

33. D'Hainaut Island, Mikkelsen Harbour, Trinity Island

63°54'00''S, 60°47'00''W

ANTARCTIC TREATY

visitor site guide



Key Features

- Gentoo Penguins
- Whaling Artefacts
- Argentine Refuge



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

D'Hainaut Island is a small, largely flat, rocky island (less than 1 sq km). The island is situated in Mikkelsen Harbour a 3km wide bay, lined with ice cliffs, indenting the south side of Trinity Island between Skottsberg and Borge Point. The island is often snow covered until late in the season and there are a number of shallow reefs in the waters surrounding the island.

FAUNA

Crabeater Seal - Suspected Breeders, Weddell seal - Regularly haul out, Antarctic fur seal - Regularly haul out, Leopard Seal - Likely breeders, Snowy sheathbill - Confirmed breeders, Skua - Confirmed breeders, Gentoo penguin - Confirmed breeders, Dominican gull - Confirmed breeders, Antarctic tern - Confirmed breeders

FLORA

Snow algae may be extensive in late summer. Moss spp., *Prasiola crispa*, *Xanthoria* spp., *Caloplaca* spp. and *Verrucaria* spp. noted.

OTHER

There is a small Argentine refuge on the island. In addition, there is a large pile of whalebones and a whalers' water boat located on the northeast shore of the island.

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

None known.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of wildlife. Disturbance of historic artefacts.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS

Max pax on board: 500

Ships per day: 3

VISITORS

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

Visitors per guide: 0

Comments: One ship at a time. Maximum 3 ships per day (midnight to midnight) but a maximum of 2 ships carrying between 201-500 passengers.

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Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

The recommended landing is the north east beach in the vicinity of the whalebones and waterboat. There are several possible alternative landing points around the island as tide and snow conditions will dictate access.

If unable to land at the primary landing site, care should be taken to select a landing site away from penguin breeding areas.

CLOSED AREA

None.

GUIDED WALKING AREA

None.

FREE ROAMING AREA

Visitors may roam freely around the island, while taking care in the vicinity of the historic artefacts.

Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

Care should be taken not to disturb historic artefacts.

Avoid walking in the deep snow pathways created by penguins.

The refuge is not to be entered except in the case of an emergency.

Walk slowly and carefully. Maintain a precautionary distance of 5 metres from wildlife and give animals the right-of-way. Increase this distance if any change in behaviour is observed.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

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



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