

Gourdin Island (Draft)

Possible landing area:
63° 11' 40" S 57° 18' 35" W

IAATO

visitor site guide



Key Features

- Adelie, Chinstrap and Gentoo penguins nesting on this island
- Nesting skuas, sheathbills and Wilson storm petrels
- Hike to a viewpoint later in the season



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

Early in the season, the coastline and rocks form a series of passages, particularly on the NW side which creates great opportunities small boat cruising and watching penguins jumping over 3 m (10 ft) to reach the coast and walk to their colonies.

Later in the season, landings and walking up to the viewpoint are possible after assessment of wildlife distribution for visitors to maintain adequate distances.

Rocky coast with several shallow areas and hazards. Extreme precautions to avoid hitting rocks must be taken.



FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Adelie penguin, Chinstrap penguin, Gentoo penguin, Snowy sheathbill, Wilson's storm petrel, Brown skua.

Present: Antarctic shag, Antarctic fur seal, Southern Elephant seal.

FLORA

Lichens and mosses present.

Visitor Impact

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of wildlife.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Maximum passengers onboard: 200

Ships per day: 3

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

Maximum 50 visitors onshore at one time, excluding guides.

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

Needs to be assessed on site. It may vary due to wildlife concentration, particularly later in the season.

Snow-ice accumulation at the beginning of the season may prevent landing. Later in the season, the abundance of wildlife may affect the possibility of going ashore due to the lack of space.

GUIDED WALKING AREA

Route to viewpoint needs to be assessed on site, according to the distribution of wildlife.

RESTRICTED ZONES

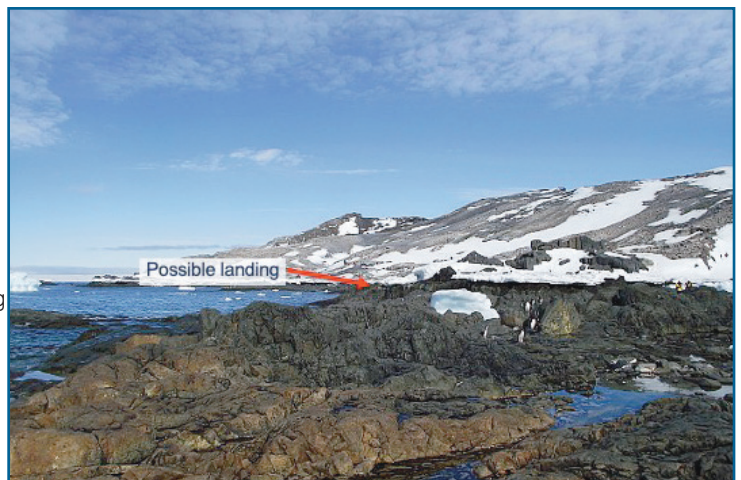
Main penguin rookeries located uphill must be clearly marked and monitored at all times.

Later in the season, maintain adequate distance from moulting penguins near the shoreline. This may make path creation difficult due to increased wildlife concentration.

VISITOR SAFETY

Hidden rocks, strong currents and confined space to manoeuvre may cause small boats to get trapped, pushed on top of rocks or too close to ice/snow ledges. In windy conditions or low tides, uneven and slippery terrain may be the best route for visitors with possible fall risk.

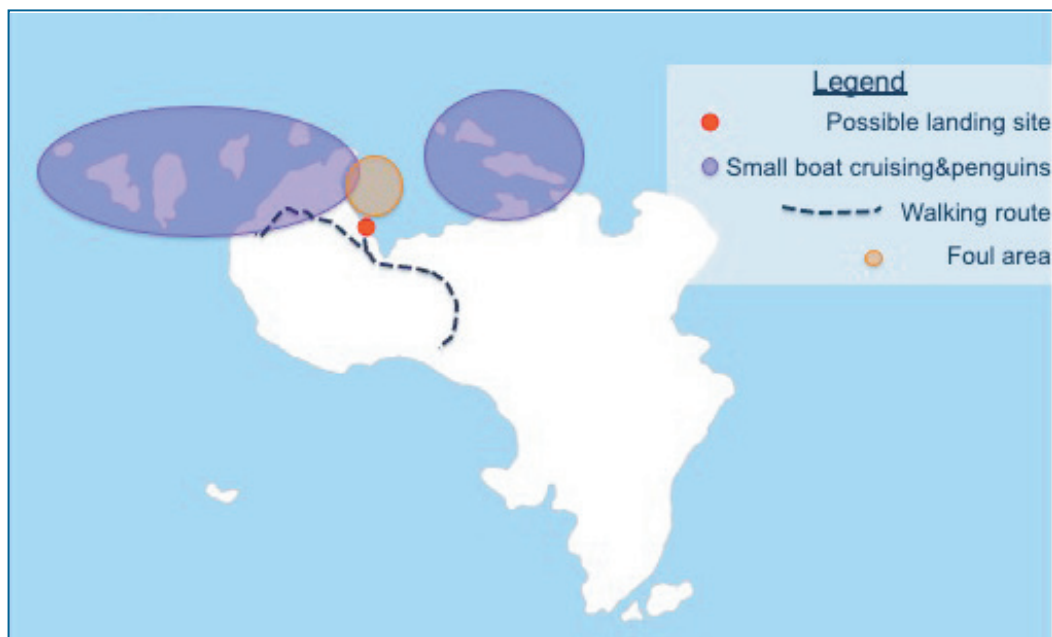
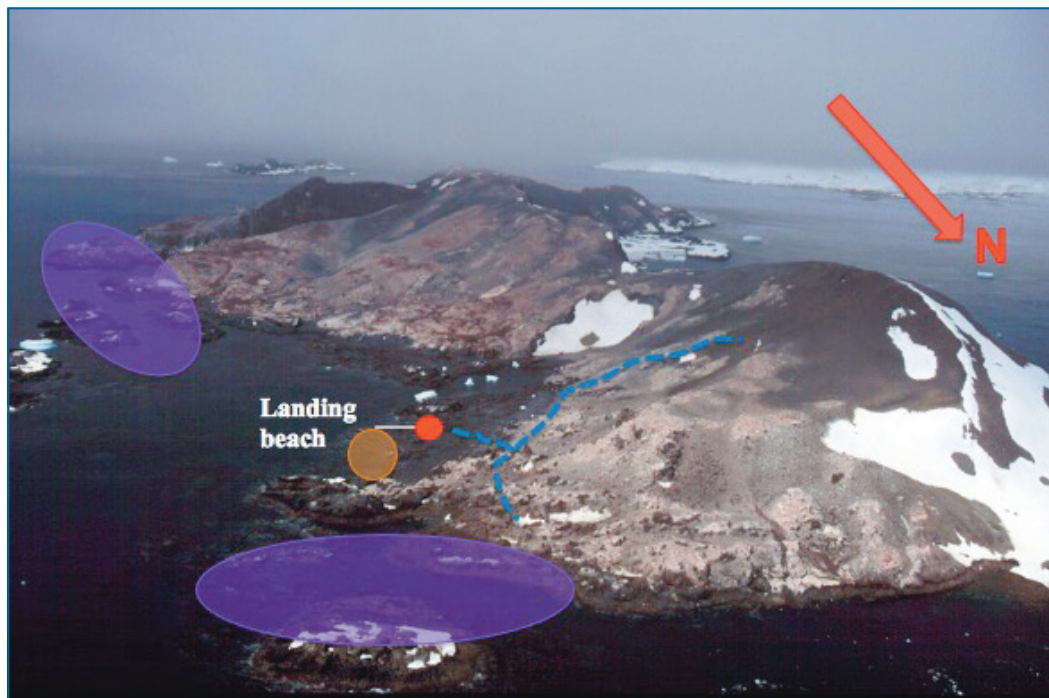
Small boats operators should be aware of Leopard seals, which have been known to be curious around small boats



Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

No free roaming areas, all must be monitored by guides with appropriate demarcations to maintain adequate distance to wildlife. Access to the viewpoint may be limited due to uneven terrain.



Historical Information

Largest island in a group of islands and rocks 1 mi N of Prime Head, the N tip of Antarctic Peninsula. Discovered by a French expedition, 1837-40, under Capt. Jules Dumont d'Urville, and named by him for Ens. Jean Gourdin of the expedition ship *Astrolabe*. The island was reidentified and charted by the FIDS in 1945-47.