Petermann Island (PETE)

CW region (-65.17, -64.17)

Please note ANTARCTIC TREATY Visitor Site Guideline on the following pages

For five field seasons, from 2003-04 through 2007-08, this island was the location of an Oceanites/ASI field camp, dedicated to examining change at a heavily-visited, historically-important, and environmentally-sensitive site.

This island is also where Jean Charcot's 2d French Antarctic Expedition camped during the austral winter of 1909. Charcot's lead biologist, Louis Gain, became the first scientist to band Antarctic penguins, using makeshift plastic rings of different colors, and he systematically recorded numbers of adult penguins he observed. No standardized censusing protocol then existed, but, assuming that two adult individuals comprise one occupied nest, Gain's maximum counts of 1,850 adult Adélie penguins and 112 adult Gentoo penguins suggest a 1909 population comprising 925 Adélie nests and 56 gentoo nests.

A pair of chinstrap penguins nested on the island during the 2010-11 season, making Petermann Island the 6th location in the Antarctic Peninsula where all three *Pygoscelid* penguins breed contiguously.

Antarctic Site Inventory Effort

92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Presence / Absence

ADPE	CHPE	GEPE	MCPE	SOGP	ANFU	PIPE	SNPE	BESH	SNSB	SPSK	BRSK	SKsp	WISP	KEGU	ANTE	ELPH
Br	Br (new)	Br		Oc	Oc	Oc	Oc	Br	Br	Br	Oc	Br	Br	Br	Br	Oc

Recent ASI Census Data

ADPE	GEPE	CHPE	BESH
485 N1 10 Dec 2002 553 N1 21 Nov 2003 731 C1 24 Jan 2004 532 N1 21 Nov 2004 580 C1 4 Feb 2005 505 N1 16 Nov 2005 589 C1 27 Jan 2006 410 N1 21 Nov 2006 458 C1 4 Feb 2007 N1 count of 410 is down 52% from N1 count of 862 in 1997 (Naveen *et al.* 2000)	2,212 N1 17 Jan 2004 3,260 C1 24 Jan 2004 2,301 N1 4 Dec 2004 2,781 C1 23 Jan 2005 2,438 N1 2 Dec 2005 3,453 C1 25 Jan 2006 2,293 N1 24 Nov 2006 3,344 C1 2 Feb 2007 N1 count of 2,293 is up 47% since N1 count of 1,224 in 1997 (Naveen *et al.* 2000)	1 N1 5 Dec. 2010	19 N1 15 Nov 2004 37 C1 25 Jan 2005 11 N1 16 Nov 2005 26 C1 16 Jan 2006 13 N1 4 Nov 2006 29 C1 12 Jan 2007 N1 count of 13 in Nov. 2006 is down 55% since N1 count of 29 in Nov 1997 and C1 count of 29 in Jan 2007 is down 37% since C1 count of 46 in Jan 2000 (Naveen *et al.* 2000)

ANTARCTIC TREATY
visitor site guide

Petermann Island

65°10'S, 64°10'W - Located in the Penola Strait, south of Hovgaard Island

Key features

- *Gentoo and Adélie Penguins*
- *Blue-eyed Shags*
- *Mountainous Scenery*
- *Cairn (Historic Site and Monument No. 27) and Commemorative Cross.*

Description

TOPOGRAPHY

This 1km-long island rises up to approximately 150 metres above sea level. An ice-cap covers part of the northwestern end of the island and a potentially crevassed permanent ice-slope largely covers the southern end of the island. Many small cobbled bays indent its coastline, with nearly continuous rocky outcrops along the shore.

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Adélie penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*), gentoo penguins (*Pygoscelis papua*), blue-eyed shags (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*), Wilson's storm-petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*), snowy sheathbills (*Chionis alba*), and south polar skuas (*Catharacta maccormicki*).

FLORA

Deschampsia antarctica; swards of moss species; *Xanthoria* spp., *Caloplaca* spp., and other crustose lichens; and the green alga *Prasiola crispa* are present. Snow algae may be extensive.

OTHER

On the site there is an Argentine refuge hut. A commemorative cross and Historic Site and Monument No. 27 is also located on the site.

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. Maximum 3 ships per day (midnight to midnight), of which no more than 2 may be vessels carrying more than 200 passengers.

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

Along the shoreline in Port Circumcision.

CLOSED AREAS

Closed Area A: Breeding Adélie penguins and blue-eyed shags in the vicinity of the basaltic dyke at the northeastern tip of the island.

Closed Area B: Breeding Adélie penguins at higher elevations northwest of Port Circumcision.

Closed Area C: Southwestern end of the island, with breeding skuas, gentoo penguins and Wilson's storm-petrels, and vegetation.

GUIDED WALKING AREAS

Visit to the Historic Site and Monument on Megalestris Hill or to the view point at the southern end of the island should be in guided groups.

FREE ROAMING AREAS

Visitors may roam freely, but under close supervision, except in the closed or guided walking areas. Given the irregular topography at this site, guides should be aware that it is more difficult to ensure the necessary supervision of visitors. Note that the area north of Closed Areas A and B has less room for visitors, and a higher likelihood of disruption to the wildlife. Therefore, guides should discourage visits to this area.

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

ANTARCTIC TREATY
visitor site guide

Petermann Island

65˚10'S, 64˚10'W - Located in the Penola Strait, south of Hovgaard 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 skuas. They may be aggressive.

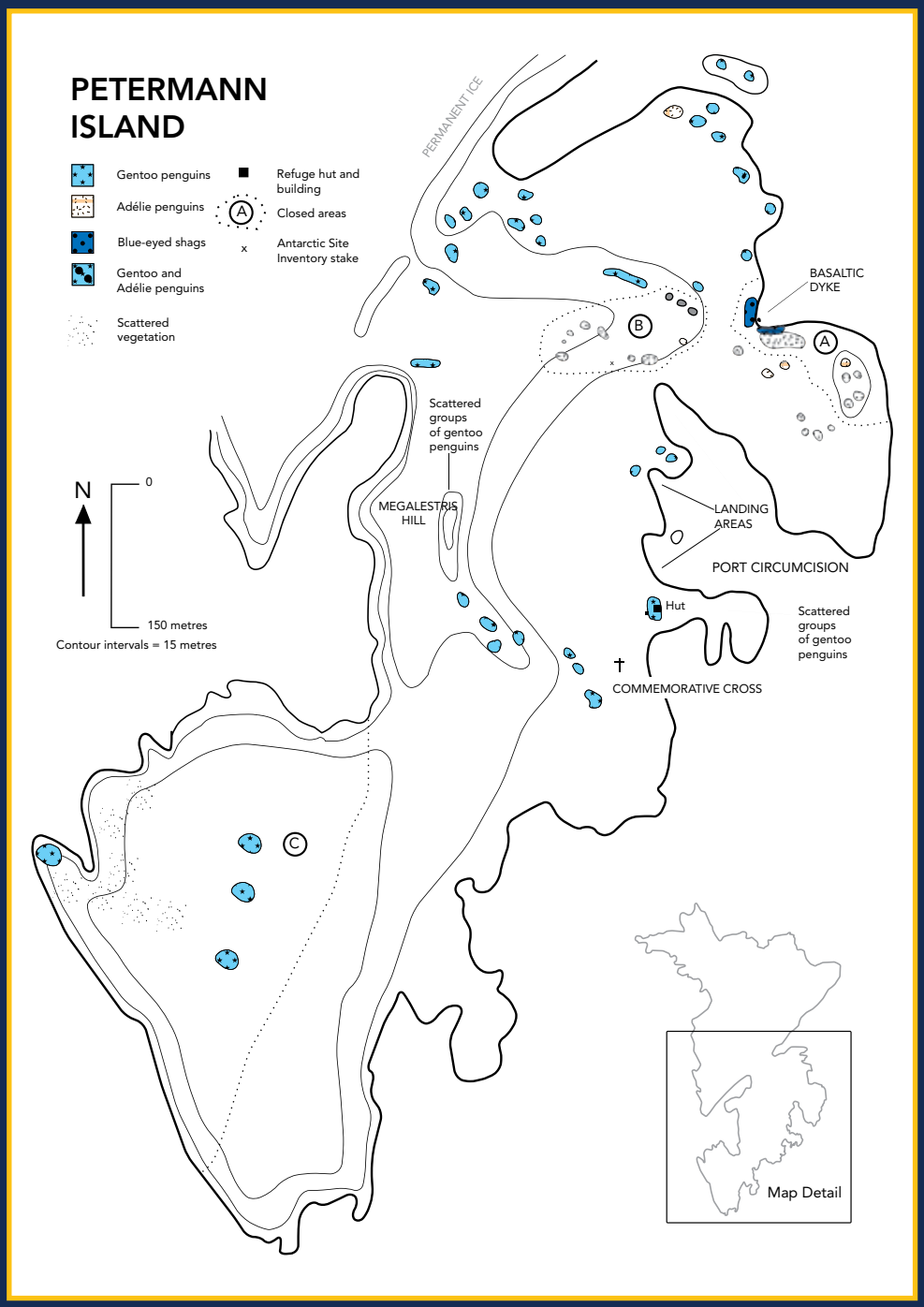
Do not walk on any vegetation.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

Do not enter the refuge hut or damage, remove or destroy the designated Antarctic Historic Site and Monument, or the commemorative cross.

Respect scientific and monitoring activities.

Petermann Island - refuge hut, historical features and scientific activities

Commemorative cross

Blue eyed shags in the vicinity of the balsatic dyke (NE Petermann Island)