

Heroina Island

63°24'S 54°36'W

IAATO

visitor site guide



Key Features

- Area in which > 50 % of the Adélie penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) population of the Antarctic Peninsula Region exist;
- Area with 1.2 % of the global breeding population of Antarctic shags (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*);
- Area of high biodiversity with breeding sites of 8 additional bird species.



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

The primary landing beach is located in a small harbour which is greatly affected by tides.

Very small landing area that is tide dependent and can only take small numbers of passengers at a time.

FAUNA

Adelie Penguins, Antarctic Shags, Snowy sheathbill, kelp gull, Antarctic tern, Chinstraps and Gentoos (br).

OTHER

One Camera – [Penguinwatch.org](https://penguinwatch.org)



Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

None.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disruption of breeding Adelies and other species.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS

Maximum 2 ships per day, Category 1 only.

VISITOR NUMBERS

Only 20 passengers on the landing (exclusive of guides) at one time.

1:10 Visitor to Guide ratio.

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

Landing area is small and is only viable when tide is in.

The swell and waves into the site are the primary risks to landing here. This should be carefully assessed. Landing preferred only if conditions do not allow a Zodiac Cruise. The zodiac cruise here is incredible and still allows very close approach to the shoreline and observation of the wildlife and landscape.

Also of consideration is the amount of ice in the water at the proposed landing sites. Large chunks of ice and growlers are often present in the bay where the landing sites are, and so careful consideration of the swell and impacts of moving ice are necessary.

Rocky shoal that needs to be covered by the tide to allow zodiacs into an inner landing site. Hence the tide dependent nature of this landing site.

Non-breeding penguins tend to gather along the shore, but a landing area can be established and maintained with little disturbance to penguins, and no affect on breeding sites.

Primary visitor area is the landing site.

GUIDED WALKING AREA

Guided walks on landing beach only.

FREE ROAMING AREA

None.



Visitor Code of Conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

Guided at all times.

Staff must go ashore with visitors and not remain in boats, or have a set landing party ashore.

