

ROOKERY POINT WALK

Extended Walk Visitor management Plan

v2015



Walk Rating: Green

Staff/guest ratio: 1/20 (minimum)

Max. guests: 100

Distance - 4km

Height gain - 162m

Map: Barff Peninsula, Series BAS 25

INTRODUCTION

The walk begins and ends on the Northern Shore of Cobblers Cove, where a good beach landing is afforded to ships zodiacs. The walk is not overly challenging and easily manageable in 3 hours allowing for photo stops.

Extended walks should never be undertaken if guides or visitors have any concerns. Careful consideration must be given to the fitness and ability of visitors intending to undertake the walk before participation can be approved. The remote location, lack of medical facilities and highly changeable weather mean that the consequences of an accident on an extended walk will be far more serious than would otherwise be the case in other less remote locations. For this reason alone, it is inappropriate to treat these walks as something that 'anyone can do'.

It is a condition of the visit permit that Visit Permit Holders (and all staff) adhere Site Visitor Management Plans and guidelines for extended walks. Permit Holders must ensure that all other staff and guides are equally well briefed and that they adhere to all SVMP's.



WALK PLANNING AND PREPARATION

○ **Walk Grading**

Extended walks have all been graded on the basis of length, terrain and technical difficulty.

The Rookery Point Walk has been graded as green.

Green Walk:

- Straightforward walk, which might cover large distances, but poses little technical difficulty and does not require difficult navigation or route choices en route.
- Minimum staff (guide) to visitor ratio: 1:20. Additional staff should accompany the walk to ensure adequate staffing levels are maintained at all times to manage and respond to any incident arising.
- Suitable for adequately fit novice hill walkers. Robust footwear is essential, and walking boots are recommended.
- Maximum group size 100 visitors (plus guides / staff). Guides are strongly encouraged to manage walkers in discrete groups, rather than one long extended chain.

○ **Waypoints**

The waypoints have been produced as an aid to navigation on the walks. In the majority of cases, these provide a tangible point to head towards in poor visibility; the ground covered between the points is at the discretion of the leader and will depend on, for example, the nature and experience of the group.

○ **Staff Experience**

Leading guides should ideally hold recognised qualifications (for example Mountain Leader Award).

All staff should be able to use GPS, map and compass and hold a current first aid qualification. Previous hill walking and guiding experience is important. Every staff member is expected to have sufficient experience to be able to independently and confidently manage and navigate a group of visitors down off a hill to safety.

ROOKERY POINT WALK EXTENDED WALK VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



○ **Staff Equipment**

There should be sufficient equipment carried by the each staff member to keep a group sheltered from the elements, raise the alarm if necessary, deal with immediate first aid, and have the tools to navigate independently.

This should include:

- Compass and whistle
- Local area map (plus GPS as required)
- Spare food and drink
- Spare clothing
- Basic first aid kit
- VHF

As a group, the staff should ensure they carry:

- 1 Iridium phone (minimum)
- 2 GPS units and spare batteries (minimum), more are required for larger groups
- Spare walking poles
- Group shelters to accommodate the complete party distributed between staff members

○ **Visitors Equipment**

Visitor's personal equipment should include:

- Spare clothing
- Hat and gloves
- Emergency food & Drink (or access to these at all times)
- Personal medication (in case of delay ashore)
- Walking poles (if they normally used).

Careful consideration must always be given to footwear. Wellington boots should be avoided, particularly if visitors are not steady on their feet. Walking boots are strongly encouraged and recommended for this walk, due to the slippery conditions.

Guides should pay close attention to the footwear worn by the visitors.

○ **Medical Provision**

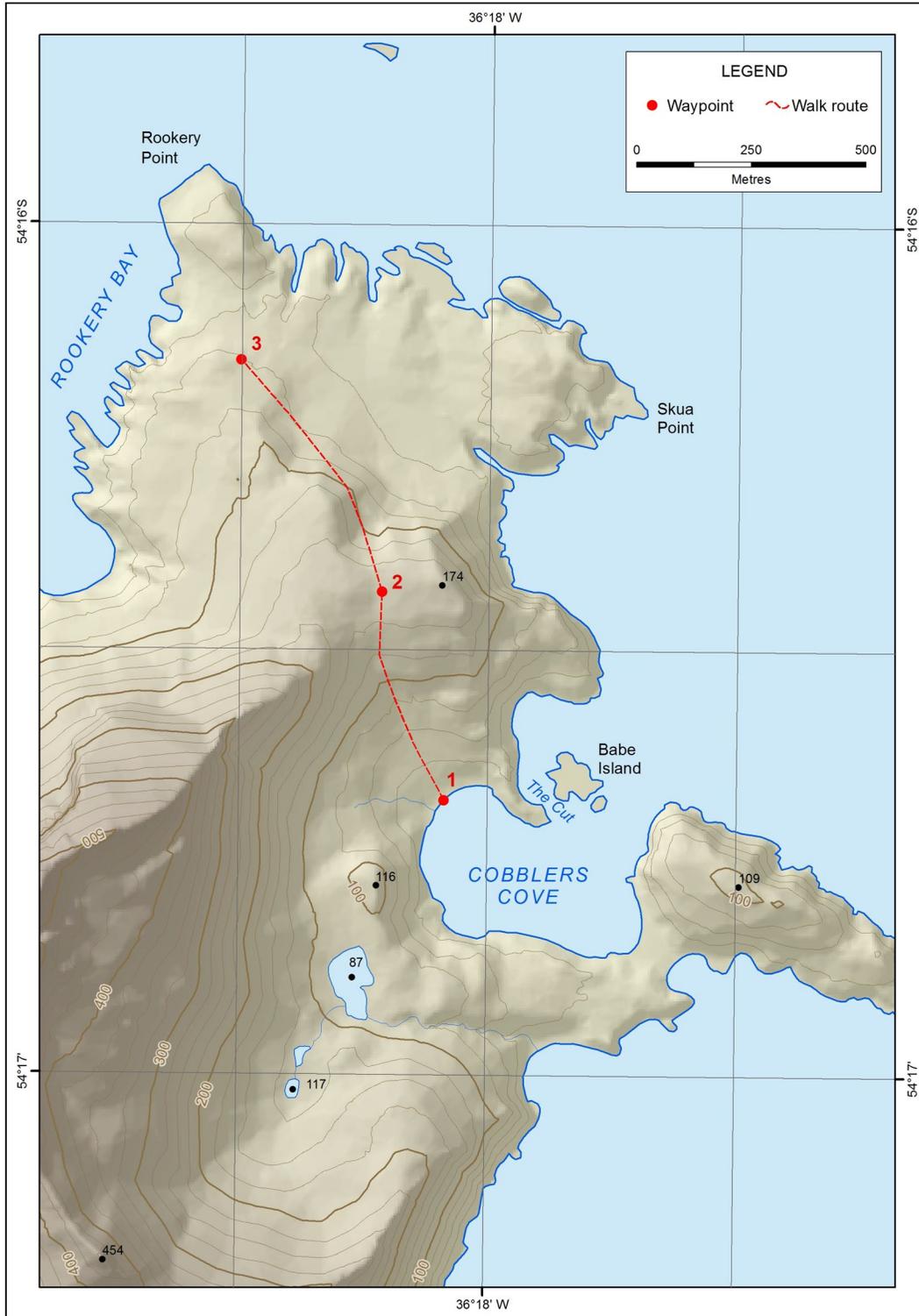
It is a requirement of visiting vessels to be self sufficient in every respect, including medical cover. The visit permit holder and leading guide must both check and ensure that there is adequate medical provision and a tested medical response plan in place to rapidly respond to any injury sustained during the walk or medical trauma incident.

All incidents, accidents and injuries, no matter how minor, must be reported to GSGSSI.

ROOKERY POINT WALK EXTENDED WALK VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



ROUTE DETAILS



ROOKERY POINT WALK EXTENDED WALK VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



Wpt 1 - Cobbler Cove Beach
54° 16.677' S
036° 18.087' W



From the beach pass through the tussock and follow the course of the stream. Initially it is easier to stick to the left hand side of the stream, prior to crossing part way up to flatter terrain on the right. The upper section of the ascent is on scree and local conditions will dictate the preferred route.

Approximately half way up the ascent reindeer tracks make an easy path way which traverses to the right of the slope.

ROOKERY POINT WALK EXTENDED WALK VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



You will then need to traverse back to the left to reach the summit.

Wpt 2 - Summit
54° 16.432' S
036° 18.215' W



View back over Cobblers Cove to Godthul.

From the summit the descent is initially over grass and then deep tussock to the Macaroni Colony at Rookery Point.

ROOKERY POINT WALK
EXTENDED WALK VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



View from summit to Rookery Point

Wpt 3 - Rookery Point above Macaronis
54° 16.160' S
036° 18.502' W

The return to Cobblers Cove is via the reverse route.

ROOKERY POINT WALK EXTENDED WALK VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN



DISCLAIMER

Information, including GPS positions, provided in publications of the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands is considered to be true and correct at the time of publication. Changes in circumstances after time of publication may impact on the accuracy of this information and the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands gives no assurance as to the accuracy of any information or advice contained. By using the information presented in these, each user waives and releases the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands to the full extent permitted by law from any and all claims relating to the usage of material or information made available through the system. In no event shall the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands be liable for any incidental or consequential damages resulting from use of this material.

COPYRIGHT CONDITIONS

Text Copyright © 2015 Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands

Digital Visitor Management Plan Maps are copyright © of the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. These maps may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, for any other purpose than the Site Visitor Management Plans, without the express, written consent of the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

Site photographs Jo Cox. Copyright remains with the individual photographers.