

27. Danco Island, Errera Channel

64°44'00" S, 62°36'00" W

ANTARCTIC TREATY

visitor site guide



Key Features

- Gentoo penguin colony
- Glacial scenery



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

Danco Island is a one mile long island in the southern part of the Errera Channel. Its north shore is characterised by a wide flat cobbled beach with a long snow-free slope behind it which rises up to the island's ice-covered summit. Permanent ice dominates the top and south side of the island.

FAUNA

Subantarctic skuas - Suspected Breeders, Kelp Gull - Suspected Breeders, Blue-eyed shag - Suspected Breeders, Antarctic tern - Suspected Breeders, Weddell seal - Regularly haul out, Crabeater Seal - Regularly haul out, Snowy sheathbill - Confirmed breeders, Gentoo penguin - Confirmed breeders

FLORA

Snow algae may be extensive in late summer. Two species of moss have been recorded on the island, and lichen is present.

OTHER

Previously the site of Base 'O' (UK) which was occupied from Feb 1956 to Feb 1959. Subsequently abandoned, the hut was demolished and cleaned up in March-April 2004 but concrete foundation blocks remain.

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

None known.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of wildlife.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS

Max pax on board: 500

VISITORS

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

Comments: One ship at a time. Maximum 3 ships per day (midnight to midnight), of which no more than 2 can carry over 200 passengers.

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

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Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

The preferred landing site is on the western end of the north shore, near the site of the former British base.

CLOSED AREA

None.

GUIDED WALKING AREA

None.

FREE ROAMING AREA

Visitors may roam freely under supervision.

Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

Avoid walking in the deep snow pathways created by penguins.

All visits are to be conducted in accordance with the General Guidelines for Visitors to the Antarctic.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

Boat drivers should be aware of shallow, rocky approaches to the landing beach.

The permanent ice slopes are crevassed and dangerous. They should only be accessed by those with suitable alpine experience and training and using suitable equipment (eg, roped access).

Beware of wash from calving icebergs in beach area, particularly on the beach to the south of the site of the former Base 'O'.



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Landing site. Be aware of shallow rocky areas off the beach.



The site of the former British base is marked with concrete foundation blocks.

