



Vernadsky station, Galindez Island

65° 15'S, 64°16'W

Located in the Argentine Islands

Key features

- The oldest operational station in the Antarctic Peninsula region
- The Faraday bar and Historic British Base F, Wordie House
- Glacial Scenery

Description

Topography

Ukrainian Vernadsky station (formerly the British Faraday station) situated on a very small rocky peninsula called Marine Point, Galindez Island (part of the Argentine Islands). The surrounding islands protect the peninsula from the open sea and in summer the area is relatively clear of snow. A large permanent ice cap (with thickness up to 50 meters) covers the most part of the island. The station is surrounded by water to the immediate north and round the south side by a very narrow channel called Stella Creek, which separates it from Winter Island on which Historic British Base F is situated.

Fauna

The following species are regularly sighted on the Island: Adélie penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*), gentoo penguins (*Pygoscelis papua*), blue-eyed shags (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*), Wilson's storm-petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*), south polar skuas (*Catharacta maccormicki*), kelp gulls (*Larus dominicanus*).

Regularly haul out: Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddelli*).

Flora

Rhizocarpon sp. and *Usnea Antarctica* are lichens present on the island. The moss *Polytrichum strictum* is also found.

Other

This station is the oldest operational station in the Antarctic Peninsula region, with continuous meteorological records, which have been collected since 1947 till present. The station was transferred to Ukraine in 1996 and renamed after academician Volodymyr Vernadsky. The station consists of the main double-stored working and accommodation block, and of ten auxiliary buildings.

The station has been regularly visited by seaborne tourists since 1968. The Faraday bar is of special interest to visitors at the station.

Visitor impacts

Known impacts

- None known

Potential impacts

- Fire.
- Disturbance of station work schedules.

Requisites for disembarkation*

Ships*

- Maximum 1 ship* per day, which can carry 200 or fewer passengers (note visitor restrictions below).

Operators

- Make sure to obtain permission before visiting the station**.
- Reconfirm scheduled visits no less than 24-72 hours before arriving.
- The final decision to allow a visit to a station is at the discretion of the Station Leader who is free to decline because of weather conditions or possible disruption of station activities.

Visitors

- Visitors will normally be briefed either onboard ship or immediately on arrival at the station by the Station Leader.
- Tourists are shown around Vernadsky station, in groups of a maximum of 30 people at any one time.
- Station tours last approximately 30-45 minutes per group.
- The total time limit spent for visit is 3 hours per day. During a tour visit, Post Office facilities and souvenir shop are usually available.



Visitor areas

Landing areas:

Ships visiting the Argentine Islands station should not enter the Meek Channel where they would pass close to the magnetic observatory on the North shore of Galindez Island and thus cause disturbance to the instruments. The approach should be made from the west or the ship should lie in Penola Strait while parties are sent ashore by motor boat through Meek Channel, using either a basic or an auxiliary piers.

Closed areas

Visitors must not enter the station buildings logistic support facilities unless specifically invited to do so.

Guided walking areas

Research areas on Galindez Island.

Free roaming areas

Other areas on Galindez Island, where visitors may roam freely under close supervision.

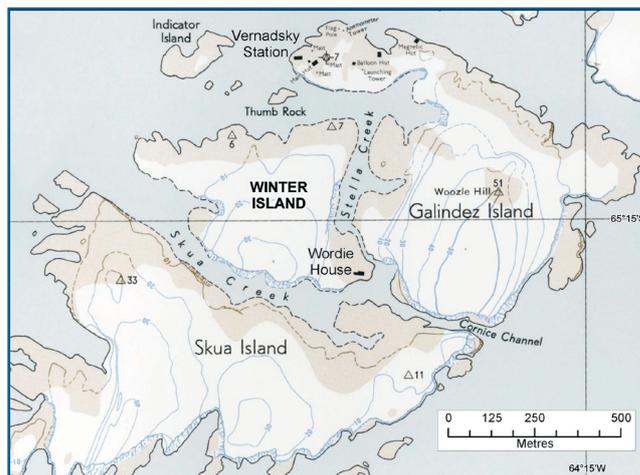
Visitor code of conduct

Behaviour ashore

- The tour company is expected to ensure that tourists are under the supervision of experienced guides.
- All visitors must by comply with any conditions or restrictions on their movements which the station commander may stipulate for their safety or to safeguard scientific programmes being undertaken at or near the station.
- Do not interfere with, or remove, scientific equipment or marker posts, and do not disturb experimental study sites, field camps or stored supplies.
- The station personnel provide facilities for basic hospitality and education only. Permission to use station facilities (e.g., communication equipment) and medical assistance will only be given in cases of emergency.
- All visitors must respect the property, privacy and work of station personnel.
- Visits to Historic British Base F, Wordie House, are possible in accordance with the Visitor Site Guidelines as the ATCM Resolution No 1 (2010) is required.

Cautionary notes

- Many small bays indented in the Argentine islands coastline are convenient for yacht anchorage, especially when bad weather.



Vernadsky station location on Galindez Island



Vernadsky station general view



The Faraday bar



Historic British Base F, Wordie House

Reviewed: 2011

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

** Ukraine National Antarctic Program prefers, on a priority basis, to accept requests for visits from Government or IAATO Member vessels. It is expected that all tour expeditions and non-governmental expeditions are self-sufficient, have proper medical support and carry adequate insurance cover.

Neither the National Antarctic Scientific Centre, nor Vernadsky station personnel will be liable for any personal injury or damage to property that may be sustained during a visit at the station.