



Damoy Point Dorian Bay, Wiencke Island

64°48'S, 63°30'W

Key features

- Historic British and Argentine Field Huts
- Gentoo penguin colony
- Glacial scenery



Description

TOPOGRAPHY

Damoy Point is a rocky isthmus off the west coast of Wiencke Island, Antarctic Peninsula.

FAUNA

Confirmed breeders: Gentoo penguins (*Pygoscelis papua*), Dominican gulls (*Larus dominicanus*), Subantarctic skuas (*Catharacta skua*) and Antarctic terns (*Sterna vittata*). Crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophagus*) breed locally and Weddell seals regularly haul out.

FLORA

5 species of lichen and 3 species of moss have been reported from Damoy Point.

OTHER

Damoy Hut is designated as Historic Site and Monument No 84. It sits approximately 100 metres from the shoreline of Dorian Bay. The hut was established by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) in November 1975 and was used as a transit station for BAS staff and stores to be flown south from the skiway on the glacier above the hut to Rothera Research Station when sea ice prevented access by ship. It was last occupied by BAS in 1993.

The Bahía Dorian hut was established by the Argentine Navy on February 23rd, 1953. It sits in very close proximity to the British Hut and covers an area of c. 12 square metres. The hut has been used as an emergency refuge.

Visitor Impact

KNOWN IMPACTS

None known.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Fire. Minor fuel spills. Disturbance of wildlife.

Landing Requirements

SHIPS*

Ships* carrying 500 or fewer passengers (however, note visitor restrictions below). One ship at a time. Maximum 2 ships per day (midnight to midnight), of which no more than 1 can carry over 200 passengers.

VISITORS

No more than 100 visitors ashore at any time, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders. No more than 10 visitors are allowed inside Damoy hut at any one time**.

Damoy Hut was proposed as HSM 84 by the UK. Visits to this 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. The Argentine hut should only be accessed by visitors in cases of emergency

Visitor Area

LANDING AREA

The preferred landing site is in Dorian Bay, immediately adjacent to the field huts.

CLOSED AREAS

None but the glacier between Jabet Peak and Damoy Point is crevassed and dangerous.

GUIDED WALKING AREAS

None.

FREE ROAMING AREAS

Visitors may roam freely under close supervision (but see precautionary notes below).

Visitor code of conduct

BEHAVIOUR ASHORE

Walk slowly and carefully around the penguin colony. Give animals the right-of-way and maintain a precautionary minimum distance of 5m from wild life. Increase this distance if any change in behaviour is observed.

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

Most of the hut windows are covered with shutters (three are permanently fixed down). If shutters are removed during visits, they should be replaced securely on departure.

Artefacts or other items 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.

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.

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

** 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.



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

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

A record of each visit should be left in the Visitors Book, located in the British hut. Expedition Leaders should report any damage to the hut to the UK, as the Party undertaking management of the site. Any damage to the Argentine hut should be informed to Argentina.

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

CAUTIONARY NOTES

Boat drivers should be aware of rocks on the entrance to Dorian Bay.

Brash ice can collect rapidly within Dorian Bay, preventing access to or from the site. If overnight camping is planned, the shore party should maintain an ice watch throughout the time spent ashore.

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

The glacier between Jabet Peak and Damoy Point is crevassed and dangerous. It should only be accessed by those with suitable experience and training and with suitable equipment (eg, roped access).



Damoy Hut (UK), Historic Site and Monument No 84



Shoreline of Dorian Bay showing the preferred landing site and the Argentine and UK huts in the background



Interior of Damoy Hut Historic Site and Monument No 84

