

# Cuverville Island

64°41'S, 62°38'W - North Errera Channel

## ANTARCTIC TREATY

visitor site guide



### Key features

- Extensive colony of gentoo penguins in the Antarctic Peninsula
- Glacial and ice scenery



## Description

### TOPOGRAPHY

This 2km by 2.5km island is a steep-sided dome, two-thirds of which is covered by a permanent ice-cap. The northern shore is a beach of cobbles and boulders, approx 1.5km long, backed by steep vegetation-covered cliffs toward the east and gentler slopes to the west.

### FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: gentoo penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*), kelp gull (*Larus dominicanus*), Antarctic tern (*Sterna vittata*), snowy sheathbill (*Chionis alba*), blue-eyed shag (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*), Wilson's storm-petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*), skuas (*Catharacta spp.*), snow petrel (*Pagodroma nivea*), pintado petrel (*Daption capense*).

Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) and Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*) regularly haul out. Leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) often hunt near-shore.

### FLORA

*Deschampsia antarctica*, *Colobanthus quitensis*; swards of moss species; and lichen species including *Xanthoria spp.*, *Buellia spp.*, *Caloplaca spp.*, *Usnea spp.*

## Visitor Impact

### KNOWN IMPACTS

None.

### POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of wildlife and trampling of vegetation.

## Landing Requirements

### SHIPS\*

Ships carrying 500 or fewer passengers. One ship at a time. No more than 3 ships carrying more than 200 passengers per day (midnight to midnight).

### VISITORS

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

Primary: The wide cobble beach on the northern end of the island. Avoid landing in the immediate vicinity of the gentoo colonies on the western end.

Note: The small beaches on the eastern end of the site should not be used for landing, as they provide major access routes to the sea for penguins.

### CLOSED AREAS

Closed Area A: Small beaches where gentoo penguins access the sea.

### GUIDED WALKING AREAS

None.

### FREE ROAMING AREAS

Visitors may roam freely, but under supervision, except in the closed areas. Visitors should always remain within the sight of guides.

Note: the eastern end of the island contains the same wildlife (gentoo penguins) as the west, but has less room for visitors, and a higher likelihood of disrupting routes to and from the sea. Therefore, guides should discourage visits to the eastern end.

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

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### 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 Antarctic fur seals and skuas, they may be aggressive. Do not walk on any vegetation.

#### CAUTIONARY NOTES

In the late season (moulting time), the density of penguins will probably confine visits to the immediate vicinity of the landing beach.



Cuverville Island landing beach

## CUVERVILLE ISLAND

-  Gentoo penguins
-  Closed area

