

Telefon Bay (East), Deception Island

62°56'S, 60°40'W - Volcanic crater

ANTARCTIC TREATY

visitor site guide



Key features

- Crater
- Outstanding scenery



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

At the easternmost end of Telefon Bay, a gently sloping beach leads to a broad shallow valley which rises sharply to a number of unnamed volcanic craters. These are up to 45m in depth, although they are slowly being filled in by sediment and ice. The prominent ash cliffs that form the east and west sides of the valley are remnants of an older crater that was modified during an eruption in 1967, which broadened the valley itself. Relict heat still affects the beach at the landing site and has caused local orange staining of the rocks exposed there.

FAUNA

There is no breeding wildlife at Telefon Bay.

Occasionally haul out: Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*), Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*).

FLORA

The site has a generally barren appearance, but close inspection reveals inconspicuous flora (14 species of moss and 8 species of lichen have been recorded from the Telefon Bay area). Immediately adjacent, ASPA 140 (area F) has been designated for its botanical interest – primarily because the ground surfaces within the site date from 1967, allowing accurate monitoring of colonisation by plants and other biota.

OTHER

Telefon Bay comprises part of Deception Island Antarctic Specially Managed Area No 4.

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

None.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Erosion of paths and crater ridge.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Ships carrying 500 or fewer passengers. One ship at a time.

VISITORS

No more than 100 visitors ashore at any time, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders. One guide per 20 visitors.

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

Beach immediately to the south-west of the crater.

CLOSED AREAS

None.

GUIDED WALKING AREAS

Visitors will be guided up to the crater in small closely supervised groups.

FREE ROAMING AREAS

Visitors may roam freely under supervision in the landing beach area.

Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

Visits are to be undertaken in line with the Management Plan for Deception Island ASMA 4. Walk slowly and carefully. Remain on the beach and foreshore which leads up to the crater. Maintain a precautionary distance of 5 metres from any wildlife and give animals the right-of-way. Increase this distance if any change in behaviour is observed.

Take care not to displace penguins along the shoreline.

Walk carefully and do not tread on vegetated areas.

Maintain at least 20 metres distance from seismic monitoring equipment and other types of scientific equipment, which will normally be marked with a red flag. Do not touch or disturb other types of scientific instruments, markers or field depots.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

All visits must be planned taking into account the significant risk posed by the threat of volcanic eruption. Real time information can be obtained from the stations operating on the island.

Exercise extreme caution when approaching the steep edge of the crater lip. The soil is friable and may collapse underfoot.

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

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