

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS



GETTING HERE (BY AIR)

The Falklands are easily accessed by two major flight routes. LAN Airlines fly to the Falklands every Saturday morning, departing from Santiago and flying via the southern Chilean city of Punta Arenas. Once a month the flight also stops in Rio Gallegos, Argentina. LAN is a oneworld partner and connects with international carriers in Europe, North America, Australasia, and Africa. Approximate flight time from Santiago to the Falklands is 6 hours (including the Punta Arenas stop-over). For the latest information on LAN fares, see the Getting Here section on www.falklandislands.com.

Direct flights are also available from the United Kingdom on an MoD-operated air service. Departing from Brize Norton, Oxfordshire (UK), return flights are scheduled every 5 days (with approximately 6 return flights per month). Total flight time is 18 hours, including a refuelling stop on Ascension Island at the mid-way point. For the latest information on MoD fares, see the Getting Here section on www.falklandislands.com.

GETTING HERE (BY SEA)

The Falklands have become a popular destination for cruise ships and charter yachts, with more than 37 companies now including the Islands in their itineraries. Vessels generally visit Stanley, the capital of the Falklands, and a selection of outer islands and settlements renowned for their natural beauty and wildlife. Many of these vessels are en-route to the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia and selected South American ports. For a full list of the companies visiting the Falklands, see the Getting Here section on www.falklandislands.com.

GETTING AROUND (BY CAR)

The Falkland Islands have an extensive internal road network linking most points of interest and major settlements. If taking to the road as part of your holiday, be prepared to set aside anywhere from 1-4 hours to drive between settlements and points of interest. Hire an experienced guide to drive you, or hire a vehicle and drive yourself if time permits. The speed limit in built up areas is 25mph, and a maximum of 40mph on the open road.

GETTING AROUND (DOMESTIC FLIGHTS)

The Falkland Islands Government Air Service (FIGAS) operates domestic flights using light aircraft from Stanley to many major settlements and tourist destinations across the Falklands. Flights are scheduled according to demand and available every day during summer except Christmas and New Year's days. Flights can be booked with local travel agents or by contacting: jross@figas.gov.fk and (ph) +500 27219.

GETTING AROUND (BY FERRY)

Workboat Services operates a ferry service between New Haven on East Falkland and Port Howard on West Falkland, allowing vehicles and passengers to travel between the two main islands. For more information, sailing schedules and prices, please visit www.workboat.co.fk or email admin@workboat.co.fk.

PLANNING YOUR FALKLANDS ADVENTURE

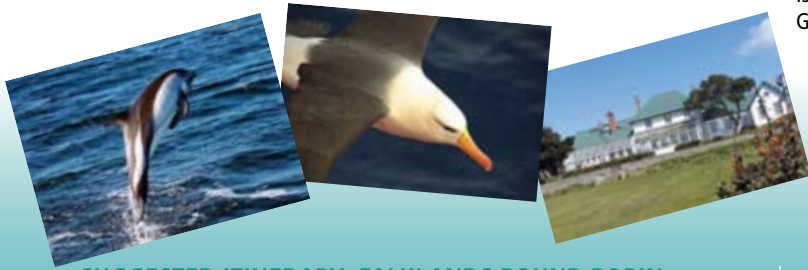
To make your time in the Falklands as enjoyable as possible we recommend you book with one of our approved travel agents – located either here in the Islands or in selected overseas countries. To find a preferred agent, see the Getting Here section at www.falklandislands.com.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY: FALKLANDS ROUND ROBIN

- Day 1:** Arrive at Mount Pleasant Airport and transfer to the world's most southerly capital city, Stanley
- Day 2:** Spend the day exploring Stanley with a visit to the Falkland Islands Museum, Christchurch Cathedral and enjoy a stroll along the beach at Surf Bay
- Day 3 - 4:** Transfer to Bleaker Island on FIGAS. The island is ideal for exploring on foot due to the flat topography
- Day 5 - 6:** Transfer on a 15-20 minute flight to Sea Lion Island where you can discover a variety of wildlife from penguins to elephant seals and even orcas

- Day 7 - 8:** Today fly from Sea Lion Island to Port Howard where you can experience a working farm and try your hand at a spot of fishing
- Day 9 - 10:** Transfer on FIGAS to Saunders Island where you have the choice of a variety of accommodation options and the opportunity to see albatross and up to four species of breeding penguins
- Day 11 - 12:** Take a short hop on FIGAS to the tranquillity of Carcass Island
- Day 13 - 14:** Take your final flight on FIGAS to San Carlos where you can visit the site of the British landing in 1982 and the British cemetery, as well as wander through the museum
- Day 15:** Transfer by vehicle to Mount Pleasant Airport to depart the Falklands

www.falklandislands.com



CAPITAL CITY

Stanley is the capital city of the Falklands, located on East Falkland around picturesque Stanley Harbour.

STATUS

The Falkland Islands are an Independent Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom, financially independent for everything except Defence services – which are provided by the UK Ministry of Defence.

TIME DIFFERENCE

GMT – 4 hours (FI winter)

GMT – 3 hours (FI summer)

LANGUAGE

English is the official language of the Falkland Islands.

CURRENCY

The local currency is the Falkland Islands pound (£FK), which has the same value as the British pound (also acceptable as legal tender throughout the Falklands). Many shops, hotels and restaurants in Stanley will also accept US dollars and euros in cash. Confirm your payment method before purchase.

ELECTRICITY

The electrical current in the Falklands is 220/240 volts, 50Hz. Standard British appliance plugs will work in the Falklands, but if you're visiting from another country be sure to bring the relevant adaptor for your appliances. International adaptors can be purchased locally at selected retail outlets.

POPULATION

According to 2006 Census figures, the Falklands population (excluding people affiliated with the military garrison) is 2,478. 2,115 people live in Stanley, equivalent to 85% of the total population of the Falklands.

- 54% of the current population was born in the Falkland Islands
- 25% of the population are of British descent
- 14% of the population are of St Helenian descent
- 5% of the population are of Chilean descent

COMMUNICATIONS (WEB & PHONE)

There are several Internet cafes located around Stanley, whilst visitors heading further afield should check with their accommodation provider if Internet access is required. For a list of operators email info@visitorfalklands.com

The local telecommunications provider (Cable & Wireless) offer international mobile/cellphone roaming services for a selection of UK phone companies, as well as SIM cards for short-term use. Public phone boxes, to be used with pre-paid cards, are also scattered around Stanley. Unfortunately international calling cards cannot be used in the Falklands.

ECONOMY

Fishing licence fees, tourism and agriculture are the dominant contributors to the Falklands economy. The Government is also investing in mineral/oil exploration and aquaculture projects to diversify future revenue opportunities.



GEOGRAPHY & LOCATION

The Falkland Islands are a compact group of more than 740 islands situated 400 miles off the south-eastern tip of South America. The Islands have a total land area of 12,173 sq km (approx. the size of Connecticut or half the size of Wales). Despite several large mountain ranges the Islands are relatively flat, rising no more than 705m above sea level at their highest point. The two main islands are East Falkland and West Falkland, linked by air and ferry services. The Islands lay between latitude 51° and 53° S and longitude 57° and 62° W.

FLORA & FAUNA

More than 220 species of bird have been identified in the Falklands, including 5 species of penguin and over 60% of the world's black-browed albatross population. There are also 14 species of regularly occurring marine mammal, such as the southern elephant seal, southern sea lion, Commerson's dolphin, Peale's dolphin, and killer whale (orca). 350 species of plant have also been recorded in the Falklands, of which 13 are endemic and 173 are native.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

The Falklands are as close to the South Pole as London is to the North Pole. On average, the Falklands are cooler than London in the summer, but warmer in the winter. Summer is a wonderful time, with long daylight hours similar to England's southern coastal regions. East Falkland is generally wetter than West Falkland.

Average summer temperature (max): 15.0°C

Average winter temperature (max): 4.9°C

Average annual rainfall: 573.6mm

MONEY SERVICES

There is only one bank in the Falkland Islands, the Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), open weekdays. SCB can change money, transfer funds, cash traveller's cheques (\$US and euro) and issue cash advances against Visa and Mastercard credit cards. Charges apply for all SCB services and photo ID is required for all transactions. There are currently no ATMs in the Falklands, travellers are encouraged to carry cash for purchases outside of Stanley.

Visa and Mastercard are accepted at many of the shops, hotels and restaurants in Stanley (charges may apply). However traveller's cheques, Diners Club, American Express and other international cards have limited acceptability in the Falklands. Some selected Stanley operators also accept Solo, Maestro chip, and pin credit and debit cards. Check if your card can be accepted before making a purchase.

Exchange rates The bank sets a daily exchange rate based on the London Stock Exchange – local businesses then refer to this rate when setting their own daily rates.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The Falklands have an excellent health system, with a 28-bed hospital located in Stanley providing access to doctors, surgeons, radiologists, dentists, pharmacists and an anaesthetist. Tourists are required to pay for all medical services received whilst in the Islands.

FOOD & DRINK

The Falklands boast some of the best seafood in the world – found on restaurant tables as far away as South Africa. Depending on the season you can enjoy Falkland calamary, mussels, oysters, sea trout, kingclip, and Patagonian toothfish. Tender, naturally grown lamb, beef, and upland goose pate are also popular dishes in local eateries. A fine selection of international wines are available both in restaurants and supermarkets, as well as most renowned beers and spirits. Falkland Islands tap water is also clean and safe to drink.

ENTRY AND EXIT REQUIREMENTS

Cruise passengers

- Should have a valid passport.
- Are advised to carry photo ID ashore (valid driving licence acceptable), particularly if intending to withdraw funds from the bank.
- Must have travel insurance, inclusive of medical evacuation by plane.
- Must pay for any medical services received whilst ashore.
- Do not need a visitor's visa to enter the Falkland Islands.
- Do not require any special vaccinations to enter the Islands.

Land-based visitors

All international land-based visitors to the Falkland Islands must:

- Possess a current passport, valid for the length of intended stay.
- Possess a return ticket (air or boat), and evidence of accommodation and sufficient personal funds.
- Possess proof of valid travel insurance, inclusive of evacuation by plane.
- Pay for any medical services received whilst in the Falklands.
- Pay a £22 departure tax at the time of departure from Mount Pleasant International Airport, payable only in cash in £FK, £GB, euros or \$US.
- There are currently no vaccination requirements to enter the Falkland Islands.

