

## President Head

Primary Landing Site (google earth):  
62°44'0"S, 061°12'33"W

Secondary Landing Site (google earth):  
62°44'9"S, 61°13'59"W

# IAATO

visitor site guide



## Key Features

- Classic South Shetland open beach and low shoreline, with numerous elephant seal wallows.
- Leopard seals can often be found ashore basking on the beach. Many breeding bird species on site including chinstrap penguins, Southern giant petrels and Antarctic terns.



## Description

### TOPOGRAPHY

A headland forming the east end of Snow Island, in the South Shetland Islands. It extends roughly 2.6 km in an east-northeast direction, rising to 107m at St. Sofroniy Knoll. The adjacent ice-free area is about 303 hectares and includes Calliope Beach on the north side of the peninsula and Oeagrus Beach on its south side.

Shallow water approach to beach with underwater hazards. Often swelly, leading to surf conditions.

### FAUNA

Leopard seals, Weddell seals, Elephant seals.

**Breeding:** Antarctic blue-eyed shags, Chinstrap penguins, Gentoo penguins, Southern giant petrel, Pintado petrel, Antarctic Terns.

### OTHER

None observed.



## Visitor Impact

### KNOWN IMPACTS

No sign of visitor impact.

### POTENTIAL IMPACTS

**Moss beds to be avoided** – easily avoided.

**Whales bones on beach** – should not be moved or touched.

**Erosion** – loose scree slopes will show formation of paths quickly but easy to move around site without walking on loose scree.

**Fossils** Susceptible to trampling or collection.

Potential for surf landing.

**Early season risk of walking onto glacier** – if beach is snow covered, the terminus and sides of the glacier are very gradual and it could be possible to walk up onto the glacier and into crevassed terrain without realizing that you are on the glacier. This boundary would be obvious to staff and could be marked or visually identified during the landing.

## Landing Requirements

### SHIPS

3 ships per day, one of which is Category 2 (*midnight to midnight*).

\* A ship is defined as a vessel which carries more than 12 passengers.

### VISITOR NUMBERS

Visitors per guide: 20

One ship at a time. No more than 100 visitors ashore at any time, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders.

## Visitor Area

### LANDING AREA

Shallow approach with rocks on approach to beach. Wavy conditions can result in surf at landing site.

Elephant seal wallows down the beach from landing site however no concentration of wildlife at landing site.

Easy walk on generally open terrain to primary visitor area.

### CLOSED AREA

- Rocky headland east of the primary landing site should not be visited due to presence of nesting Southern giant petrels.
- Closed site southeast of line across headland –  
Coordinates of line:  
WPT 1 – 62°43'55.88"S, 061°12'13.05"W  
WPT 2 – 62°43'55.02"S, 061°12'10.30"W  
WPT 3 – 62°43'53.96"S, 061°12'05.92"W
- Giant petrel nests spotted on rocky outcropping at 62°43'56.73"S, 061°12'3.79"W.

### GUIDED WALKING AREA

Guided area to west of landing site to elephant seal wallow and beyond to area with fossils of ferns.

Wildlife concentrations not significant enough to impact mobility around landing site.

### FREE ROAMING AREA

North of closed area with staff supervision, especially on boundary of closed area.





## Visitor code of conduct

### BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

- There are moss beds around the site – walking routes around site should be selected to avoid moss beds.
- Fossils along headland west of landing site beach – look but don't touch. Be aware of where you walk so as not to trample and potentially damage these fossils.
- Care should be taken on approach to elephant seal wallows.
- Leopard seals are often found hauled out on the beach here – care should be taken not to disturb them.