

1 WHALE POINT PENINSULA

This is an amazing destination, well worth the long trip to reach it. The peninsula of Whale Point includes Kelp Point, home to elephant seals, entertaining even when sleeping but even more-so when sparring with each other or simply moving around! The area is renowned for rare bird sightings and the wreck of the St Mary is on the trail along with a gentoo penguin colony.

The route is easy to follow and the terrain mainly easy scrub and pretty shoreline with a vehicle track to complete the walk. It is relatively flat.

Main route

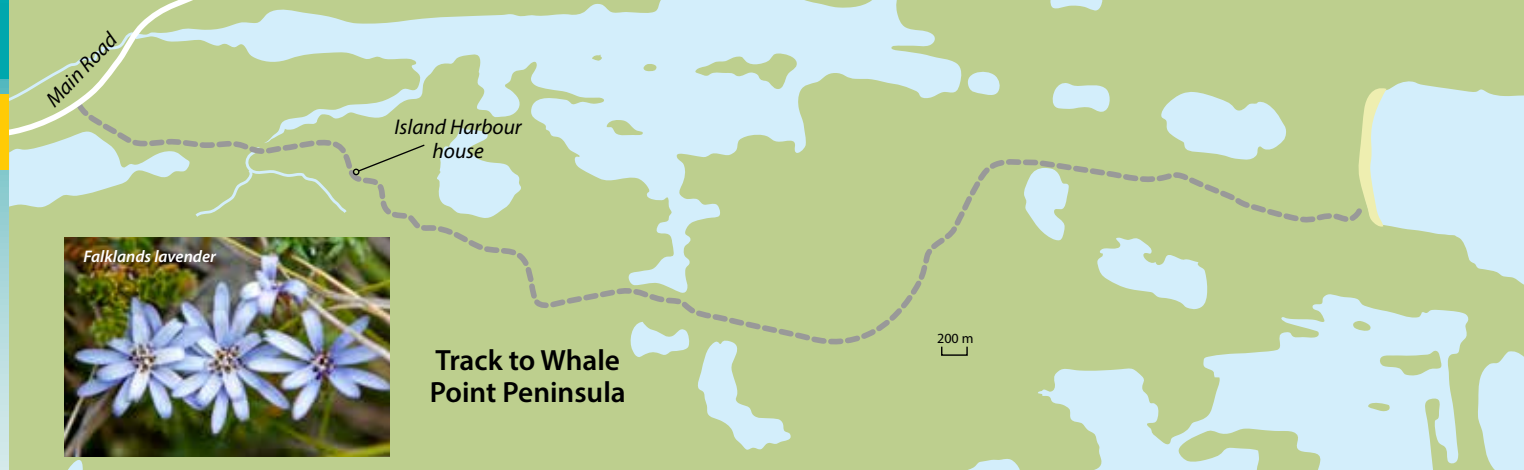
There is a long walk-in from the Stanley-Mount Pleasant road to the start-point (around 12km each way to add to the overall journey - see map). This first section can be covered in an off-road vehicle with an experienced driver; the farm managers will advise on this when contacted for permission to visit. The track is well marked and easy to follow, heading first for "Island Harbour House", then beyond in an easterly direction. If driving, park appropriately at the southern end of the white sand beach overlooking the sea, "Pleasant Roads".

At the beach, take in the gentoo colonies and look around for old whalebones. Please remember these should not be removed.

Follow the coastline in an easterly direction towards "Boat Point". From here, head south along the bar of land which separates the eastern edge of a large lagoon from the sea. The lagoon is likely to be dry in summer but this is a lovely walk with the waves lapping the eastern shore. It leads to "Kelp Point" and the elephant seals. Please respect these animals and remember not to get between them and their route to the sea. Careful positioning provides excellent viewing.

Continue along the coast, now in westerly and south-westerly directions. The terrain is largely a mix of balsam bog and diddle-dee, creating a springy surface underfoot. The balsam bog takes many, many years to grow! At "Whale Point" the wreck of the St Mary is obvious. The story of the ship is interesting to research, wrecked here on an offshore reef in 1891. The rocks and wreck itself are extremely slippery; do not attempt to walk to it or on it.

From the St Mary, a clear vehicle track leads off to the north-west. Follow this track, maintaining the same direction until arriving back at the large lagoon, a distance of around



Track to Whale Point Peninsula

Tips:

- Plan to spend time at both the gentoo penguin and elephant seal locations.
- Around the wreck of the St Mary the rocks, kelp and wooden timbers are all VERY, VERY slippery. View from the shore.

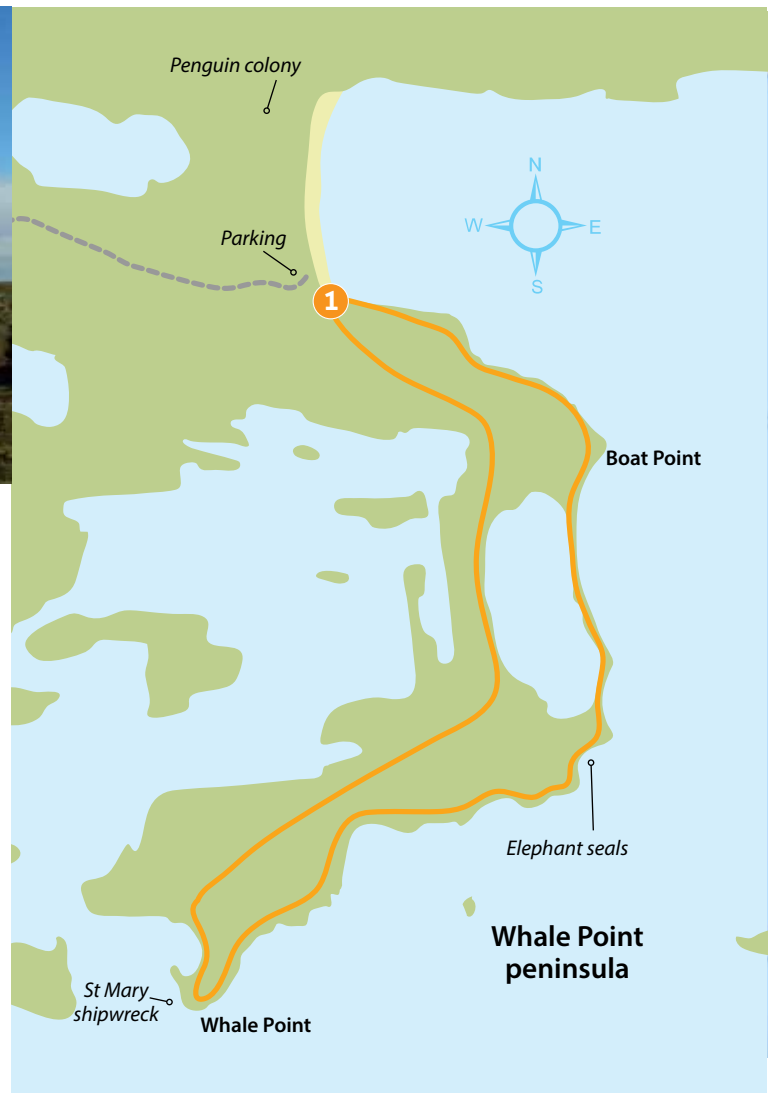


2 - 3km. The track leads up the western edge and then to the west/north-west to the starting point. Do not be tempted to try to cross the lagoon area, even if it looks dry; it is easy to sink into the surface.

Walk shorter

Start and finish near Kelp Point itself. This creates a circular walk of around 6km.

Vehicular access to this area is restricted so check in advance to make access arrangements.



Countryside Code

Our Islands for all to enjoy. Help us protect them by:

- Always ask for permission before entering private land.
- Keep to paths wherever possible. Leave gates, open or shut, as you find them.
- Be aware of the high fire risk throughout the islands; particularly when lighting fires, BBQs or smoking.
- Do not litter*. Take your rubbish home with you or use a bin provided
- Never feed, touch, handle, injure or kill any wild bird or animal*.
- Always give animals the right of way. Do not block the routes of birds or animals coming home to their colonies. Do not startle or chase wildlife from resting or breeding areas*.
- Prevent disturbance to wild birds and animals. Always stay on the outside of colonies, remain at least 6 m (20 ft) away.
- When taking photographs or filming, stay low to the ground. Move slowly and quietly. Make sure your flash is turned off*. Always be aware of the location of your camera and equipment, including "selfie-sticks". Do not use this to get closer to wildlife.
- Some plants are protected and should not be picked*. Wildflowers are there for all to enjoy.
- Whalebones, skulls, eggs, etc. may not be exported from the Falkland Islands*. They should be left where they are found.
- Do not disfigure rocks or buildings*.

*Such actions may constitute an offence in the Falkland Islands and could result in significant fines.

Stay Safe

Always seek local advice before heading out on any walk in the camp (countryside). Weather changes quickly and the terrain can be tough. Permission is needed from the landowners to drive or walk off-road. Always tell someone where you are going with an estimated return time. Ensure you have plenty to eat and drink along with additional warm clothing.

Walkers not familiar with wire gates may prefer to carefully climb the fences at the side. Any fence in the Falklands can be crossed, it is not necessary to find a gate, unless it is electrified. Please respect fences, stepping over or through the wires not onto them, and leave all gates as found; they are there for a reason!

Following the hard work of the de-mining teams, the Falklands are now mine-free. In the extremely unlikely event of finding any suspect item, photograph, log and mark the position. Inform the landowners and/or the Royal Falkland Police on 28100. DO NOT touch the object.

Self-Guided WALKS

FITZROY WILDLIFE WALKS



Flora & Fauna highlights

Diddle dee	Teaberry	Kelp goose
Dusty miller	Vanilla daisy	Long-tailed meadowlark
Fachine		Magellanic penguin
Falkland lavender	Blackish and Magellanic oystercatcher	Ruddy-headed goose
Pale maiden	Dark-faced ground tyrant	Silver teal
Pig vine	Dolphin gull	Southern giant petrel
Sea cabbage	Falkland steamer duck	Tussac bird
Scurvy grass	Falkland pipit	Two-banded plover
Silvery buttercup	Gentoo penguin	Upland goose
Smooth ragwort		



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Self-Guided

WALKS

FITZROY WILDLIFE WALKS

Fitzroy is named after Admiral Robert Fitzroy who captained the Beagle, visiting in 1833 and 1834 with Charles Darwin aboard. There are some stunning areas of Fitzroy Farm boasting beautiful sandy beaches and great wildlife watching opportunities.

Bertha's Beach is recognised as a wetland area of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, due to the diverse variety of wetland habitats and wildlife. Whale Point peninsula is home to the world's largest pinniped, the elephant seal.



2 BERTHA'S BEACH

This simple out-and-back walk is along one of the Falklands' most impressive white sand beaches, Bertha's Beach, which is named after a barque which sank nearby. This spectacular, sweeping beach is backed by pretty dunes and is home to a large variety of birdlife, including gentoo penguins towards the eastern end.

The route is very easy to follow and flat; please avoid walking through the dunes as the soil is unstable and the plants are shallow rooted.

Main route

The walk begins and ends at the parking area for Bertha's Beach. Walk straight towards the sea and take a left turn, north-east, along the beach. The gentoo penguins are around 3.5 km along the beach. Approximately 2km from the start point there is a gap in the dunes, close to a lagoon emptying towards the sea and from here a vehicle track leads eastwards. This route can be taken to the penguin colonies. Please keep a clear distance from them (6m is the recommended minimum). Take a careful route between the dunes, to the beach, to return along it, being aware of penguin highways.

Walk further

The beach continues a little further but visitors are respectfully requested to walk only on the beach and not to venture across open moorland.

Tips:

- Look out for the large cedar logs still visible on the beach which were the cargo of the Bertha.
- The "homeward" route is against the prevailing wind and can be bracing – be prepared!



Falklands skua



Commerson's dolphin



It is essential to make contact in advance to obtain permission to walk or drive off-road and to check for any land-access fees. To access the carpark at Bertha's Beach, a key is required. Keys can be obtained from the farm manager in Fitzroy settlement or for military from 12 Facility at Mount Pleasant Complex.

Fitzroy Farm: fitzroy@horizon.co.fk phone 32256 / 52256 / 51655

No quads, motor bikes or dogs should be brought on the farm. Smoking and the use of bar-b-ques is not permitted. These areas are important for breeding ewes and their lambs. Please take every care not to disturb them, especially in the spring (October and November).



3 BIRDS & BEACHES

This lovely circular route begins and ends at the stunning Bertha's Beach but explores other white sand beaches and rocky shores. There are many birding opportunities and a high likelihood of spotting dolphins. It includes a memorial for the 1982 conflict. The walk affords excellent views across the ridge of hills that span East Falkland and to Mare Harbour.

The route is easy to follow and the terrain mainly a vehicle track with some easy scrub, or the shoreline if wished. It is relatively flat.

Main route

The walk begins and ends at the parking area for Bertha's Beach. Walk straight towards the sea and take a right turn, south, along the beach. A memorial cross can be seen around 1km away, set just above the sand – head for this point. The cross commemorates lives lost from the landing craft F4, of HMS Fearless.

Continue southwards along the beach to avoid taking in the small peninsula of land to the west. As the end of the beach is reached, a vehicle track turns to the west. Follow the track!

The Mare Harbour military facility can be seen to the north and the track runs between sand dunes to the south and the lagoon to the north.

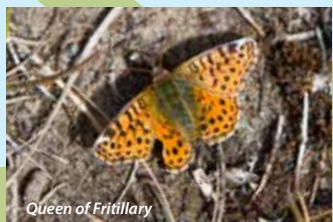
The track leads almost to the western shore with just the final few hundred metres across scrubland then through small sand dunes to the westerly beach. Return by the same route or along the southern shore which has a beautiful white sand beach. When the beach ceases, head inland to pick up the track.

Walk further

The area is rich in birdlife and there is much of the peninsula to explore. There are pretty ponds, sometimes dry in summer months, and Fox Point. Please take care not to disturb any penguins encountered; keep a clear distance from them (6m is the recommended minimum).

Tips:

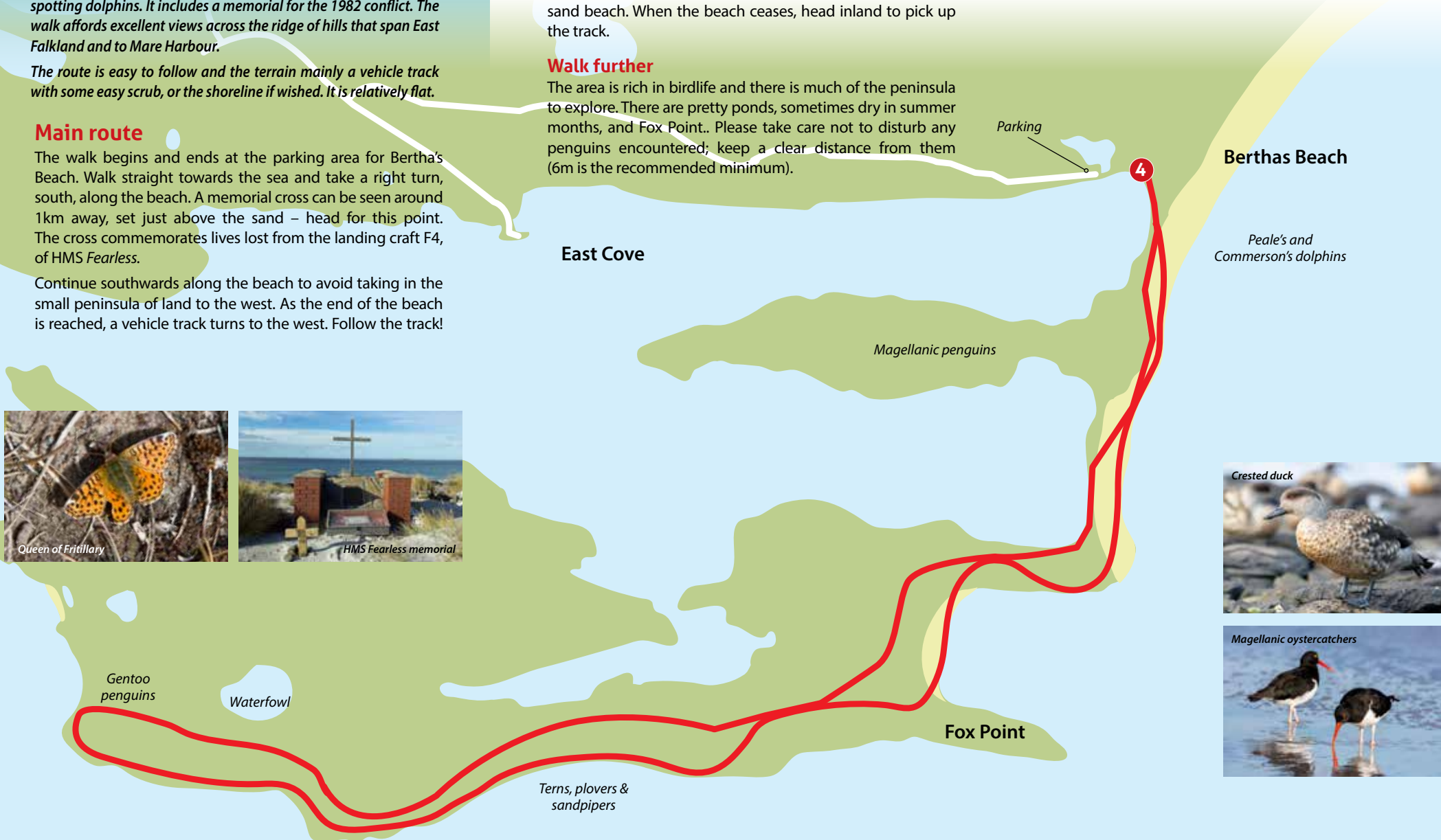
- The beaches are great to enjoy a paddle or responsible rock-pooling; look out for dolphins.
- The area is classified internationally as an "Important Bird Area" and a Ramsar site – look carefully for endemic flora & fauna; follow simple biosecurity procedures.



Queen of Fritillary



HMS Fearless memorial



Crested duck



Magellanic oystercatchers