

24. Horseshoe Island

67°49'00" S, 67°18'00" W

ANTARCTIC TREATY

visitor site guide



Key Features

- Historic British Base 'Y', Horseshoe Island



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

Horseshoe Island is a small rocky island in Bourgeois Fjord, Marguerite Bay.

FAUNA

Kelp gull - Confirmed breeders, Brown skua - Confirmed breeders

FLORA

29 species of lichen and 15 species of moss have been reported from Horseshoe Island.

OTHER

British Base 'Y' is designated as Historic Site and Monument No. 63. It sits on a small peninsula at the northwestern end of the island overlooking Sally Cove. It is noteworthy as a relatively unaltered and well equipped British scientific base of the late 1950s, providing a time capsule of life and science of the time. It was occupied continuously from March 1955 to August 1960, and re-opened for a 4 month period in 1969. In addition to the base building, there is also a balloon shed, pup pens, an emergency store, two pram dinghies and a winch. 'Blaiklock', the refuge hut located several miles away, is considered an integral part of the base.

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

None known.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Fire. Minor fuel spills.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS

Max pax on board: 500

Ships per day: 2

VISITORS

Maximum number of passengers at any time, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders: 100

Visitors per guide: 0

Comments: One ship at a time. Maximum 2 ships per day (midnight to midnight), of which no more than 1 can carry over 200 passengers.

No more than 12 visitors are allowed inside the base at any one time.

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Base 'Y' was proposed as HSM No. 63 by the UK. Visits to the hut may only take place with prior permission given by a Party. The Party undertaking management of the site should also be informed prior to the visit.

Visitors enter the base at their own risk and the UK authorities will not be liable for any personal injury or damage to property that may be sustained.

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

The preferred landing site is in Sally Cove to the south of the hut.

CLOSED AREA

Visitors should not access the loft or any of the secondary huts or other structures.

GUIDED WALKING AREA

None.

FREE ROAMING AREA

Visitors may roam freely under close supervision.

Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

All boots and outdoor clothing should be cleaned of snow and grit before entering the building. All backpacks and large bags should be left outside the hut.

The hut windows are all covered with fixed shutters and so electric torches will be needed to see anything of the interior.

Visitors are to leave the base safe and fully closed up on departure.

No overnight stays in the hut are allowed. The hut is available for educational visits and, except in emergency circumstances, should not be used for any other purpose.

Artefacts should not be handled or removed from the site. Do not sit on chairs or other furniture, or lay objects down on tables or work surfaces.

Any significant damage to the roof should be reported to the British Antarctic Survey.

Expedition Leaders should provide the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust with a report on the condition of the Base.

A record of each visit should be left in the Visitors Book, located in the base.

Smoking and the use of candles, matches or stoves are prohibited in and around the hut.

Loose gravel, mud and snow should be swept up after each visit.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

Materials containing unstable asbestos are known to be present in the loft. Other asbestos containing materials are present within the building fabric.

Boat drivers should be aware of rocks on the entrance to Sally Cove.

The rocks at the landing site can be slippery when wet.

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A view of the Hut from the North East with a kennel in the foreground



Pram dinghies on the shore of the cove



One of several sets of original fire extinguishers



Bicycle wheels used to make sledge meters to measure the distance run

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