covering special activities at the site?

Items to bring ashore

Water / Towels / Flags / Tarpaulin / Step / Shovel

- Please bring a shovel as you may have to dig snow steps at the Chains landing site upon arrival. Later in the season when the snowbank at the landing site has melted a step can be useful.
- Please ensure that boots are cleaned and dried before entering Bransfield House. We recommend bringing at least 20 liters of freshwater, a tray and 6-8 towels for the boot-washing and drying process as guests enter Bransfield House.
- Please bring flags or cones to help mark paths and no-go areas. These areas also apply to Expedition Staff, and we ask you to respect these and follow the same paths/area as your guests. As role models to your guests, we often note they reflect your behaviour.
- Please bring a clean, disinfected tarpaulin for guests to store their bags/camera equipment on during their visit. This is a precaution against avian flu infection.

Landing site

The preferred landing site is to the west of the Island, near the old whaling mooring chains. There is a path that leads directly to Bransfield House. Should conditions render the chains landing unsafe it may be possible to use the Boatshed landing. This landing area is not to be used in normal conditions to minimize disturbance of nesting gentoos. Due to the density of penguins nesting close to the Boatshed and a main penguin highway, it is very hard to conduct a visitor landing without causing a disturbance, **so we ask that you respect our request not to use this landing site.**



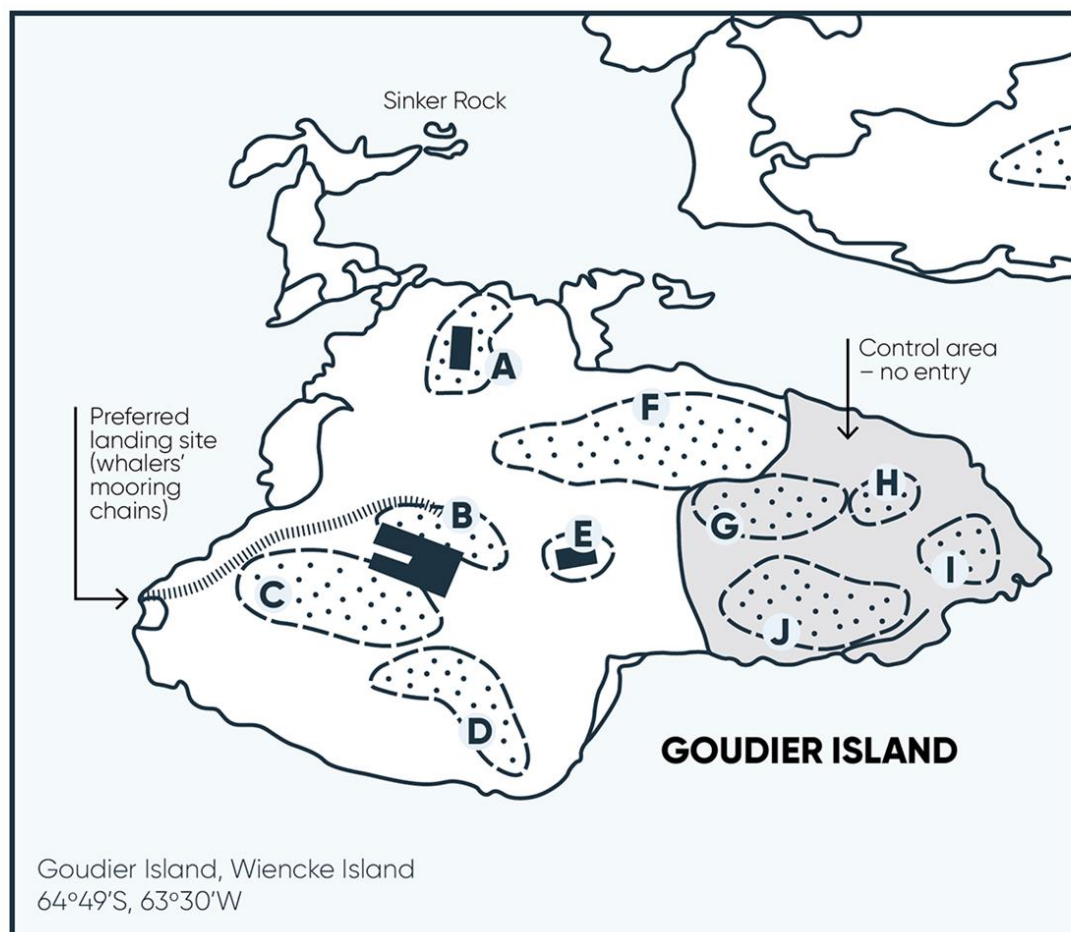
DURING A VISIT

1. The Boatshed: The smaller structure to the north of the Island is the Boatshed, constructed in 1957. There is **no access or entry to the Boatshed for visitors.**
2. Nissen Hut: The original 1944 building collapsed sometime in the 1990s. The Nissen hut now on site is a replica of the original and was reconstructed in 2010 as accommodation for the seasonal staff. It is private property for the team and is not part of the museum. Therefore, there is **no access or entry to the Nissen Hut for visitors.**
3. Smoking, naked flames, candles, stoves etc are not permitted anywhere on the island.
4. Overnight stays are not permitted on the island unless in an emergency.

Penguin Colonies

As part of the penguin monitoring study, half of the Island is off-limits. Please refer to the Antarctic Treaty visitor site guidelines and ensure that visitors and staff do not enter the control colonies. There are cameras set up around the island to monitor the penguin colonies, including one at the top of the anemometer tower that looks across the chains landing site area. The data and recordings from these cameras are gathered each season.

A basic map of the island is below. This also highlights the different colonies found on the island each year. It will never be exact, but this will give you some indication of where the colonies can be found. Please remind your guests to keep their distance from our inquisitive penguins and to back away if approached. This is especially important as we try to protect the penguins from the risk of infection with avian flu.





Visitor movement around the island

Using data collected regarding the main penguin and human pathways, we ask that you **concentrate visitor activities on defined pathways**. The main reason we ask you to respect this is due to the recent analysis of the data taken from the published paper:

Dunn, M.J., Forcada, J., Jackson, J.A. et al. A long-term study of gentoo penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*) population trends at a major Antarctic tourist site, Goudier Island, Port Lockroy. *Biodivers Conserv* 28, 37–53 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10531-018-1635-6>

This paper found a decrease in breeding pairs; similar declines were evident in breeding pairs at six colonies visited by tourists as well as at four unvisited colonies. Analysis suggests a complex situation with different possible drivers of change, including climate change which we intend to study further. For now, to protect the wildlife on Goudier Island and continue the long-term study, we ask that you respect our request to limit movement around the island. We encourage you only to use the following paths: –

1. The pathway from the Chains landing site to Bransfield House.
2. The area in front of Bransfield House, including the wooden decking and ramp.

Visiting Bransfield House

Please note that Bransfield House contains the Museum, Shop and Post Office. The following pages will guide you on requirements for entering the building and a guide for Visitor requirements whilst inside Bransfield House.

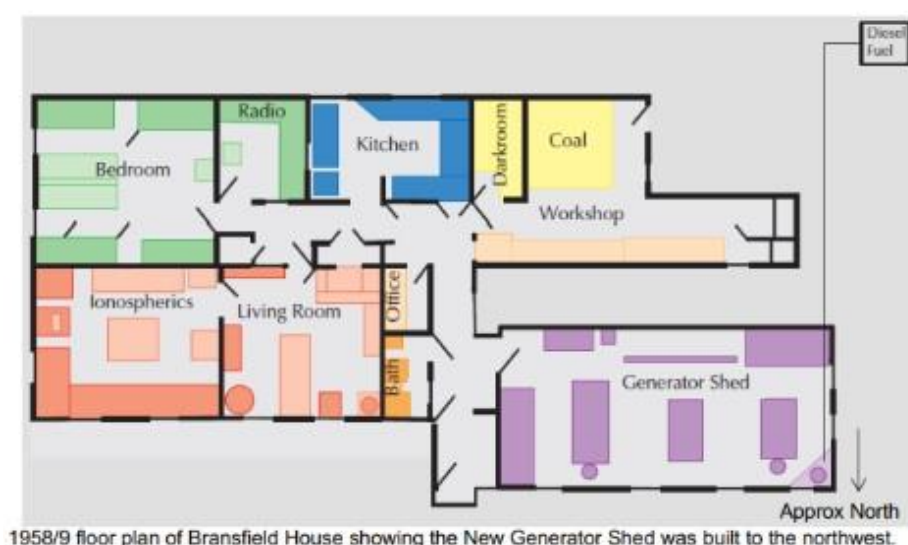
Our Port Lockroy Team will be available for any questions during their time on base this coming season.

**Please see further notes regarding the postal service later on.*

Visiting during Conservation Works

Please note that the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) carries out regular conservation work to the buildings and artefacts at Port Lockroy. We do this to ensure this wonderful site is conserved for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

We and the Port Lockroy Team will endeavor to inform you before a visit if works taking place may restrict visitors to/from areas or rooms at Port Lockroy. If work is taking place during your visit please ensure visitors are aware and adhere to restrictions put in place. This is for the safety of our staff, yourselves and visitors. The Port Lockroy Team are happy to answer questions about works taking place during your visit.



1958/9 floor plan of Bransfield House showing the New Generator Shed was built to the northwest.

Floorplan of Bransfield House



Boot washing and drying before entering Bransfield House

The following procedures will help reduce damage to the building and its artefacts and we ask that you please assist us with this over the season.

Please ensure all outdoor clothing and boots are clean and free of snow/gravel/guano as much as possible before entering the building. Preventing the floors from getting too wet will make a significant difference to the amount of moisture within the building, which in turn has a considerable impact on the artefacts held within. To assist you, inside the front porch you will find 1 bucket for water and 1 boot brush. **Please use these.** You may wish to bring your own or extras from your vessel to assist in this process.

Please bring fresh water for your guests to rinse their boots in before they enter Bransfield House and some clean towels for the porch to help keep the museum floors in good condition. If it is a wet day when you visit, please bring along extra towels so that you can clean and dry the floors before you leave.



Expedition team cleaning boots before entry



A towel on the porch to help keep the floors dry

Inside Bransfield House

Bags/rucksacks – we request that all guests leave their bags outside on the deck (on disinfected tarpaulin) or wear them on their fronts to improve their awareness as they move through the building with its narrow corridors and small rooms. Your help with this is much appreciated.

- **Hiking poles** – all guests should leave hiking poles outside Bransfield House.
- **Wet/dry suits** – if you have guests doing water sports, we request they go back to the ship and change out of wetsuits etc., before coming ashore if they want to enter Bransfield House.
- Please do not try and remove external window shutters
- Ionospheric room papers – UKAHT found that moving these each season is more damaging than leaving them in place where they are, so we ask you not to touch or move them.
- Where there are curtains, they will be closed to protect artefacts from light damage. We ask you to leave them closed.
- Please enjoy looking around and reading the interpretation boards, but we kindly ask that you **do not touch or move the artefacts.**



- Please do not turn on light switches as the power in Bransfield House will not be turned on. Lights are normally turned on in the Base Leaders Office, Darkroom, Workshop, Radio room and Bathroom, so these rooms might be quite dark. Torches might be helpful on cloudy/overcast days.
- Some of the more delicate museum artefacts have been packaged and stored over the winter and will not be on display.
- We will leave a visitor book in the lounge/living room for you and your guests to sign.

Please report any visible damage to the buildings or leaks in Bransfield House to the UKAHT Operations Team, operations@ukaht.org – photos can also be very helpful to document any issues.

We are hugely grateful for your cooperation and if you have the time, we would appreciate hearing about your visit.

Departing

1. We ask that you leave the building as you find it
2. Please ensure that the hut is clean on your departure and that snow/water is mopped up from the floors and they are left clean and dry
3. Please remember to put the empty bucket and boot brush back inside the porch
4. Please check that all windows, curtains, and doors are closed
5. Please make sure the front door is securely closed and bolted to prevent any snow entry

Health and Safety

Port Lockroy is a historic site and includes buildings constructed in the 1940s and 1950s. It is important to make you aware that it was common during this era to use materials that contain hazardous substances, including asbestos, lead, mercury etc. The UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) takes the Health and Safety of all visitors to this site extremely seriously and as such, is currently working with conservation experts to ensure these buildings are as safe as possible for all visitors; however, please note that you do enter all of these historic sites at your own risk. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.





WORKING TOGETHER

INTRODUCTION

Our hope is that every visitor to Antarctica has the opportunity to learn about its fascinating history, and we are always keen to work with you to enrich guest experience.

UKAHT is also a registered charity / not-for-profit and we rely on the support of our partners in helping to raise awareness and donations towards the conservation of the six historic buildings in our care.





POSTAL SERVICE

SENDING A POSTCARD FROM THE WORLD'S MOST SOUTHERLY PUBLIC POST OFFICE

The Post Office will be in operation for you and your guests this season.

Visiting before the team arrive

You can post mail in the post box if British Antarctic Territory (BAT) stamps are attached. If you do not have stamps, please follow the process below:

Please bundle the cards and leave it in a box or bag along with a note containing the following information:

- Total number of postcards
- Total number of Stamps required
- The name of the vessel
- Your date of visit
- Name of the Expedition Leader

Contact accounts@ukaht.org and advise of the details above and arrange to make payment via invoice.

The alternative is to make a donation on our website <https://www.ukaht.org/support-us/> and click the donate button (please also notify accounts@ukaht.org if you have made payment this way).

Please note, that if you have not paid via invoice through the UKAHT office, or made a donation via the website, postcards cannot be processed

To avoid disappointment of your guests, we strongly encourage payment to be made via invoice.

Please note that we can only accept mail that includes British Antarctic Territory (BAT) stamps. Mail with stamps from South Georgia or the Falkland Islands should be sent directly to the Post Office in Stanley and any with Argentine stamps can only be processed in Argentina.

Visiting once the team are on site

Visitors will be able to purchase stamps and postcards from our onboard shop when their vessel arrives at Port Lockroy:

Stamp price - GBP £2

Stamp & postcard price – GBP £4

Prices are in GBP but payments may be taken in USD and EUR with our new onboard retail till system.

For large amounts (100 or more) it is recommended your vessel **buys postcards and stamps in bulk** and pay via invoice only. Please contact – accounts@ukaht.org

Please note invoices and payments will be in GBP only. Payment should be made in advance of vessel attending Port Lockroy.

We strongly encourage you that you buy bulk orders of stamps and postcards in advance of visiting. Guests can then post these at the onboard pop-up shop.

Wholesale Enquiries

Would you like to sell our products in your shop? Please visit <https://www.ukaht.org/wholesale> to check out the products available for bulk wholesale purchase today.

You will then find all the necessary forms to complete and send back to sales@ukaht.org

By purchasing from UK Antarctica Heritage Trust, all proceeds go to conserving, protecting and sharing stories of Antarctic history.





ON-BOARD AUCTIONS

Some operators hold on-board auctions with the proceeds being donated in whole or in part to UKAHT. This kind of support really makes a difference. You can arrange your own auction prizes, or we can help to arrange a package of items for you in advance. Please get in touch and we can discuss options with you.

GUEST WEBINARS

We can offer bespoke online webinars to your guests, prior to departure or on their return, as a way of extending a wonderful trip experience. One of our charitable goals is to help everyone better understand Antarctica, and we can offer a unique perspective on the region's history and human story through a short online event.

FILMS FOR GUESTS

We have a number of introductory films about our work and Antarctica's heritage which offer an insight into our sites and conservation work. Please get in touch if you would like to show one of these on board to guests and we can send you the download in advance of the season.

DONATIONS & COLLECTIONS

We are very grateful for any donations we receive, from on-board collections to individual gifts. UKAHT has a CAF America Friends Fund for US guests, and donations can also be made via our website.

SHOPPING & PENGUIN ADOPTIONS

Every purchase made at Port Lockroy helps to support our work preserving six historic sites in Antarctica.

Our Adopt a Penguin scheme enables guests to follow a unique colony at the end of the world. We'd be grateful if you would consider telling your guests about our scheme through your communications. www.ukaht.org/support-us/adopt-a-penguin.

ON-BOARD SHOPS

This year all shop and Post Office services will be hosted onboard.

UKAHT also has an online shop. Items can be bought online when in signal, and their items could be waiting for them at home when they return. www.ukaht.org/shop

MARKETING & AUDIENCE REACH

We are always keen to speak to our partners about creative ways in which to engage those with a passion for Antarctica. UKAHT has a dedicated audience committed to supporting and visiting the region, and our projects have genuine impact in the world of education, environment, community and heritage. As a charity, we rely on support and sponsorship to deliver our projects and care for our sites. To discuss opportunities and to share ideas, please get in touch.

IN SUMMARY

We would like to work with you so that we can help each other in these times. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions at all. Your support is very gratefully received and we hope you enjoy your visit.

Thank you.

The UK Antarctic Heritage Trust team



For all our latest news and blogs visit www.ukaht.org/latest-news

CONNECT WITH US



@ukantarcticheritagetrust



@ukantarcticheritagetrust



@UKAntarcticHeritageTrust



@AntarcticHT