



Pléneau Island

65°06'S, 64°04'W - Located west of Booth Island at the southern end of the Lemaire Channel

Key features

- Iceberg and glacial scenery
- Gentoo Penguins



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

This island is around 1.2km long. From the cobbled beach on the eastern coast, smooth rock terraces slope gently upwards towards a large, potentially crevassed, ice-cap, which covers the western two-thirds of the island.

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Gentoo penguins (*Pygoscelis papua*), kelp gulls (*Larus dominicanus*), south polar skuas (*Catharacta maccormicki*), and Antarctic terns (*Sterna vittata*).

Haul out: Southern elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*).

FLORA

Swards of moss species, *Caloplaca* spp. and other lichens, the green alga *Prasiola crispa* and snow algae.

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

None.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of wildlife and trampling of vegetation.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Ships carrying 200 or fewer passengers. One ship at a time. Maximum 3 ships per day (midnight to midnight).

VISITORS

No more than 100 visitors ashore at any time. 1 guide per 20 visitors. No visitors ashore between 22:00hrs and 04:00hrs (local time), except for those engaged in organised overnight stays. This is in order to establish a resting period for the wildlife.

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

On rocks and boulders on the east-northeastern end, facing Booth Island.

CLOSED AREAS

Closed Area A: Antarctic tern nesting area on the northeastern tip of the island.

Closed Area B: Blue-eyed shag nesting area on the northern end of the island.

GUIDED WALKING AREAS

None.

FREE ROAMING AREAS

Visitors may roam freely, but under close supervision, except in the closed areas. Given the irregular topography at this site, guides should be aware that it is more difficult to ensure the necessary supervision of visitors.

Visitor Code of Conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

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. Be careful near skuas, they may be aggressive. Do not walk on any vegetation.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

Be sensitive to tern nesting sites, which may extend beyond the limits shown on the map for Closed Area A.

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

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A large ice cap covers two-thirds of Pléneau Island



Free roaming areas feature irregular topography and are scattered with penguins

