



## Whalers Bay

Whaler's Bay 62°57'S, 60°38'W

## Historic site and Monument No 71

### History

- Whalers bay is home to a number of buildings, structures and artefacts covering two periods. Remains from the whaling period (1906-31) are the most significant in Antarctica. The later period (1944-69) represents scientific endeavor that began with the establishment of the British Base B. All remains at Whalers Bay are designated as HSM 71.
- Deception Island was first used by British and American sealers as a hunting base for fur seals from the 1820's. After the populations of fur seals were disseminated the sealers moved to new areas.
- Whalers began using Deception Island as a base to process whales in the 1900s.
- Between 1912-1931, the Norwegian Hektor Whaling Company ran a permanent land station in order to process all parts of the whale carcasses more efficiently.
- The British Base B was set up at Whalers Bay as part of Operation Tabarin in 1944. The old magistrate's house and two of the whalers' dormitories were repurposed. The main building was renamed Biscoe House.
- Base B operated as a research station primarily focusing on meteorology and geology. It also acted as the centre for the Falkland Islands Dependencies Aerial Survey Expedition (FIDASE) from 1955-57.
- After an aircraft hangar was built in December 1960, Deception Island became the centre of British Antarctic Flight Operations.
- In December 1967 an eruption dropped ash in the vicinity of the Chilean base at Pendulum cove. Small helicopters then evacuated the 27 Chileans and 8 British from Whalers Bay.
- Base B was briefly re-occupied the following summer before a larger Volcanic eruption damaged most of the buildings. The base was then abandoned and has not been reoccupied since.
- The site is now an Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) managed by several nations.



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### Please take note of the following during your visit\*:

1. Access to buildings or other structures, including boilers and tanks, is prohibited unless for management purposes, or for shelter in an emergency.
2. Do not enter buildings or tanks or sit or climb on the boats. Do not tread on any loose material across the site as this all forms part of the HSM.
3. Please do not handle, use or remove any artefacts from the site.
4. Please do not smoke or use matches, candles or stoves near the buildings.
5. Please report any damage to the hut or its contents or maintenance required to the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust: [info@ukaht.org](mailto:info@ukaht.org)

\* For all official guidelines and specific instructions please refer to the Whalers Bay Antarctic Treaty Visitor Site Guide

\* Visitors enter the site at their own risk. UKAHT will not be liable for any personal injury or damage to property that may be sustained.



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