

Fort Point

Possible landing site:

62°32'30.93"S 59°34'57.02"W

Possible ship's location:

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
- Small boat 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 (980ft) long / 30m (98ft) 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, there is ample opportunity 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.

Occasional breeders confirmed: Macaroni penguins.

Occasional visitors: Adelie penguins, Southern Elephant seals, Southern Giant petrels. Late season fur seals.

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 can carry over 200 passengers.

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

LANDING AREA

Landing away from the pinnacles 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 a few rookeries.

On the way back to the landing, head towards the glacier to create a loop towards the other breeding penguins that are present and to enjoy the scenery.

The cobble is moderately sized (roughly basketball-sized) ashore, and having steady footing is paramount. The beach is steep before reaching 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.

