

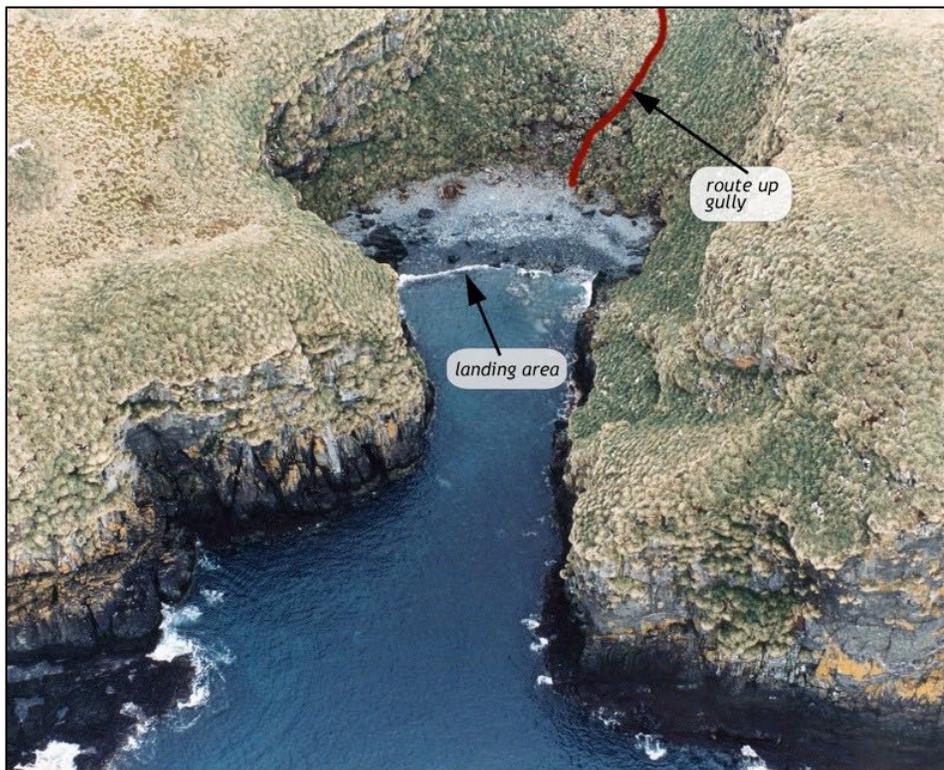
# CAPE ROSA

Visitor Management Plan

v2015



## LOCATION



- Latitude: 54°1` S
- Longitude: 37°24` W

Southern entrance to King Haakon Bay.



## KEY FEATURES

- Historical interest
- Giant petrel and albatross spp.
- Burrowing petrels

## DESCRIPTION

### ○ Topography

Cape Rosa consists of a series of low bluffs extending out from the southern entrance of King Haakon Bay backed by extensive rock outcrops and scree slopes. Wave-cut platforms fringe the shoreline, which is indented by a series of narrow inlets, of which 'Cave Cove' is one of the most distinctive. Nestling on the cape's plateau area are a number of small lakes. The cove hosts a small cave on its eastern side.

### ○ Fauna

Confirmed breeders: wandering albatross (*Diomedea exulans*), light-mantled sooty albatross (*Phoebastria palpebrata*), northern giant petrel (*Macronectes halli*), Antarctic Prion (*Pachyptila desolata*), blue petrel (*Halobaena caerulea*), white-chinned petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*), common diving petrel (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*), Wilson's storm-petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*), brown skua (*Stercorarius antarcticus*), kelp gull (*Larus dominicanus*), snowy sheathbill (*Chionis alba*), Antarctic tern (*Sterna vittate georgiae*), South Georgia pipit (*Anthus antarcticus*), elephant seal (*Mirounga leonina*), fur seal (*Arctocephalus gazella*)

Habitat restoration projects to remove introduced land mammals commenced in 2013 with the removal of reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*), and the brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*). Any subsequent evidence live rodents or reindeer must be reported to the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI).

### ○ Flora

Predominantly tussac, interspersed with areas of moss and Deschampsia grassland and backed by scree slopes above. Rock outcrops support extensive lichen communities.

### ○ Other

Extensive kelp beds, hazardous rocks and reefs lie immediately off shore.

Landfall of the James Caird. There is a commemorative plaque on the rock face near the cave.



## VISITOR IMPACTS

### ○ Known Impacts

Trampling impact on tussac slope above beach at 'Cave Cove' and on moss at the saddle, compounded by recent fur seal trampling.

### ○ Potential Impacts

Disturbance of wildlife, including crushing of petrel burrows.

## LANDING REQUIREMENTS

### ○ Ships\*

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

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

### ○ Visitors

No more than 100 visitors ashore at any time, exclusive of expedition guides and leaders. A minimum of 1 experienced guide per 20 visitors. Visits to the saddle must strictly follow restrictions.



*View from saddle looking back to 'Cave Cove'*



## VISITOR AREAS

### ○ Landing Area

Cobbled beach at back of inlet.

### ○ Closed Areas

Closed Area A: all land on the cape with the exception of the designated walking route to the saddle.

### ○ Guided Walking Areas

Visits to the saddle above the cove through Closed Area A are restricted to one group at a time of no more than 20 persons including guide. If it is not possible to follow the measures listed then visitors must remain on the shore.

Every group must be led by an experienced guide with local knowledge.

Access to the saddle must be made by ascending and descending the gully/stream bed, strictly adhering to the directions given on the oblique aerial photograph provided. Visitors must not wander from this area.

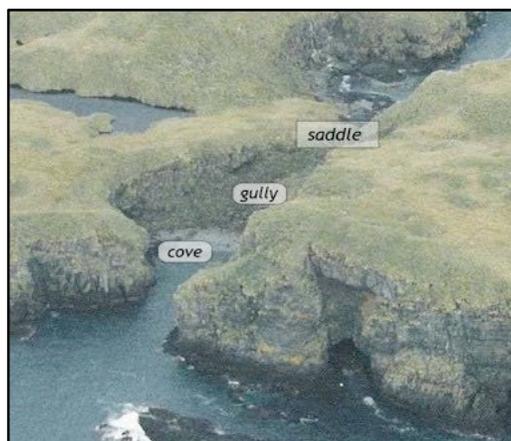
Extreme care must be taken to avoid disturbing the giant petrel nests. Guides must ensure that visitors keep at least 10m from the nesting birds.

Remain on the saddle and avoid walking through burrowing petrel nesting areas in the tussock.

No other elevated areas may be visited and access to the saddle is only permitted if the Visitor Management Plan is fully adhered to.

### ○ Free Roaming Areas

Cobbled beach area, including the cave.





## VISITOR CODE OF CONDUCT

### ○ Behaviour ashore

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

### ○ Cautionary notes

King Haakon Bay is exposed to the west. Strong winds, swell and katabatic winds can make landings difficult.

Minimise use of ship lights at nightfall to reduce risk of bird strikes and remain vigilant.

### ○ Biosecurity

All landings must comply with GSGSSI biosecurity measures and rigorous self-audit checks carried out prior to landing.

In 2013 during of the course of habitat restoration project, Cape Rosa was targeted to remove house mice. Stringent measures must still be taken to ensure that no rodents are carried in or out of the site. Mice are particularly difficult to detect and guides must inspect boats and visitors' bags before landing and departing from the site.

As with all landings, visitors should at no time leave their bags unattended and no food should be brought ashore.

# CAPE ROSA VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



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## FUNDING

*Part funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Overseas Territories Programme Fund.*