

Paulet Island

63°35'S, 55°47'W - Northwestern Weddell Sea, southeast of Dundee Island

Key features

- Extensive Adélie Penguin colony
- Stone hut, grave and cairn
(Historic Site and Monument No.41)



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

This circular island is 1.6 km in diameter. It has a distinct volcanic cone that rises to a height of 350 metres. A flat terrace forms an apron around the north and northeast side of the island. At high tide, this terrace is largely submerged, severely restricting visitor space.

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Adélie penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*), blue-eyed shags (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*), kelp gulls (*Larus dominicanus*) and snowy sheathbills (*Chionis alba*);

Likely breeders: Snow petrels (*Pagodroma nivea*) and Wilson's storm-petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*);

Regularly haul out: Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) and Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*) (the latter potentially in large numbers from February onwards). Leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) often hunt offshore.

OTHER

Stone hut, grave and cairn (Historic Site and Monument No. 41).

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

None.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Disturbance of wildlife, particularly Adélie penguins, and damage to the historic site.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Ships carrying 200 or fewer passengers. One ship at a time. Maximum 2 ships per day (midnight to midnight).

VISITORS

No more than 100 visitors at any time. However, at high tide, no more than 50 visitors at any time in the area around the northern coast landing site. Maximum visitor numbers are exclusive of expedition guides and leaders, maintaining a minimum ratio of 1 guide to 20 visitors. No visitors ashore between 22:00hrs and 04:00hrs (local time). This is in order to establish a rest period for wildlife.

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

Cobble landing beaches on either the northern or northeastern coast. Landing may be impossible late in the season, if Antarctic fur seals are present in large numbers.

CLOSED AREAS

Closed Area A: Loose steep scree slopes which are densely packed with breeding Adélie penguins. Snow petrels and Wilson's storm-petrels strongly suspected of breeding in the scree.

Closed Area B: Densely packed area to the northeast of the island, with breeding Adélie penguins and blue-eyed shags, including Adélie penguin control colonies.

GUIDED WALKING AREAS

Because of restricted visitor space, all walks at this site should be carefully controlled in guided groups of no more than 15-20 visitors. Groups should be well-spaced and follow the designated paths along the northern coast, or towards the historic hut and the volcanic, ovoid lake.

FREE ROAMING AREAS

None.

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



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southeast of Dundee Island

Visitor Code of Conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

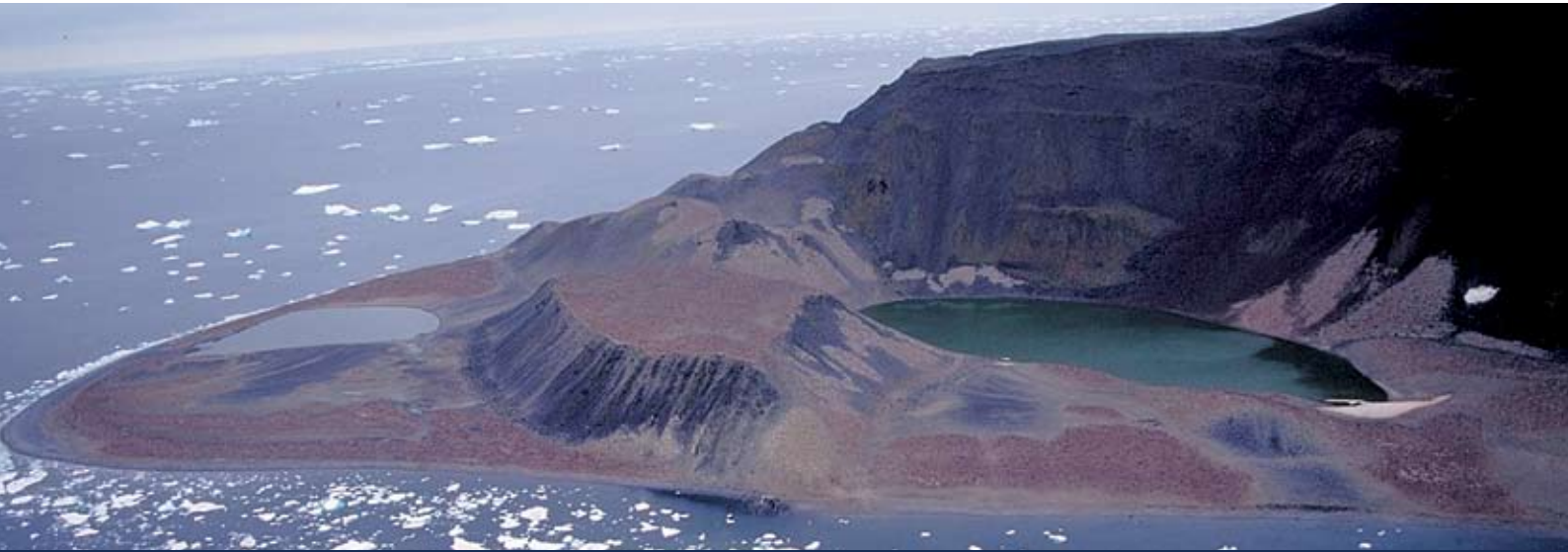
Walk slowly and carefully. Maintain a precautionary distance of 5 metres from wildlife, and give animals the right-of-way. Increase this distance if any change in behaviour is observed.

Be careful near Antarctic fur seals. They may be aggressive.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

Stay clear of — and do not venture on — loose scree slopes.

Ensure the protection of the Historic Site and Monument. Maintain a distance of at least 1 metre from the walls of the hut, as trampling immediately next to the loose walls may cause damage.



Paulet Island from above

