

Hovgaard Island

Hovgaard Island is located close to the Lemaire Channel, just South of Pleneau Island Northwest of Penola Strait.

Possible landing sites:

65° 6'47.31"S, 64° 4'6.87"W (rock) OR
65° 6'38.93"S, 64° 4'20.11"W (beach)

IAATO

visitor site guide



Key Features

- Scenic views
- Good camp site
- Solitude
- Conditions permitting, snow walk.



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

Landing here can offer magnificent views towards Booth Island, the Lemaire Channel and Girard Bay.

Vessels should ensure clear communication of intentions with other Operators, as there are other visitor sites in the area. Similarly, vessel bridges should have clear communication about anchorage sites.

There is no confirmed breeding wildlife in the area around the possible landing sites. One possible landing site is on bare granitic like rocks, the water is deep enough for small boat operation whatever the tide.

An alternative landing site is a small beach 50m (165ft) long, flat and made of medium size pebbles, bounded by reefs on each side. The seabed at this landing is shallow but flat and made of pebbles.

The snowbank starts immediately behind either landing.

The larger landing site offers slightly better views as it is more open to the Southeast.

The island is around 5km (3mi) long in an axis North South and 1,3km (0.8mi) wide, covered by a permanent snow cap.

The North and Southwest coast of the island is very rocky, indented, and many islets are present on the Northwest side. Very quickly, the rocks disappear under the imposing layer of permanent snow which gives way to ice cliffs around its coasts.

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Gentoo penguins (this colony is not in the vicinity of the landing area).

Pinnipeds often hauled out: Weddell seals and Crabeater seals. Very few Antarctic fur seals late in the season.

Occasional visitors: Penguins and other bird life.



Landing Requirements

SHIPS'

Maximum passengers onboard: 500

Ships per day: 3

Comments: Maximum 3 ships per day (midnight to midnight), of which no more than 2 may carry more than 200 passengers.

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

VISITOR NUMBERS

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

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

Avoid driving too close to shore as the coastline is very jagged. Approach perpendicular to the landing site.

Once landed, walk towards the snowbank. It is possible to gain elevation to have better views, as long as visitors stay in a safe zone (the natural limits of the rocks give a good idea of the safe zone).

All areas should be assessed properly for dangers, especially higher on the slopes where there may be crevasses.



VISITOR SAFETY

Current in Penola Strait, either North or Southbound, creates an eddy around the Northeastern place of Hovgaard Island (between Pleneau and Hovgaard Islands). Be aware that this can bring ice towards both landings, in particular during a short overnight stay.

It is possible to go up towards the snowcap for better views and offering snow activities. These must be done in closely guided groups lead by experienced staff with appropriate equipment (e.g. snowprobe, crevasse rescue kit).

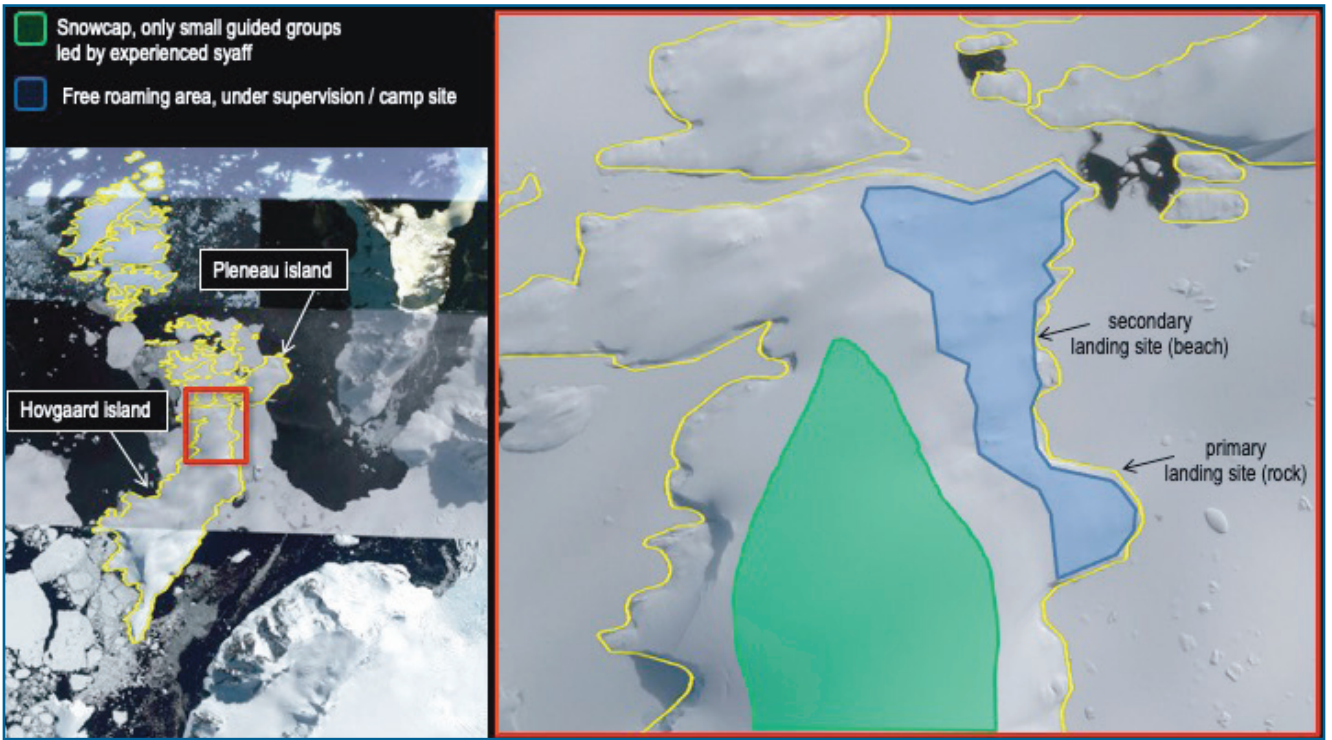
Clear boundaries for guest activities must be given as the island is large and wandering off can be dangerous since the island is surrounded by ice cliffs, overhanging snow and the snowcap is crevassed.

GUIDED WALKING AREA

Passengers should be led in small groups by experienced staff with some equipment if walking into snow-covered areas with risk of crevasses.

FREE ROAMING AREA

Free roaming in the vicinity of the landing area as long as the passengers are located within the natural boundary made of the rocky faces.



Visitor Code of Conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

Monitor at all times where passengers go, ensuring they do not approach dangerous areas.

