

15. Shingle Cove

60°39'00" S, 45°34'00" W
Small sheltered cove on southern shore of Coronation Island, on NW shore of Iceberg Bay.

ANTARCTIC TREATY

visitor site guide



Key Features

- Adélie penguins
- Vegetation
- Burrowing snow petrels



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

The south-western inner shore of Shingle Cove comprises low cliffs with two gravel beaches at either end of the inner bay, providing access to the higher ground. The site consists of boulder and cobbled scree with a few rocky outcrops of metamorphic schist, thin pale layers of quartz and feldspar accentuate the layering. Other metamorphic minerals such as deep red garnet and dark green amphibole may also be visible to the naked eye.

FAUNA

Wilson's storm-petrel - Suspected Breeders, Kelp Gull - Suspected Breeders, Antarctic prion - Suspected Breeders, Southern elephant seal - Regularly haul out, Antarctic fur seal - Regularly haul out, Snowy sheathbill - Confirmed breeders, Snow petrel - Confirmed breeders, Skua - Confirmed breeders, Cape petrel - Confirmed breeders, Adélie penguin - Confirmed breeders

FLORA

Forty-nine plant species have been recorded, primarily in the scree and in the extensive vegetation stands near the penguin colony. These include 17 moss species and 19 lichen species including *Usnea Antarctica*, *Xanthoria* spp. and *Caloplaca* spp. which can also be observed in the low cliffs below the colony. Both vascular plants, *Deschampsia antarctica* and *Colobanthus quitensis* are recorded here.

OTHER

Hazardous rocks and reefs lie immediately off shore.

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

None.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of wildlife, trampling of vegetation, damage to petrels burrows and trail formation.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS

Max pax on board: 200

Ships per day: 2

VISITORS

Maximum number of passengers at any time, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders: 100

Visitors per guide: 20

Curfew time period (from/to), in order to establish a rest period for wildlife: 22:00-04:00

Comments: Maximum 2 ships per day (midnight to midnight).

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

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Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

Primary: small beach area at northern end of visitor site in inner bay between two low cliffs with nesting petrels.
Secondary: gravel beach to south of penguin colony protected by reef but generally more exposed to the swell.

CLOSED AREA

Closed Area A: low coastal cliffs of loose rocks above and below main track to colony where nesting petrels breed.
Closed Area B: the large scree slopes inland from the colony where burrowing petrels breed.
Closed Area C: extensive vegetation patch situated behind the Adélie colony.

GUIDED WALKING AREA

Walks to the Adélie colony must follow a carefully flagged route to avoid straying into burrowing petrel areas.
Visits to the colony should be in small closely supervised groups with no more than two discrete groups of 20 in the colony area at one time.
Visitors may approach the base of the coastal cliffs in order to observe petrel nests accessible from landing beaches. This must be in small groups (no more than 20) and extreme caution must be exercised not to disturb the breeding groups. Always approach from downhill and take care not to disturb rocks.
Do not use flash photography.

FREE ROAMING AREA

Visitors may roam freely in the immediate landing beach area.

Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

Walk carefully and do not tread on vegetated areas which are susceptible to trampling.
Walk slowly and carefully. Maintain a precautionary distance of 5 metres from wildlife and give animals the right-of-way. Increase this distance if any change in behaviour is observed.
Take care not to displace penguins along the shoreline.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

Strong winds and tidal variation can bring pack and brash ice quickly onto the beach area. Strong tidal variation can result in small growlers and bergy bits being stranded in the shallow area off shore. These can fracture suddenly during stranding or subsequent re-floating.



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Adélie colony area



Primary landing site

