

Fort Point (Draft)

Landing site South:

62°32'30.93"S 59°34'57.02"W

Ship's location South:

62°32'46.89"S 59°35'33.18"W

IAATO

visitor site guide



Key Features

- Jagged volcanic landscape and view of Musala glacier.
- Chinstrap and gentoo penguins.
- Zodiac cruising can be spectacular.



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

Fort point is a small area home to a few rookeries of chinstrap and gentoo penguins surrounded by a dramatic landscape. Macaroni penguins are occasional breeders and Adelies are occasional visitors.

North or South of the isthmus the beach is very steep, on both the seabed or on land, and composed of moderate to large cobble.

The length of the beaches is about 300m long / 30m wide.

It is very common to have either the Northern or the Southern beach packed with glacial ice.

As the site offers two landings in opposite direction, you can maximise the chance to choose the safest landing.

Fort point is a conspicuous volcanic rock formation located Southeast of Greenwich Island, connected to the Musala glacier on the western side by an isthmus exposed on its northern and southern coast to the seas.



FAUNA

Common breeders: Chinstrap penguin and Gentoo penguin

As per MAPPPD: <https://www.penguinmap.com/mapppd/site/FORT>

Occasional breeders confirmed: Macaroni penguins

Occasional visitors: Adelie penguins, Southern elephant seals, Southern giant petrels. Late season fur seals

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Up to 3 ships per day.

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

LANDING AREA

If you land away from the pinnacles, you will avoid the obvious reefs and sunken rocks. In the centre of both beaches the bottom is deep without surprises for small boats.

Once landed, move into the beach to the “flat” area, where walking is easier. Then turn towards the pinnacles where there are a few rookeries. On the way back you can head towards the glacier where other breeding penguins are present and where you can enjoy the scenery.

The cobble is moderately sized (roughly basketball-sized) ashore and having steady footing is paramount. The beach is steep before you reach the “flat” area, so you need to walk up on steep loose slippery cobble for about 10-30m (30-100ft) before reaching a more stable and smaller cobble leading to the plateau.

CLOSED AREA

Musala glacier is very jagged and quickly very crevassed. DO NOT traverse without proper training and equipment.

GUIDED WALKING AREA

Free roaming as long as staff are always spread and keep an eye on the passengers.



Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

The terrain can be difficult. The size of the cobble can make the footing inconvenient.

Although one side of the isthmus gives always more protection to the element than the other side, swell is always present and should not be underestimated.

