

Punta Vidt (Draft)

Possible landing site:
64° 53' 31" S 062° 51' 43" W

Peer Sites: Skontorp
Cove, Brown Station

IAATO

visitor site guide



Key Features

- Weddell seals
- Glacial scenery
- Possible site for short overnight stays
- HSM no. 30 in vicinity (4.5nm)
- ASPA no. 146 in vicinity (18nm)



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

Punta Vidt is a small flat peninsula on the Antarctic mainland, located in Paradise Harbour. Behind it a glacier slopes gently up to rock cliffs. An Argentine navigation marker is found on the SW part of the peninsula.



200m (0.12mi) to the SW, Base Brown, a summer only station run by Argentina can be seen. Punta Vidt is separated from the base by a .1nm wide stretch of water.

The geography, lack of wildlife and sheltered location makes this a possible site for short overnight stays.

A narrow strip of cobble and coarse gravel beach which faces W, NW and NNE. It is several hundred metres (.2mi) long and can be accessed equally easily along this length. In some places the approach is shallow and in others the bottom topography is steeper. The water is very frequently clear and the bottom can be seen.

Greenstone sediments and andesitic tuffs from Jurassic/Cretaceous characterise the general location and this likely reflects the geology of the site.

Deep snow in early season can make moving around at the site difficult. Snow is usually present throughout the summer making this a useful camping site.

FAUNA

No confirmed breeders.

Common visitors: Weddell seal, Snowy sheathbill, Antarctic tern, Brown skua, Kelp gull, Wilson's storm petrel, Cape petrel

Visitor Impact

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Possible disturbance of wildlife.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Maximum passengers onboard: 500

Ships per day: 3

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

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

There are shoals very close to shore but none cause significant impediments to small boat drivers, and there are a lot of alternative sites all along the beach.

The more sheltered bay separating the site from Base Brown contains actively calving tidewater glaciers and the possibility of tsunamis in this bay. Small boats cruising in the vicinity of tide water glaciers should keep at least 200 meters (600 ft) from tide water glaciers to avoid both direct hits and the largest waves. For high activity glaciers this should be increased to 400 meters (1200 ft).

The 200 meters (600 ft) distance should be increased in narrow fjords, in shallow fjords, or locations with ice cliffs higher than 40-50 meters (120-150 ft).

When operating amongst sea ice or icebergs, be vigilant to local sea and wind currents. Be alert to ice movement in relation to your operation and how it may affect both vessel and shore operations.

Be aware that grounded icebergs will experience a gravitational change with tidal variation. This makes them more unpredictable and more likely to calve or break up.

Be aware that a collapsing iceberg can cause a huge breaking wave and ice fragments can move quickly over a large distance. Be prepared. Anchoring close to ice is not advisable, instead maintain a watch and keep your engine running.

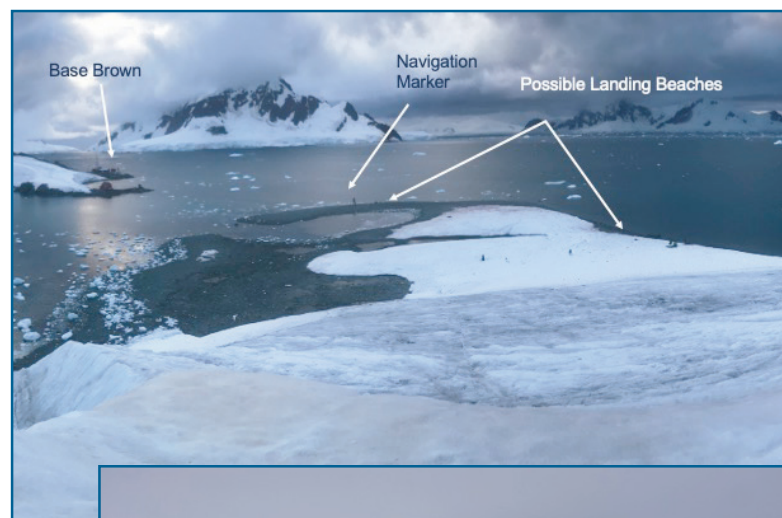
Weddell seals very frequently haul out on the shore and this may inform decisions as to where to and if landing is possible.

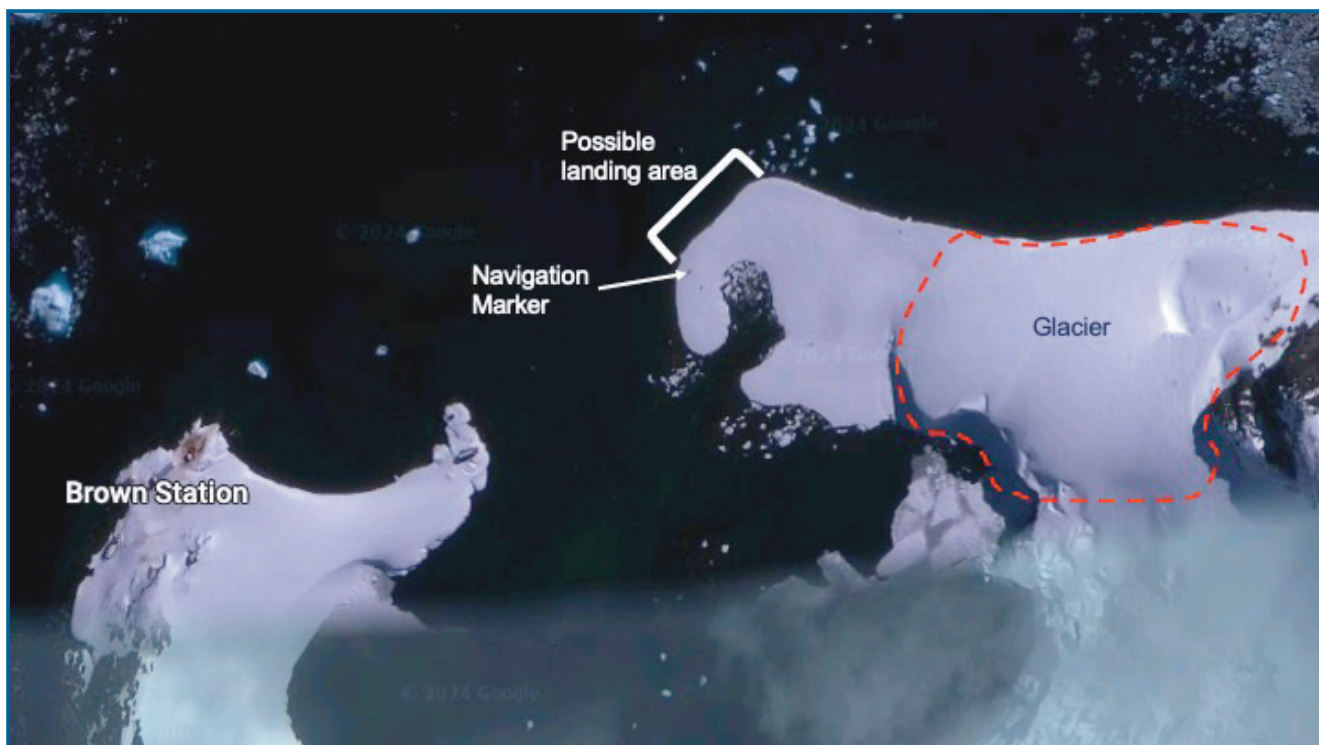
Multiple possibilities depending on the locations of hauled out seals.

GUIDED WALKING AREA

The area should be free roaming, with consideration taken for the glacier rising to the east.

A glacier slopes up to the east from the site. When snow-covered, care should be taken visiting these slopes and visitors should be appropriately equipped.





Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

- The navigation marker should not be interfered with.
- When ashore in snow and ice, avoid making 'postholes' which can trap penguins. Try to maintain the same track through the snow. If holes are made, carefully fill them in or make them wider and/or sloped so that wildlife can easily step out of them.

Historical Information

Shelter at Paradise Harbour is designated as Historic Site and Monument no. 30 under the Antarctic Treaty.

A navigation marker is located on the peninsula. Any damage to the navigation marker should be reported.

Argentina's 'Base Brown' is located 200m (0.12mi) away, separated by an inlet of the sea.

Chile's 'Gonzalez Videla' is located 4 NM to the north.