



INFORMATION FOR VISITORS TO SOUTH GEORGIA 2017/18

(To be read in conjunction with the GSGSSI Biosecurity Handbook 2017/18)

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Contents

1. Introduction
2. Applications and preparations for visits
3. Arrival arrangements
4. Shore and harbour facilities
5. Management and safety of visitors
6. Code of conduct ashore
7. Wildlife protection guidelines
8. Departing South Georgia

Annexes

1. Tourism Management Policy (2017)
2. List of approved visitor sites
3. Visitor biosecurity declaration
4. Visit permit holder landing declaration
5. Private vessel observer coverage
6. Fees and Charges
7. Prohibited Areas Maps
8. Charts and Maps
9. IAATO guidelines on understanding fur seal behaviour and advice for interactions

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS TO SOUTH GEORGIA 2017/18

1. Introduction & background information

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) is a United Kingdom Overseas Territory. It is administered by the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) based in Government House in Stanley in the Falkland Islands. The Commissioner for the Territory, who is also the Governor of the Falkland Islands, is appointed by Her Majesty The Queen and has ultimate responsibility for any activities in the Territory. GSGSSI staff include 5 staff in Government House, plus three Government Officers based at King Edward Point (KEP) on South Georgia, who are responsible for the local administration on the island.

This document is intended to provide a general overview of the South Georgia visit application procedures and provide information on relevant Government visitor policies. This document must be read in conjunction with the separate GSGSSI Biosecurity Handbook 2017/18. Following the recent habitat restoration projects targeting rats, mice and reindeer, as well as ongoing work to control invasive plants and recent outbreaks of avian disease, it is essential that all visitors rigorously implement all biosecurity measures. Persons wishing to access documentation or learn more about South Georgia should refer to the GSGSSI website www.gov.gs

All travel has inherent risks, but travel to South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands carries a greater level of risk than to many, more traditional, destinations. There is no airstrip, nor is there any search and rescue or other emergency service on the island. The Territory is prone to very sudden and unexpected changes of weather. The conditions and terrain are harsh, the interior is not fully mapped and nearby waters are not always accurately or completely charted.

The limited medical facilities at KEP provide medical cover for station personnel only, except in cases of emergency. All vessels must be self sufficient in every respect, including provision of adequate medical cover. A list of suggested medical guidelines for cruise ships and yachts has been posted on the GSGSSI website. GSGSSI hopes that visit applicants will all read the guidelines carefully, take advice as necessary and determine the level of medical care provision appropriate for their vessels.

There is no independent transport from South Georgia to the Falkland Islands or to South America, which are at least three or five days sail away respectively. Commercial vessel operators must ensure that all clients are aware of the medical facility and evacuation limitations and all visit applicants must factor these considerations into their contingency planning.

With the exception of certain Government supported field parties, GSGSSI requires all visitors to be self-sufficient and have a dedicated support vessel in attendance throughout the duration of their visit.

The granting of a visit permit does not imply that the Government accepts responsibility for providing any additional support.

2. Applications and Preparations for Visits

2.1 Application to visit

A visit permit from GSGSSI is required for all commercial and private vessel and yacht visits to SGSSI. The visit permit is issued to a visit 'Permit Holder', normally the Expedition Leader (EL) on a cruise ship or the Master / Skipper of a yacht.

Individual passengers on cruise ships and charter yachts do not need to apply to visit. Their vessel operator submits an application on their behalf and the visit permit for the vessel or yacht covers all passengers and crew. (Immigration is managed separately prior to arrival).

Separate visit application forms must be used for vessels (normally cruise ships) and yachts (load line length no greater than 24m). All visit applicants must study carefully the current *Information for Visitors to South Georgia* booklet and the separate GSGSSI *Biosecurity Handbook*, before submitting a visit application. Both of these documents, plus the visit application forms and other related information can be downloaded from the GSGSSI website: www.gov.gs/visitors/information-documents-visit-application-form/

Applications should be submitted 60 days before a visit. A late processing fee of £100 (to cover the additional administration) will be charged for any cruise ship applications (or applications for vessels with more than 10 persons on board) received later than 30 days before an intended visit (see Annex 6).

First landings will normally be made at Grytviken. Dispensation not to make a first landing at Grytviken may only be sought by IAATO vessel applicants if the embarked EL has visited (in their capacity as the South Georgia visit permit holder) within the previous 3 seasons. All other visit permit holders must make their first landing at Grytviken (or KEP) for an arrival briefing (though it is possible for cruise ship staff to arrange for advance arrival briefings to be undertaken, so long as these take place within the timeframe of the same season as their proposed visit as a visit permit holder).

All new cruise ships (and those returning under new management) will be required to embark a GSGSSI observer during the course of their visit to observe at least one landing operation outside Grytviken. (This is normally a Government Officer).

Submission of an application is taken to mean that the applicant has read and understood the provisions in both documents and agrees to abide by them. This responsibility extends to ensuring that visit permit holders, and their staff / crew are fully briefed and adhere at all times to current visit permit conditions, including Codes of Conduct and Visitor Management Plans. Failure to comply with GSGSSI requirements could result in a permit being immediately revoked, suspended or alterations made to the conditions of a permit (including the itinerary of a visit) and may preclude the possibility of, or place restrictions on, future permitting.

When completing a visit application, applicants should refer to Annex 2 of this document, which details the approved landing and visitor sites for which permission may be sought to visit, including sites which IAATO Category 2 vessels are permitted to visit (though this is currently under review).

Permission will not normally be given for landings at any other sites. Special permission must be sought for landings at the two restricted landing sites (Prion Island and Cape Rosa), which have site-specific access restrictions.

2.2 Specialist activities, Regulated Activity Permits & expeditions

Applicants undertaking specialist activities (such as kayaking or scuba diving) will be required to submit risk assessments and details of standard and emergency operating procedures.

If visitors intend to undertake activities for purposes other than tourism, they may require a Regulated Activity Permit (RAP). This includes many science projects, any collection of biological material or interaction with wildlife, some commercial media filming (including UAV operations, which would otherwise be prohibited) and access to any sites, which are not normally open to visitors. The category of RAP permit will be determined by the activity or proposed project and its complexity. If any doubt about RAP requirements, applicants must refer to: www.gov.gs/visitors/regulated-activity-permit/ and contact the following address (permits@gov.gs).

Visitors intending to spend nights ashore are classed as expeditions and require a separate application and assessment procedure for a RAP expedition permit. Expedition application information may be obtained at: www.gov.gs/visitors/expeditions/

2.3 Preparations & contingency planning

All visiting vessels are expected to be self sufficient in all respects and contingency planning is an incredibly important part of the visit application process. This must take into account the extremely harsh and highly changeable conditions at sea and ashore, which can deteriorate rapidly, the extremely remote location with no search and rescue (SAR) capability and the limited medical facilities at King Edward Point (KEP) which provides medical cover for station personnel only except in emergency. In the majority of cases it is in the patient's best interests to get definitive help in the Falklands or South America. All visitors taking prescription medication should also ensure that they carry adequate supplies when going ashore in order to cover any unexpected delays.

A medical review commissioned by GSGSSI was completed in 2016 and guidelines developed for the Provision of Medical Care in South Georgia (and Antarctic Marine Areas) have been posted on the website at: www.gov.gs/docsarchive/visitors-2/#tab-1 These are not intended to be prescriptive or comprehensive, but GSGSSI hopes that applicants will read these carefully, take advice as necessary and determine the level of medical care provision appropriate for their vessels.

Contingency planning must take into account maritime incidents, SAR in the SGSSI Maritime Zone (MZ), safety plans for landings, medical response and evacuation capability (including the management of trauma injuries ashore and at sea) and environmental protection plans. IAATO has published guidelines to assist with emergency contingency planning.

Thorough preparation is essential for yachts planning voyages to South Georgia. Visiting yachts must be appropriately constructed, rigged and fitted for high latitude sailing and only very experienced ocean going and high latitude skippers and crew should apply to visit. SOLAS and other safety equipment should be adequate for the number of persons on board and certified in-date. The following web links provide useful guidance for planning purposes:

<http://iaato.org/yachts/>

<http://www.highlatitudes.com/assets/Antarctic-Yachting-Guideline-2016.pdf>

All yacht applicants are required to demonstrate self sufficiency and provide detailed information on their planning and preparation including, the experience of the skipper and crew, preparations and modifications to their yacht and rig, maintenance and repair capability. Applicants will be expected to pay particular attention to contingency planning. Visit applications from new yachts and yachts going to the South Sandwich islands may be externally reviewed during the application process. They, and any yachts visiting outwith the main season (i.e. before 20 October or after 20 March) are recommended to 'pair' or 'buddy' with another vessel.

2.4 Payment of fees

Fees and charges applicable to the 2017/18 season are set out at Annex 6. Operators of cruise ships will be invoiced directly. The permit holder on smaller vessels can elect to be invoiced in advance of their visit or else ensure they have sufficient funds (pounds sterling, USD or Euros in cash or travellers' cheques) to pay visitor fees for all on board on arrival at Grytviken.

Applicants for vessels carrying more than 12 passengers will be invoiced for 50% of the projected visitor fees in advance of their visit. This fee must be paid before the permit can be issued.

Invoices must be paid within 30 days after which time interest may be charged on outstanding balances.

3. Arrival arrangements

3.1 Immigration requirements

Before arriving in South Georgia information concerning all persons on board (including full names, nationality, passport details (including date of expiry)) must be communicated to the Government Officers at KEP (ideally by excel file in the case of vessels carrying more than 12 passengers). With the forthcoming introduction of new immigration legislation it will be necessary to communicate this information to the Government Officers **at least 3 days** before arrival.

The Government will also require information regarding your intended date of arrival and departure, details of places to be visited, and details of travel and medical insurance or equivalent arrangements. This information will normally be included in your application form.

Visitors intending to land must be in possession of a valid passport. No visa is required to visit South Georgia. All passports must be presented to the Government Officer (Immigration Officer) for stamping on arrival at Grytviken. An Immigration Officer may refuse to grant permission to enter if the information required is not provided.

3.2 Entering the SGSSI Maritime Zone (MZ)

The island of South Georgia (and the South Sandwich Islands) is surrounded by a Maritime Zone, which includes all waters within 200nm of territorial baselines around the islands. On entering the Maritime Zone the vessel's master or permit holder must report to the Government Officer who is based at King Edward Point (KEP) in Cumberland East Bay.

KEP Government Officer contact details:

- E-mail: go@gov.gs
- Telephone: 0044 1223 221781 (VOIP)
- Telex: 580 492 348 018 (Inmarsat C)
- Iridium: 00881 651 447 569

The Government Officer will require the following information:

- Vessel name & radio call sign
- Type of vessel e.g. cruise ship, yacht, fishing vessel, research vessel, reefer etc.
- Date and time of intended arrival at King Edward Point in Cumberland East Bay
- Purpose of visit

3.3 Arrival at South Georgia

All persons planning to go ashore must watch the GSGSSI visitor briefing film before arriving (this will be provided in advance to visit applicants).

Unless the GSGSSI has already given permission in writing to do otherwise, the first port of call in South Georgia must be Grytviken, where the Government Officer will carry out immigration procedures, arrival briefings, biosecurity inspections and other formalities.

On entering Cumberland Bay, the Government Officer should be contacted on VHF Channel 16. The Government Officer will board the vessel to give an arrival briefing and complete arrival and customs formalities, including issuing invoices for fees (and the receipt of any cash payments.) A copy of the crew and passenger lists, and associated details, should already have been communicated (see 3.1). The Government Officer will also ask for the signed Visit Permit Holder Landing Declaration (Annex 4) as well as the Biosecurity Declaration Form (Annex 3) signed by all persons going ashore (see 3.4).

A visitor fee is charged for each person (16 years old and over) named on the passenger list of cruise ships and yachts, this includes privately owned vessels. No charge is made for any professional (employed) crew or staff on a vessel. Revenue collected in this way contributes to the costs of administering the Territory including habitat restoration and environmental and heritage projects, as well as the running costs of the South Georgia Museum and maintenance of the buildings at Grytviken.

Whilst in Grytviken, Government Officers will give a short presentation to cruise ship visitors (when most convenient) about work being undertaken by the Government to manage and protect the Territory. This may be given in conjunction with Museum presentations. The Government may request that a Government Officer be embarked to monitor landings and biosecurity measures for periods while the vessel is at South Georgia.

3.4 Biosecurity

Permit Holders must study closely the separate current Biosecurity Handbook and ensure all biosecurity measures are in place before departing for South Georgia. Failure to do so may constitute an offence under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance (2011) resulting in prosecution and could have catastrophic consequences for the ecology of the Territory.

The Government Officer is likely to undertake a biosecurity inspection on the vessel before any landing is made. Rigorous application of all biosecurity measures is essential before every vessel's arrival and prior to every subsequent landing. Vessels departing Stanley may be subject to screening by a rodent detector dog. Rat guards should be deployed at all times when vessels are alongside at gateway ports.

All yachts departing from Stanley should collect rodent bait stations from GSGSSI staff before departing for South Georgia. Visit permit holders, particularly those on any vessel permitted not to make their first landing at Grytviken, must also ensure that they have adequate supplies of Virkon (biocide).

Be vigilant for any evidence of rodents on your vessel at every stage of your visit and undertake rigorous pre-departure inspections. On your first visit of the season to Grytviken a Government Officer will place a rodent monitoring station on the vessel, and for all subsequent visits this must be checked 48hrs before arrival at South Georgia and the findings reported to the Government Officers at King Edward Point. The inspection of the rodent monitoring station must be done by a competent member of the ship's crew. The Government Officer at King Edward Point must be contacted immediately if there is ever any concern or suspicion about the presence of rodents on a vessel.

Any vessel believed to have rodents on board will be required to satisfy GSGSSI that appropriate remedial action has been taken and may be required to leave the Territory until such time as this action has been taken.

4. Shore and Harbour Facilities

The only facilities for visitors ashore are at Grytviken and King Edward Point (KEP). There is no on-shore accommodation for visitors to the island, nor are there public telephone, fax or internet facilities. Public toilets are only accessible in the museum building at Grytviken.

Jetties

Subject to following biosecurity controls set out in the Biosecurity Handbook 2017/18, visiting yachts and tenders may seek permission to use the jetty at Grytviken (the Tijuca jetty). A jetty is also available at KEP at the discretion of the Government Officer. However, due to biosecurity issues, private and commercial ships are not permitted to come alongside. Use of the KEP jetty will not normally be permitted.

Water

Water is available to yachts at the Tijuca jetty at Grytviken and may be available at the King Edward Point jetty (subject to access restrictions).

Post Office

During cruise ship visits the Post Office service transfers from KEP to Grytviken (slop chest building) and is run by a Postal Officer or appointed representative. Philatelic items including stamps, postcards, first day covers and South Georgia merchandise are available and mail can be posted if South Georgia stamps of the appropriate value are used, although it may take up to two months or more for items to reach their destination, via the Falkland Islands. A Royal Geographic Society supported exhibition illustrating the photographic work of Sir Ernest Shackleton's photographer, Frank Hurley, will continue to be on display to the rear of the post office for the 2017/18 season.

South Georgia Museum

Established in 1992, the South Georgia Museum at Grytviken is an important centre of interest for visitors. The many photographs and exhibits displayed in the Museum, situated in what was the whaling station Manager's Villa, record the former whaling industry and other aspects of South Georgia's heritage, exploration and natural history. The Church and Cemetery (burial place of Sir Ernest Shackleton) are also focal points for the visitor.

The Museum is funded and maintained by GSGSSI and managed on their behalf by the South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT). Museum staff are present in summer to welcome visitors, and in their absence the Government Officer may open the Museum upon request. Souvenir items including postcards, clothing and books are on sale at the Museum shop. Proceeds from sales contribute to SGHT fundraising for heritage projects. Admission is free, though donations are gratefully accepted.

Visits to the former whaling station at Grytviken are only possible following a major Government project in 2003/4 to remove hazardous materials and make the site safe to visit. The other former whaling stations at Husvik, Stromness, Leith and Prince Olav Harbour are prohibited areas and strictly closed to public access (see Conduct Ashore and Annex 7).

5. Management and Safety of Visitors

5.1 Management of landings

Landings may only be made at approved landing sites (Annex 2). Permit holders must refer to their permit and check the approved list in the visitor application information. The Conduct Whilst Ashore and Wildlife Protection Guidelines (see below) must be strictly followed at all times. Visit permit holders on IAATO vessels must also ensure their staff and visitors adhere at all times to IAATO guidelines and bylaws and all GSGSSI approved landing site Codes of Conduct and existing Site Visitor Management Plans.

It is the responsibility of visit permit holders (on behalf of the applicant) to ensure that all their staff are fully briefed and adhere at all times to current visit permit conditions, including Codes of Conduct and Visitor Management Plans. Failure to do so could result in a permit being immediately revoked, suspended or alterations made to the conditions of a permit (including the itinerary of a visit) and may preclude the possibility of, or place restrictions on, future permitting.

Site Visitor Management Plans will normally be provided to permit holders on USB sticks in advance of their visit or on arrival at Grytviken. These may also be downloaded from the GSGSSI website www.gov.gs. These cover Cape Rosa, Cooper Bay macaronis, Fortuna Shackleton Walk, Fortuna Whistle Cove, Godthul, Gold Harbour, Prion Island, Salisbury Plain, St Andrews Bay and number of other extended walks. Visit applicants and permit holders should always ensure they are referring to the current versions of the plans (and all other briefing documents) and if in any doubt they should refer to the website.

No overnight stays ashore are permitted, except by authorised expeditions (see Application section). There are a number of refuge huts located in South Georgia, which are for emergency use only. Any use of the huts and their contents must be reported immediately to the Government Officer, who can arrange replenishment. Huts must be kept securely fastened at all times to prevent entry by wildlife and reduce damage from the elements. GSGSSI accepts no liability arising from their use.

All cruise ship and charter vessel shore parties should stay in radio contact with the ship and have with them appropriate medical and emergency equipment and trained and experienced staff. Rapidly deteriorating weather or sea conditions may, for example, make return to the ship hazardous and necessitate a longer stay ashore than planned. Vessel operators & charterers should review all major incident and contingency plans on a regular basis. All IAATO staff involved in the oversight of passengers ashore should have passed the IAATO online field staff assessment.

Extreme care must be exercised at all times in proximity of seals (especially those in breeding colonies) and particularly fur seals from November to January, during which period they can be extremely aggressive. (see Annex 9 for the IAATO guidelines on fur seals).

5.2 Prohibited Areas

It is strictly forbidden to approach within 200m of the old whaling stations at Leith, Stromness, Husvik and Prince Olav Harbour. This includes approach from the sea and the use of old jetties at these stations is therefore prohibited. The buildings and jetties are in a highly dangerous state of disrepair and there is a high risk of exposure to airborne asbestos.

Prohibited Areas legislation (2013) makes it an offence to enter these areas without permission. Visit permit holders and visitors must refer to this legislation (available on the GSGSSI website) and to the maps attached to the Order (Annex 7) if in any doubt about the demarcation of these areas.

5.3 Unexploded ordnance

Unexploded ordnance from the 1982 conflict and subsequent military exercises may be found on South Georgia. Visitors finding any item of unexploded ordnance or suspect item should carry out the following procedure:

DO NOT TOUCH (items are in a dangerous condition).

Note its position (latitude, longitude) and place a marker nearby; a GPS plot is ideal.

Make a note of its size, shape, colour, markings, condition and quantity; if possible take a digital photo and inform the Government Officer as soon as possible.

6. Code of Conduct Whilst Ashore

When ashore:

- Visitors must know their capabilities and also the dangers posed by South Georgia's environment, and act accordingly. Plan activities with safety in mind at all times.
- Visitors should take note of, and act on, the advice and instructions from leaders and staff. Do not stray from the group.
- Be prepared for severe and changeable weather. Ensure that equipment and clothing are of sufficient strength and quality to withstand Antarctic conditions. South Georgia's weather is unpredictable, when ashore be prepared for the worst, however pleasant it may seem when setting out.
- Do not walk on to glaciers or snowfields without proper equipment and experience. Surface conditions are constantly changing, particularly in the present period of glacial retreat.
- Fully adhere to the Wildlife Protection Guidelines at all times (see section 7).
- Avoid walking on fragile vegetation. A footprint on a moss bank may remain there a long time; trampling of vegetation, especially in wet and peaty soils, can cause significant erosion over time. Moss beds and the margins of streams and lakes are particularly fragile.
- Do not collect any items. This includes plants, skulls, bones, teeth or eggs. No items or scientific specimens may be removed from South Georgia without an export permit from GSGSSI under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance. The removal of any item without a permit is an offence.
- Be careful when taking photographs or filming. Never disturb plants or animals to get better pictures. Do not use flash photography for animal photographs.
- Always give wildlife the right of way (see wildlife protection guidelines).
- Firearms may not be brought into South Georgia.
- Remove all rubbish.
- Do not pollute lakes or streams.
- Do not remove, disturb or destroy any historical artefacts.
- Do not paint or engrave names or graffiti on rocks or buildings; or deface or vandalise any field huts or other structures.
- Avoid marked sites where scientific experiments are being conducted and do not disturb any scientific equipment.
- Do not smoke. Do not light camp fires.

7. Wildlife Protection Guidelines

ALL visitors including tourists, scientists, government staff, journalists, military personnel, ships' crews and tourism staff must aim to minimise their personal impact on the environment by observing the following guidelines. The guidelines are legally enforced through the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance (2011, as amended). IAATO staff must also ensure that all IAATO codes of conduct are fully adhered to.

- Do not disturb mammals or birds and always maintain a respectful distance.
- Do not use vessels, small boats, or other means of transport in ways that disturb wildlife, whether at sea or on land.
- Stay on the edge of animal groups, approaching slowly and quietly. Do not use flash photography. Avoid surrounding the groups. Back-off immediately if mammals or birds show any sign of being disturbed. If animals are responding to your presence then you are too close.
- Never disturb seals in breeding colonies or territorial seals in order to affect a landing (or cause disturbance by cruising offshore in close proximity).
- Do not offer food to any animal. This avoids animals becoming dependent on un-natural food sources, prevents the spread of avian diseases and protects visitors from potential injury.
- Always rigorously adhere to all biosecurity measures (see separate Biosecurity Handbook).
- Be alert whilst ashore and particularly in the tussac grass. Always remain vigilant to avoid stumbling inadvertently upon a fur seal or a nesting bird, or causing damage to seabird burrows, both in tussac and on scree. Return to the shore if a high density of burrows is encountered.
- Do not touch or attempt to touch any animals. Such action may cause substantial stress and disturbance, and may jeopardize the bond between parent and offspring and lead to an aggressive response from the animal.
- The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), (also known as drones and quadcopters) for recreational purposes is not permitted. Only in exceptional circumstances may UAVs be operated, if permitted in advance by GSGSSI (Regulated Activity Permit for approved use in support of either science or media).

All permit holders must study the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance (2011) (available from www.gov.gs). Failure to comply with Wildlife Protection Guidelines and Biosecurity Protocols could result in prosecution for the individual(s) involved.

All birdstrikes must be recorded and reported in the Post Visit Report form (including birds released unharmed).

8. Departing from South Georgia

All vessels should notify the Government Officer at King Edward Point of their departure from South Georgia (ideally by email).

A Post Visit Report form should be completed and returned to the Government Officer at KEP by email (go@gov.gs) within 30 days of departing South Georgia. This can be downloaded from the GSGSSI website, or can be provided by the Government Officer.

(At time of writing, work is in progress to develop an electronic format which will be compatible with IAATO reporting requirements).

Annexes

1. Tourism Management Policy (2017)
2. List for approved visitor sites
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Annex 1

South Georgia Tourism Management Policy



TOURISM MANAGEMENT POLICY

The principle objective of the tourism management policy for South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) is to enable visitor access, whilst ensuring the continued protection of the Territory's unique environment, including its flora, fauna and cultural heritage. This is achieved by managing all visitor landings so that authorised visitors may continue to have access to approved landing sites in a safe and regulated manner, whilst minimising any impact.

GSGSSI aims to facilitate visits that are safe, responsible, environmentally-sensitive and contribute to sustainable management, creating future ambassadors for the Territory.

This document sets out general and specific policies and regulations governing visits to South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands.

Applicants, who believe that exceptional circumstances apply, which necessitate a departure from the following, should include details with their applications.

General Principles, which apply to all visits to South Georgia.

A "visit" is defined as an entry into territorial waters (i.e. within 12nm of territorial baselines). Visit activities commence with the first landing (or other activity detailed on the post visit report form). The use of civil or private aircraft (as well as UAVs) within 12nm of territorial baselines is prohibited except by permit.

All visits to South Georgia require a permit from the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI).

It is the responsibility of the visit applicant to nominate one or more individuals (referred to as 'the Permit Holder'), normally the vessel Expedition Leader or Yacht Skipper / Master, who will be responsible (on behalf of the applicant) for all on board during the vessel's time in South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

All visitors aged 16 years or over, with the exception of professional (paid) staff on board a vessel, must pay a visitor fee, unless exempted from doing so by the Commissioner.

All visitors must be vessel borne and no overnight stays ashore are permitted without permission from the Commissioner. Any application to stay overnight ashore will be regarded as an "expedition" and treated accordingly (see the Expedition section).

The operators or owners of all commercial and privately owned vessels and yachts wishing to visit South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands must submit a respective fully completed current "Application to Visit South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands" document. This must clearly specify all dates and proposed itineraries.

Operators or owners of vessels carrying more than 10 persons must ensure the visit application form is submitted to GSGSSI no later than 60 days before the intended arrival date in South Georgia and any received later than 30 days will result in a late processing fee and may result in delays.

Any proposed changes to the information submitted with the application must be notified to GSGSSI before the vessel enters the SGSSI Maritime Zone.

Landings will only be permitted at those sites or site categories specified on the permit to visit.

Failure to comply with the South Georgia visitor policy, legislation, other government regulations, codes of conduct or visitor management plans could result in a permit being immediately revoked, suspended or alterations made to the conditions of a permit (including the itinerary of a visit) and may preclude the possibility, or place restrictions, on future permitting.

Unless a regulated activity permit has been issued, visit permits will only be issued in respect of approved South Georgia landing sites and landings on the South Sandwich Islands will be approved on a case-by-case basis. Where landings are not permitted, zodiac cruising may in certain circumstances be permitted.

All vessels must call at Grytviken to complete customs and administrative formalities, GSGSSI briefings, biosecurity inspections (as required) and the payment of harbour dues and customs fees as specified in the SGSSI Harbour Administration Charges. Unless otherwise exempted in advance by the Government, this must be the first landing in the Territory. Authorisations for exemption will normally only be given to IAATO vessels carrying an Expedition Leader who has visited South Georgia in that capacity within the previous 3 seasons.

All vessels carrying 12 or more passengers must carry a Master or Chief Deck Officer with previous experience of operating in South Georgia or Polar Regions within the previous 5 years.

All applications for vessels to visit must include incident contingency plans and details of SOLAS equipment, medical capabilities, including the management of trauma injuries, as well as emergency and medical evacuation contingency plans. These must include vessel operator contact details and vessel contact details. There are no Search and Rescue (SAR) facilities on South Georgia and vessels must be self sufficient in every respect.

All visit applicants must have adequate vessel / yacht and liability insurance arrangements (including medical insurance) to cover any incident occurring in South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands. The medical policies must either cover all crew, passengers (and any visit staff), or, applicants must ensure that all on board have adequate insurance arrangements to cover the cost of medical evacuation and repatriation. All passengers and clients should be made aware of the limitations involved in affecting a medical evacuation from South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands. Insurance policy coverage must clearly extend to South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands and include any specialist activities being undertaken.

Commercial Vessels

Commercial vessel operations are classed as all vessels carrying fee-paying passengers as well as vessel operators receiving contributions and benefits in kind from any non fee-paying passengers, guests or unpaid crew, which are in excess of an individual's pro rata contribution towards consumables for a voyage.

Vessels carrying in excess of 850 passengers are not permitted to visit South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands or to enter within Territorial Waters unless exercising right of free passage.

Members of IAATO

IAATO Member vessels carrying fewer than 201 passengers (IAATO Category 1) may be permitted to land at all approved landing sites, including those restricted sites that require special permission.

IAATO Member vessels carrying 201-500 passengers (IAATO Category 2) are only permitted to land at sites approved for IAATO Category 2 ships and are not permitted to carry out landings at restricted sites requiring special permission.

IAATO Member vessels carrying 500-850 passengers (CR Category) are only permitted to carry out landings at Grytviken.

Visit permit holders on IAATO vessels must ensure that in addition to any terms and conditions of their visit permit, IAATO operational guidelines are adhered to.

Non-members of IAATO

All non-IAATO commercial vessels are normally only permitted to land passengers at Grytviken*.

* For the purposes of this document, a vessel whose operator or owner has Membership of IAATO (Operator, Provisional Operator or Associate) will be regarded as an IAATO Member vessel.

Under exceptional circumstances, commercial non-IAATO vessels may be given permission to visit South Georgia, if the visit is of a unique nature in support of a specific project, which will not involve the vessel returning to South Georgia. All such vessels will be required to embark a GSGSSI approved observer.

Observers

The Government may designate observers to oversee commercial yachts, cruise ships or expedition vessels on their arrival at Grytviken or during the whole or part of a vessel's duration in South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands waters. Vessels carrying 12 or more passengers and visiting for the first time, or those under new management will, subject to practical considerations, always be required to embark a GSGSSI observer during the course of the visit.

A fee will be charged for vessels requiring the embarkation of an approved observer (if required to facilitate access to landing sites).

Privately Owned Vessels (Not carrying fee-paying passengers)

Privately owned vessels carrying 10 persons or less on board (including professional crew) may be permitted to land passengers at all approved landing sites.

Privately owned vessels carrying 11- 20 persons on board (including professional crew) may be permitted to land passengers at approved landing sites, but may only land at restricted sites when accompanied by a GSGSSI designated observer (to oversee landings).

Privately owned vessels carrying more than 20 persons on board (including professional crew) will only be permitted to land passengers at Grytviken. Landings at all other approved landing sites may be permitted if accompanied by a GSGSSI designated observer (to oversee landings).

Expeditions

Visitors intending to spend nights ashore are classed as expeditions.

Expedition applications must be submitted to GSGSSI no later than 60 days before an expedition arrives in South Georgia (or the South Sandwich Islands) and will be assessed by a panel of experts who will advise the Commissioner on the application (and whether a Regulated Activity Permit should be granted).

An administrative fee of £1,000 will be charged for the assessment procedure.

All expeditions must be supported throughout by an expedition support vessel and participants must have adequate personal insurance to include medical evacuation and repatriation. Insurance policy details must be provided with the application. Support vessels must have adequate insurance as specified in the general principles. No support (including Search and Rescue cover) will be available from GSGSSI for expeditions. Expedition groups must be self-sufficient.

A post expedition report must be submitted to GSGSSI within one month of completing an expedition and departing from South Georgia.

General policy

Submission of an application will be taken by GSGSSI to mean that the applicant has read and understood the terms under which permitting operates, and that the vessel and company on whose behalf the application has been made will comply with the terms and conditions of their permit, including ensuring compliance with all policies and regulations governing behaviour ashore.

It is the responsibility of both visit applicants, vessel operators and visit permit holders to ensure that all their staff are fully briefed and adhere at all times to current visit permit conditions including Codes of Conduct and Visitor Management Plans. Failure to comply with the South Georgia visitor policy, legislation, other government regulations, codes of conduct or visitor management plans could result in a permit being immediately revoked, suspended or alterations made to the conditions of a permit (including the itinerary of a visit) and may preclude the possibility of, or place restrictions on, future permitting.

GSGSSI accepts no liability for the safety of visitors to South Georgia or the South Sandwich Islands. All visits are at the visitors' own risk. It is the responsibility of the Permit Holder to assess the safety of all anchorages, landing sites, activities and structures (e.g. jetties and boardwalks) before use and to advise all visitors in their care or under their responsibility of potential risks. GSGSSI will not accept any liability whatsoever for injury to, or damage sustained by, any individual, howsoever arising. All visitors must be covered by adequate insurance as outlined above. Visit applicants must also ensure that all clients have been informed about the remote nature of the Territory and medical evacuation limitations.

Post Visit Report forms must be completed and returned either to the Government Officer at King Edward Point or GSGSSI within 30 days of a vessel's departure from South Georgia.

Vessels must observe the dates specified on permits. If a Permit Holder wishes to change any dates specified on a visit permit (whether for individual sites or the duration of the visit), then the Permit Holder must consult with, and get the agreement of, the Government Officer at KEP before any alterations can be made to itinerary dates or to the IAATO ship scheduler system.

Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands June 2017

Notes

A season commences on 1st July and ends on 30th June of the following year.

Additional information

Acronyms

GSGSSI	Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands
SG	South Georgia
SSI	South Sandwich Islands
HMG	Her Majesty's Government
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
BFSAI	British Forces South Atlantic Islands
SGSSI MZ	South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands Maritime Zone
IAATO	International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators

Contact details for the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands
Government House
Stanley
Falkland Islands, South Atlantic FIQQ 1ZZ

Tel: +500 28200

Email: info@gov.gs

Details of approved landing sites are included in the Information for Visitors to South Georgia Booklet. These and the details of the Territorial Baselines may also be obtained from the GSGSSI Office in Stanley.



Annex 2

LIST FOR APPROVED VISITOR SITES AT SOUTH GEORGIA (2016)

This List details the Approved Visitor Sites on South Georgia. The position of each visitor site is shown on the accompanying map. In addition, each site is identified by a coded number that is entered in the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands' Visitor Database, along with information from the Post-Visit Reports. There are some unofficial place-names in current local usage and these are indicated with quotation marks in the text. Names in bold type refer to approved visitor sites that are rat-free Specially Protected Areas.

When filling out the 'Intended Itinerary' section of the Visitor Application Form, correct names and precise locations of intended landing sites are required. Include all possible secondary (alternative) sites that may be visited, and also any Extended Walks. Approved sites where no landings are permitted and activities are limited to inshore small-boat / Zodiac cruising and / or ship cruises must also be listed and the site details included (stating "No Landing").

Similarly, when completing the Post-Visit Report, use the List to correctly identify the sites visited for each activity undertaken.

Note that the List does not include the place-names of additional anchorages and landing sites used by specially permitted expeditions, or of geographic areas where mountaineering and scientific research activities may occur. However these sites and their associated activities are to be listed on the Application Form and Post-Visit Report, using place-names given on the British Admiralty Marine Charts and/or the BAS 2004 map to describe the principal geographic features visited, and if appropriate, the site's latitude and longitude.

General area names such as Cooper bay, Bay of Isles, King Haakon Bay, Royal Bay, Fortuna Bay, and Possession Bay contain more than one landing site. You must use the specific landing site names rather than general names. For example:

Bay of Isles:	Prion Island, Salisbury Plain, Rosita Harbour
Possession Bay:	Possession Bay Brighton Beach, Possession Bay Brown Pt, Prince Olav Harbour
King Haakon Bay:	Peggotty Bluff, Cape Rosa
Fortuna Bay:	Whistle Cove, Anchorage Bay, Shackleton Walk
Royal Bay:	Moltke Harbour, Little Moltke Harbour, Koppen Point, Royal Bay kings, Royal Bay macaronis.
Cooper Bay	Cooper Bay Centre Cove, Cooper Bay Albatross Cove, Cooper Bay macaronis, Cooper Bay Main Beach, Cooper Bay Chinstraps (<i>note all currently closed with the exception of the macaronis</i>)

Note also that Drygalski Fjord does not include Larsen Harbour (neither of which are landing sites).

The general name may be used for non-landing activities such as ship or small boat cruises.

Visits to Prion Island and Cape Rosa are restricted and subject to the conditions of the respective Site Visitor Management Plans.

LIST OF APPROVED VISITOR SITES AT SOUTH GEORGIA (2016)

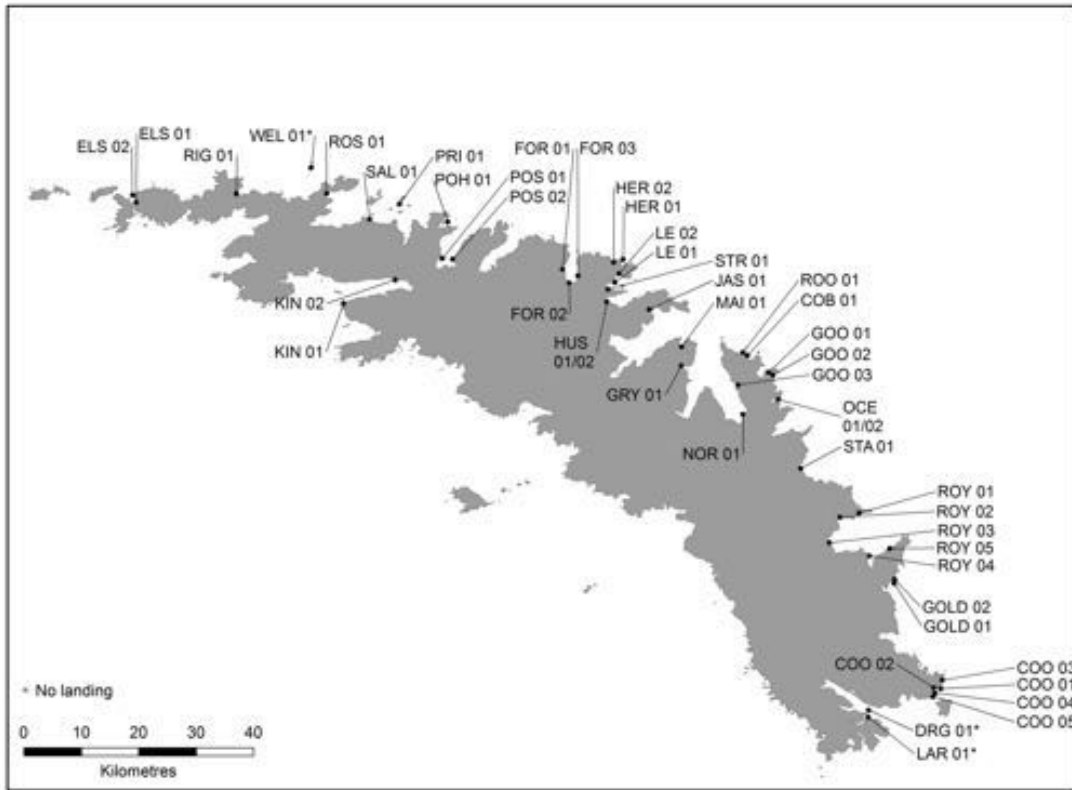
Following the completion of Phase 3 of the SGHT rat eradication project in 2015, all approved landing sites must be treated as rodent free. Biosecurity checks must be rigorously implemented prior to and during every landing. Sites marked (*) are appropriate for Category 2 vessel landings (more than 200 pax on board)

SITE CODE	SITE PLACE-NAME	LANDING SITE DESCRIPTION
COB01	Cobblers Cove	N shore of Cobblers Cove
COO01	Cooper Bay centre cove	Beach of the centre cove of 3 coves comprising Cooper Bay (site closed at present)
COO02	Cooper Bay "Albatross Cove"	Beach of E'most of the 3 coves in Cooper Bay (site closed at present)
COO03	Cooper Bay macaronis	Small beach lying between the macaroni landing beach and "Albatross Cove"
COO04	Cooper Bay main beach	Beach of W'most and largest of 3 coves in Cooper Bay (site closed at present)
COO05	Cooper Bay chinstraps	Beach in front of chinstrap colony close W of Cooper Bay (site closed at present)
DRG01	Drygalski Fjord	(no landing)
ELS01	Elsehul Inner Bay	Main beach below trytops
ELS02	Elsehul	(Outer bay, no landing)
FOR01	Fortuna Bay Anchorage Bay	W shore of Fortuna Bay, N of Perruque Point
FOR02	Fortuna Bay Whistle Cove kings*	Head of Fortuna Bay, at W end of main beach near King Penguin colony
FOR03	Fortuna Bay Shackleton Walk	E shore of Fortuna Bay, close S of Hodson Point, for Shackleton Walk to Stromness
GOD01	Godthul	Beach below old whaling shore depot ruins
GOD02	Godthul walk	Beach at whaling shore depot for walk in Godthul to gentoos, lake and ridge
GOD03	Sandebugten Walk	Beach at Sandebugten for walk across Reindeer Valley to Godthul
GOL01	Gold Harbour	Beach at Gold Harbour in vicinity of King Penguin colony
GOL02	Gold Harbour Walk	Beach at Gold Harbour for walk to cliffs above Gold Head
GRY01	Grytviken*	Beaches between cemetery and Museum also including King Edward Point
HER01	Hercules Bay macaronis	N shore of Hercules Bay near Hercules Point, near macaroni landing site
HER02	Hercules Bay waterfall	Head of Hercules Bay on small beach near waterfall
HUS01	Husvik	Shore 200m SE of whaling station
HUS02	Olsen Valley Walk	Extended walk from Olsen beach to Carlita Bay (site closed at present)

LIST OF APPROVED VISITOR SITES AT SOUTH GEORGIA (2016) continued, page 2

SITE CODE	SITE PLACE-NAME	LANDING SITE DESCRIPTION
JAS01	Jason Harbour	Beach close N of Hut Point and hut
KIN01	Cape Rosa	S shore of King Haakon Bay on small beach in Cave Cove close E of Cape Rosa (Restricted, refer to SVMP)
KIN02	Peggotty Bluff	N shore of King Haakon Bay on beach close to Peggotty Bluff
LAR01	Larsen Harbour	(no landing)
LEI01	Leith Harbour Walk	Small beach on N shore of Stromness Harbour for walk to Leith Harbour
LEI02	Leith Harbour	Beach in front of football field 200 m S of whaling station
MAI01	Maiviken Walk	Beach at Grytviken for walk across Bore Valley to Poa Cove in Maiviken
NOR01	Nordenskjold Glacier	E shore of Cumberland East Bay near Nordenskjold Glacier and Sorling Valley
OCE01	Ocean Harbour	Beach at head of Ocean Harbour in front of whaling station ruins
OCE02	Ocean Harbour Walk	Ocean Harbour to Sorling Valley walk
POH01	Prince Olav Harbour	Beach 200 m from whaling station
POS01	Possession Bay Brighton Beach	W shore of Possession Bay on Brighton Beach, S of Purvis Glacier
POS02	Possession Bay Brown Point	E shore of Possession Bay on large beach N of Brown Point
PRI01	Prion Island	Main beach, E coast, proceed directly to boardwalk (Restricted, closed 20 Nov – 7 Jan inclusive, refer to SVMP)
RIG01	Right Whale Bay	Binder Beach in vicinity of King Penguin colony
ROO01	Rookery Point Walk	N shore of Cobblers Cove for walk to Rookery Point macaroni colony
ROS01	Rosita Harbour	Beach at head of Rosita Harbour in Bay of Isles
ROY01	Royal Bay Koppen Point	N shore of Royal Bay on rocky shore below the ruins of the German 1882-83 station
ROY02	Moltke Harbour *	N shore of Royal Bay on beach at Moltke Harbour
ROY03	Little Moltke Harbour	N shore of Royal Bay on beach at Little Moltke Harbour adjacent to Ross Glacier
ROY04	Royal Bay kings	S shore of Royal Bay on beach at W entrance point of "Brisbane Bay" in front of the Weddell Glacier, close to King Penguin colony (site often referred to as Will Point)
ROY05	Royal Bay macaronis	S shore of Royal Bay on small beach close to macaroni colony, 5 km W of Cape Charlotte
SAL01	Salisbury Plain*	Beach in front of conspicuous tussac-covered bluff adjacent to King Penguin colony
STA01	St Andrews Bay *	Beach in vicinity of the King Penguin colony
STR01	Stromness*	Beach 200 m N of whaling station including walk up Shackleton Valley to waterfall.
WEL01	Welcome Islands	(no landing)

South Georgia Approved Visitor Sites (2016)



**Annex 3 Visitor Biosecurity Self Audit Declaration
(ALSO SEE SEPARATE BIOSECURITY HANDBOOK)**

For Administrative Use Only	
VESSEL	
DATE	
VISIT NO	

SOUTH GEORGIA BIOSECURITY SELF-AUDIT DECLARATION

DECLARATION: I confirm that I have carried out the preventative measures outlined in the current GSGSSI Biosecurity Handbook.

I have complied with these measures to the best of my ability and I acknowledge that failure to comply with these measures may result in a delay or disruption to my landing(s) on South Georgia.

No	Name (print)	Signature
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

Name of EL / Officer:

Signature

Annex 4 Visit Permit Holder Landing Declarations

IMPORTANT LEGAL INFORMATION. Please read this in full before signing this form:

It is the responsibility of the Permit Holder (e.g. Expedition Leader or Yacht Skipper) to ensure that the following checks have been made and that all persons going ashore receive the following briefings prior to arriving in South Georgia:

1. Passenger landings are only permitted at the individual's own risk. By alighting from any vessel the individual concerned accepts the potential for risk of injury or damage.
2. The Permit Holder confirms that all staff have reviewed, and will fully adhere to, all current permit conditions, biosecurity measures, codes of conduct and visitor management plans.
3. All visitors to Prion Island are required to remain on the boardwalk and adhere to the conditions of the visit permit and staff instruction at all times. Extreme care must be taken using the boardwalk or ashore at other landing sites. An individual must not proceed if deemed unsafe to do so by the Permit Holder or any of the ship's staff.
4. It is an offence to enter the Whaling Station Prohibited Areas at Husvik, Leith, Stromness and Prince Olav harbours. All visitors must stay outside the boundaries of these areas at all times and adhere to the Prohibited Areas Ordinance Order.
5. It is the responsibility of the Permit Holder to ensure that all individuals are informed about potential dangers and risks, (including lack of search and rescue / medical evacuation capability) so as to enable the individual to assess and communicate any concerns they may reasonably have to the Permit Holder and/or the ship's staff before landing.
6. The Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands will not accept any liability whatsoever for injury to, or damage sustained by, any individual, howsoever arising.

I have read and understood the above. I agree to be bound by its conditions and I have ensured that this information has been conveyed to all persons on board who may land on South Georgia.

If the first landing is not at King Edward Point, confirmation that this declaration has been signed must be communicated to the Government Officer at King Edward Point prior to any landing taking place.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Vessel.....

Operator..... (if applicable)

Annex 5 Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands
Observer Coverage on private vessels and authorised commercial non-IAATO vessels

GSGSSI Observer carriage requirements

Carriage of an observer may be required at the discretion of GSGSSI if circumstances dictate.

Under the GSGSSI Tourism Management Policy visiting vessels may also be required to carry a designated observer under the following conditions:

1) Privately Owned Vessels (*vessels not carrying fee-paying passengers or receiving contributions and benefits in kind from any non fee-paying passengers, guests or unpaid crew, which are in excess of an individual's pro rata contribution towards consumables for a voyage.*)

Privately owned vessels carrying 11- 20 persons on board (including professional crew) may be permitted to land passengers at approved landing sites, but may only land at restricted sites when accompanied by a GSGSSI designated observer to oversee landings.

Privately owned vessels carrying more than 20 persons on board (including professional crew) will only be permitted to land passengers at sites other than Grytviken if accompanied by a GSGSSI designated observer to oversee landings.

2) Commercial non-IAATO vessels (*vessels carrying fee paying passengers which are not members of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators.*)

Under exceptional circumstances, commercial non-IAATO vessels may be given permission to visit South Georgia, if the visit is of a unique nature in support of a specific project, which will not involve the vessel returning to South Georgia.

All such vessels will either be required to carry a GSGSSI designated observer for the duration of the visit or the visit will need to be overseen by one of the listed IAATO Yacht Services Providers or Operators, noting that this oversight must include observer coverage for the duration of the visit by a suitably experienced IAATO Expedition Leader.

Terms of Reference for GSGSSI approved observers

- GSGSSI will employ all observers at a fixed daily rate of pay from the point of embarkation to their disembarkation. All travel costs will be covered by GSGSSI and then recovered from the owner / operator of the vessel.
- All other associated observer mobilisation costs will be recovered from the vessel operator by GSGSSI.
- Observers will be required to sign a contract with GSGSSI and will be covered by GSGSSI's employer's liability insurance.
- Observers must ensure that vessel owners (or staff) have studied all relevant briefing information carefully and adhere to their conditions of permit including the rigorous implementation of biosecurity measures. Pre arrival briefings will need to be given.
- Observers must oversee and help to advise on all landings so as to ensure that they are conducted in accordance with GSGSSI permit conditions, in particular respecting all wildlife protection and biosecurity measures as well as safety issues.
- Any breaches of permit conditions or concerns on the part of the observer must be reported to GSGSSI staff at the earliest opportunity.

The following persons are eligible to be considered as GSGSSI designated observers:

- i) Former IAATO Expedition Leaders with relevant experience.
- ii) Senior cruise ship or yacht expedition staff with relevant experience.
- iii) Individuals who can demonstrate to GSGSSI that they possess suitable experience for the oversight of visitor landings in accordance with GSGSSI visit permit conditions.

Annex 6 Administration Fees & Charges

The administration fees as of 1 July 2016 are listed below. Charges for vessel visits are normally invoiced to the vessel operator. Yacht visitors may elect to be invoiced in advance or can pay in pounds sterling (cash, cheque or travellers' cheques) or in equivalent United States dollars or Euros (cash or travellers' cheques) to the Government Officer at King Edward Point upon arrival at Grytviken, GSGSSI regrets that credit or debit cards cannot be accepted at King Edward Point (though this remains under review).

CUSTOMS & HARBOUR FEES

1. Fees for vessels (not including yachts.)

(Vessels, with a load line length greater than 24m.)

CUSTOMS FEES

Customs Entry: £35

Customs Clearance: £35

Customs fees @ £25 per hour, minimum charge 2 hours: £50

Customs fees are charged at a higher rate of £40 per hour outside normal working hours.

HARBOUR FEES (Cumberland East Bay)

These are calculated according to the net tonnage of the vessel and the number of passengers. Harbour Fees are charged on a daily basis for periods spent in Cumberland Bay, with the first 24 hours of any visit to the harbour being charged at the shown rate and subsequent 24-hour periods charged at half the rate.

Net Registered Tonnage	12 pax or fewer	More than 12 pax
Less than 100 tonnes	£220	£440
100-799 tonnes	£310	£620
800-999 tonnes	£390	£780
1,000-1,499 tonnes	£450	£900
1,500-1,999 tonnes	£550	£1,100
2,000-4,999 tonnes	£660	£1,320
5,000-6,999 tonnes	£820	£1,640
7000-9,999 tonnes	£1,220	£2,440
10,000-14,999 tonnes	£1,490	£2,980
15,000-19,999 tonnes	£1,750	£3,500
20,000 tonnes and over	£1,840	£3,680

2. Fees for Yachts

Yachts are defined as small sailing or motor vessels, with a load line length of up to 24m, that are used for pleasure cruises.

Harbour and customs fees are charged for each separate visit to the Territory, on first arrival at Grytviken.

Harbour Fees	£50	
Customs Fees	£10	(inclusive, covering entry, clearance and customs fees)

VISITOR FEES

All visitors (16 years and over), including those on yachts, but with the exception of professional (paid) staff and those persons listed in visitor management policy are charged a visitor fee. The duration of the visit determines the fee charged.

A visit commences with the undertaking of any activity as outlined in the Post Visit Report (e.g. small boat landing, extended walk, zodiac / small boat cruising, ship cruising) as well as any additional specialist activities.

For visitors staying up to 3 days (72 hours) there is a basic fee of £125. For visitors staying longer than 3 days (> 72 hours) there is an additional charge of £20 per day (or part thereof), to a maximum fee of £205. This higher rate covers a visit of up to one calendar month (e.g. 20 November – 19 December.) Beyond one calendar month the visitor fee structure is applied again, as if for a new visit.

Visitor fee structure:

Visits of up to 72 hours: £125

Visits more than 72 hours: additional £20 per day (or part thereof), up to a maximum of £205

(Covering a maximum period of up to one calendar month)

For example, the visitor fee for a visit of up to 4 days would be: £125 + £20 (£145)

Visit applicants will be required to indicate at the application stage whether a proposed visit will exceed 3 days (72 hours). If a visit has to extend for reasons of force majeure then additional fees will not be applied. If a vessel visit ends prematurely then the vessel operator can arrange a refund or credit with the GSGSSI.

For vessels carrying more than 12 passengers, 50% of projected visitor fees will need to be paid in advance of a visit. This will be invoiced at the application stage.

OTHER VESSEL CHARGES & ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

Expedition Application and Assessment Fee: £1,000

Visitors intending to spend nights ashore are classed as expeditions and require a separate expedition permit (Regulated Activity Permit), which requires an assessment process. Expedition application information may be obtained directly from GSGSSI or the Government website www.gov.gs . The application fee covers the administrative costs of each application assessment process.

Marriages: £400

This fee covers the preparation of marriage documentation and issuing of a Special Licence by the Commissioner. Couples intending to marry on South Georgia should contact GSGSSI as early as possible to allow adequate time for the preparation of the legal documentation.

Penalty for late submission of visit application: £100

Visit applications should be submitted within 60 days of intended visit. A penalty fee will be charged for any applications submitted later than 30 days before a visit and these may be subject to unavoidable processing delays.

Note that this applies only to vessels carrying more than 10 persons on board.

The Commissioner reserves the right not to issue the permit.

Notes:

Science permits no longer exist and daily fees are no longer charged for commercial filming. Media and science project co-ordinators must ensure they apply for a regulated activity permit (as required, see 2.2)

All charges are subject to change. The charge to be levied is that in force at the time. Any changes will be notified in this booklet.

Annex 7

Prohibited Areas

Prohibited Whaling Station Areas

In accordance with Prohibited Areas Ordinance 2010 and the Prohibited Areas Order 2013, Prohibited Areas have been declared around the whaling stations at Husvik, Stromness, Leith, and Prince Olav Harbours.

This is necessary to protect persons from danger to their health and safety, and to protect the heritage of the areas.

It is an offence to enter these areas, as shown on the accompanying maps, without permission of the Commissioner, except for a person aboard any vessel to enter any area of sea due to stress of weather or by reason of Force Majeure.

The areas include the areas of sea, and the jetties shown on the plans (see over).

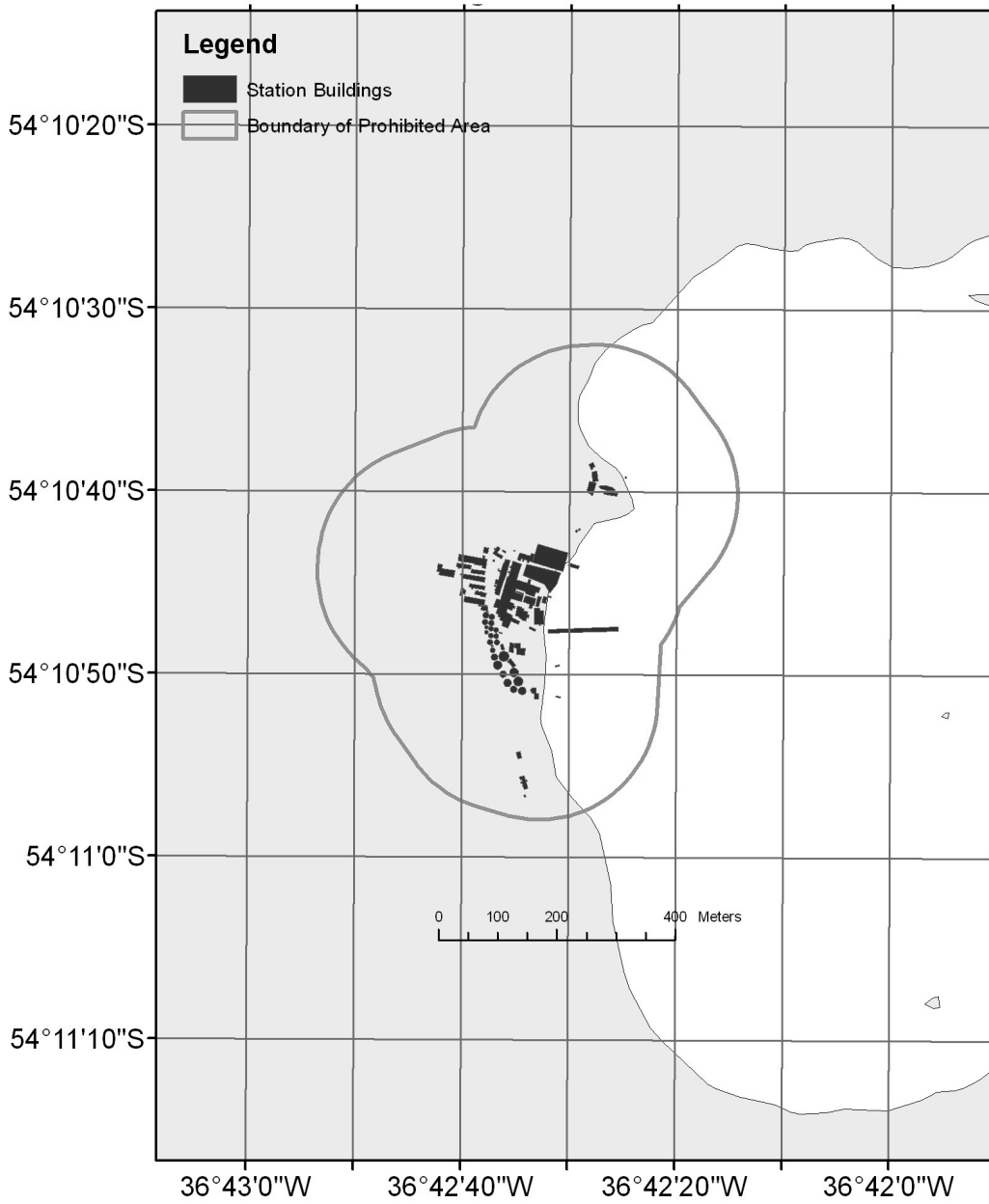
In particular note that the following areas are within the prohibited areas and access is not permitted:

- All jetties at all four stations
- Both cemeteries and the football pitch at Leith Harbour
- Stromness cemetery
- The coastal walk into Stromness from Husvik

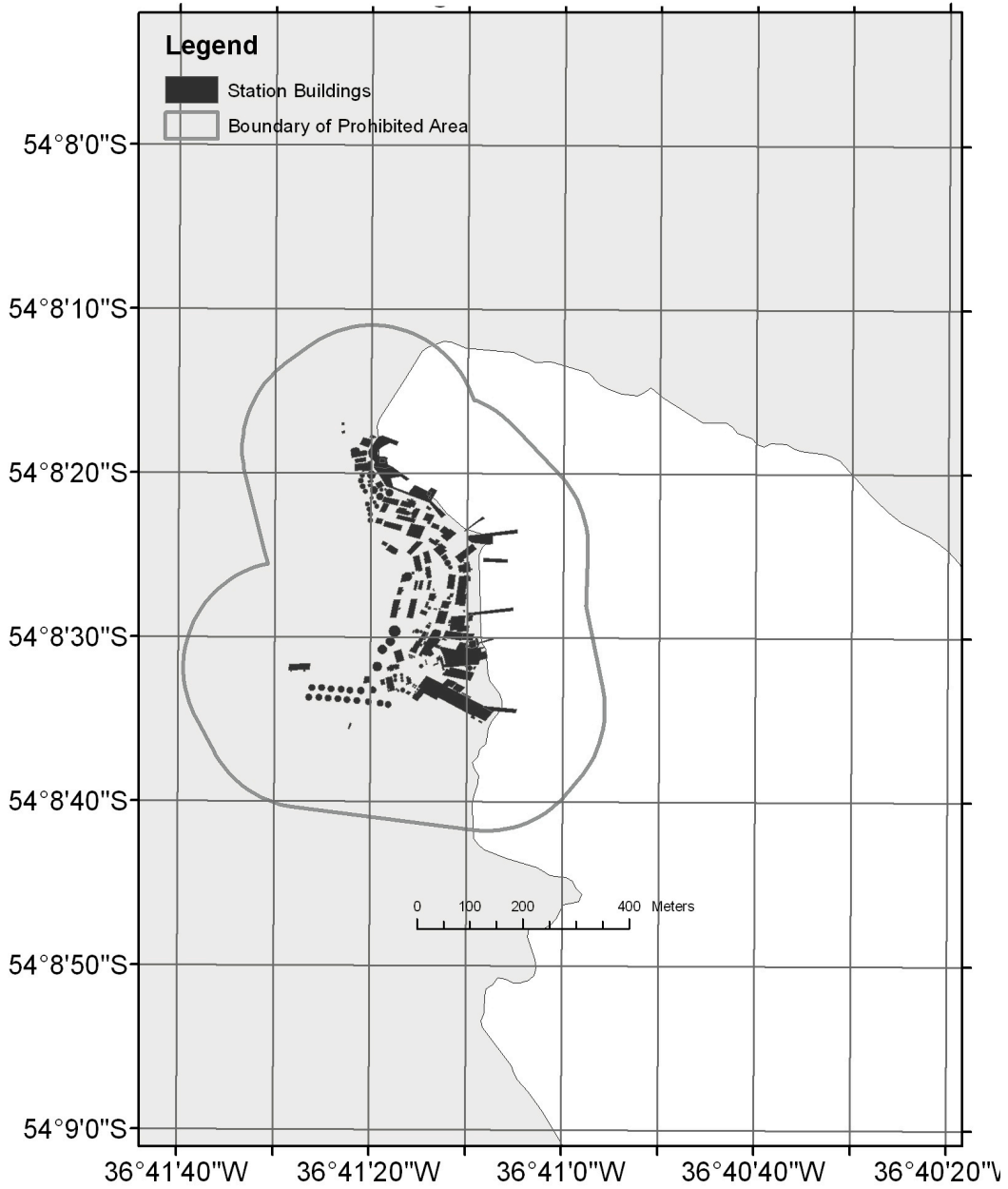
Boundaries are partially marked with signposts around the main approach routes. Visitors must ensure that they stay outside the areas marked on the plans.

Visitors should refer to the Prohibited Areas Ordinance 2010 and Prohibited Areas Order 2010. A copy of the Ordinance is available in South Georgia from the Government Officer at King Edward Point and may be downloaded at: www.gov.gs

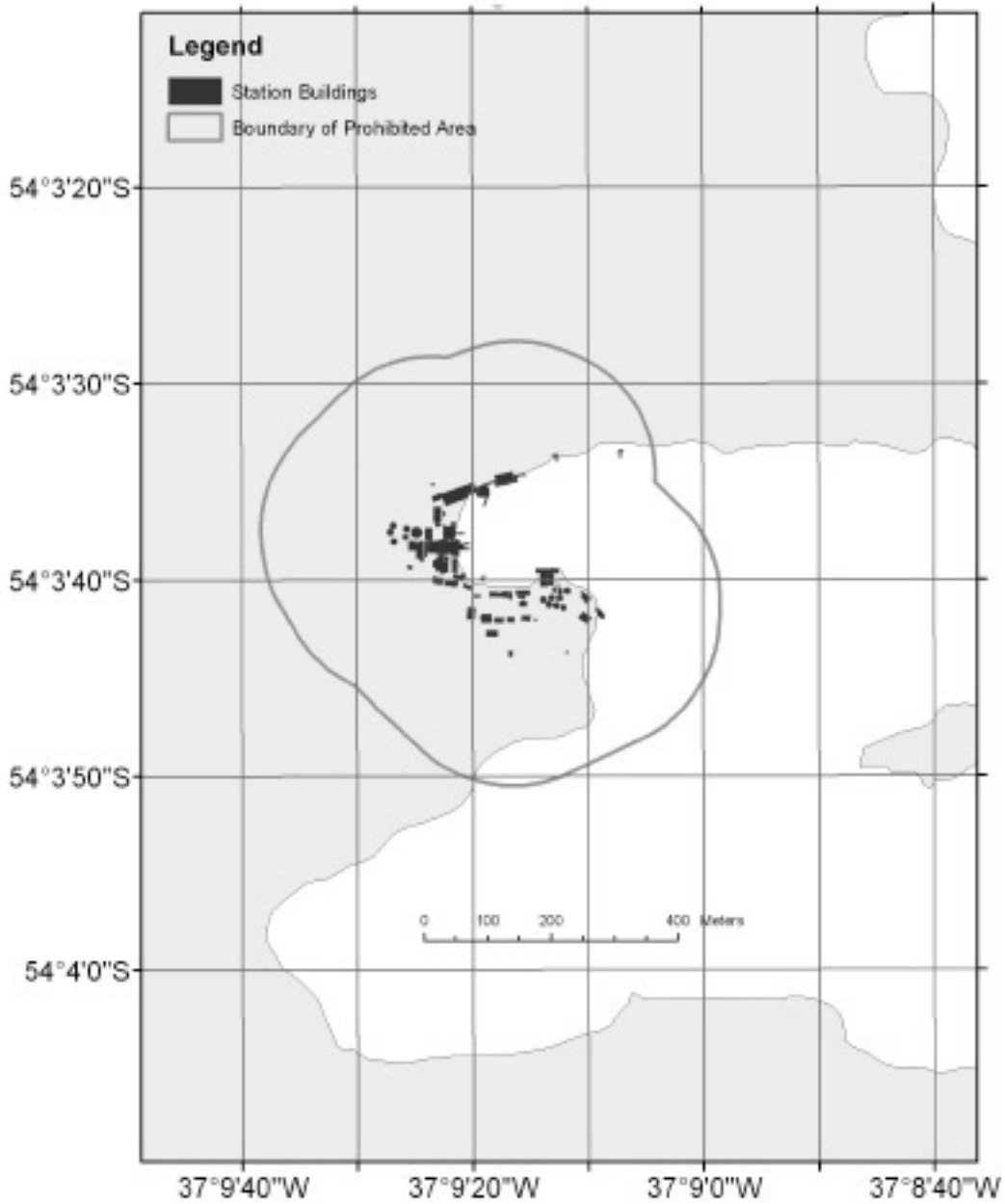
Husvik Whaling Station Prohibited Area



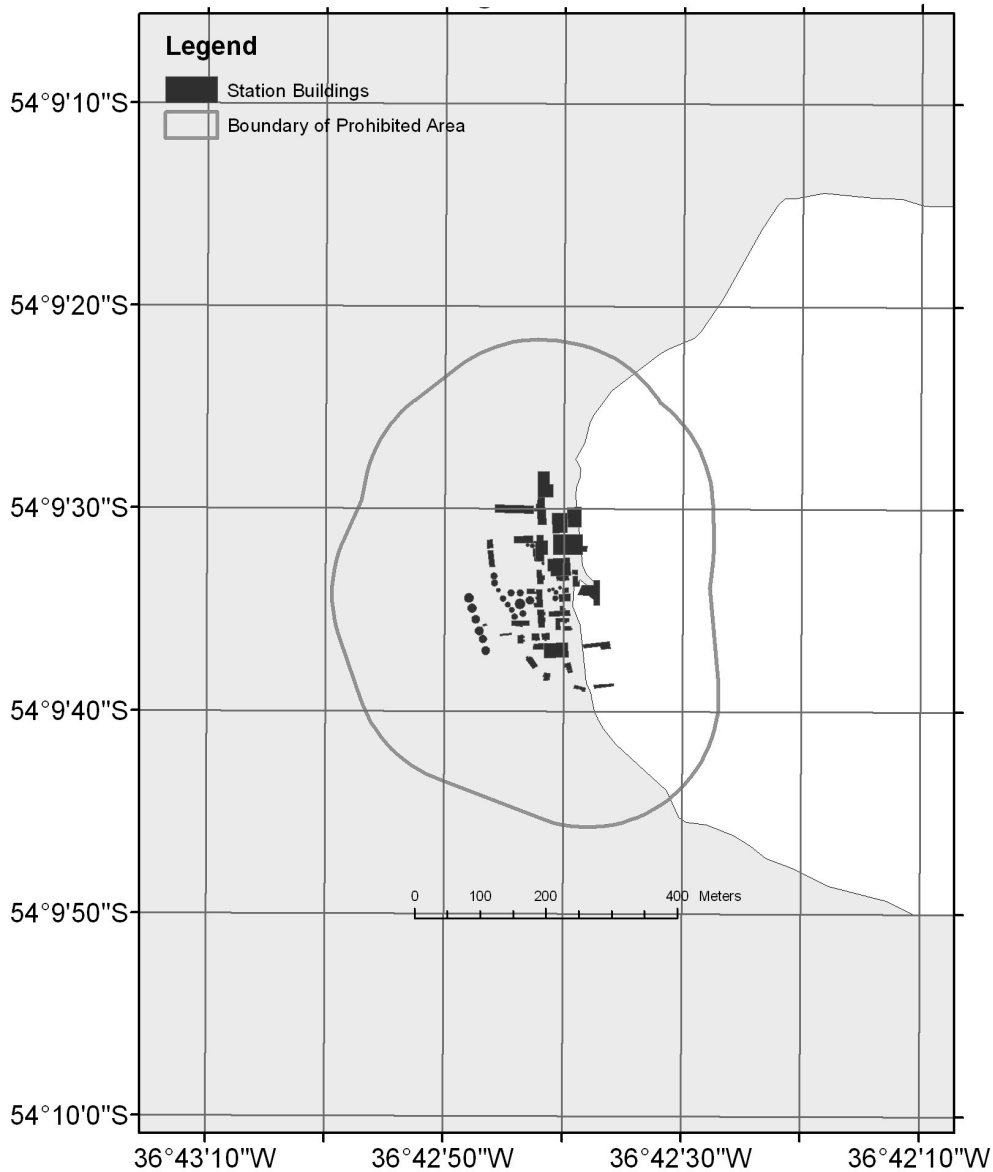
Leith Whaling Station Prohibited Area



Prince Olav Whaling Station Prohibited Area



Stromness Whaling Station Prohibited Area



At Stromness the northern boundary limit of the exclusion zone is less than 200m subject to the following conditions:

(a) Visitors are only permitted to land at the demarcated northern boundary of the safety exclusion zone at the approved Stromness landing site in the absence of wind from the southwest (from the direction of the station buildings); and

(b) The approved landing site is only to be used for landing and embarking and visitors must otherwise comply with the usual 200 metre exclusion zone.

All other landings must take place at the mouth of the stream (or further to the north of the approved site)

Annex 8

Charts and Maps

Admiralty Chart 3596 Approaches to South Georgia (ENC GB203596)

Admiralty Chart 3597 South Georgia (due to be replaced with 3595, 3594 & 3598)

Admiralty Chart 4213 South Georgia (ENC GB104213)

Admiralty Chart 3582 Bay of Isles, Fortuna Bay, Prince Olav Harbour, Gold Harbour and Right Whale Bay (ENC GB43582B, GB53582A, GB53582C, GB43582D, GB53582E)

Admiralty Chart 3583 Larsen Harbour, Cooper Sound and Drygalski Fjord (ENC GB503583)

Admiralty Chart 3586 King Haakon Bay, St Andrew's Bay, Ocean Harbour and Hound Bay (ENC GB53586A, GB53586B, GB53586C)

Admiralty Chart 3587 Leith Harbour, Stromness and Husvik in Stromness Bay
Jason Harbour, Maiviken, King Edward Cove, Grytviken
Cobbler's Cove, Godthul (ENC GB63587A, GB53587G, GB63587B, GB53587C,
GB53587D, GB53587E)

Admiralty Chart 3588 Approaches to Stromness and Cumberland Bays (ENC GB403588D)

Admiralty Chart 3589 Stewart Strait, Undine Harbour and Elsehul (ENC GB53589B, GB403589, GB53589C,
GB53589D)

Admiralty Chart 3595 South Georgia – Central Sheet (ENC GB303595)

Admiralty Chart 3594 (due to be published 2017/18)
South Georgia – Western Sheet

Admiralty Chart 3598 (due to be published 2017/18)
South Georgia – Eastern Sheet

Admiralty Chart 3593 South Sandwich Islands (ENC GB203593 plus ENC GB43593A, Candlemas Islands - Nelson Channel, ENC GB43593B Saunders Island-Cordelia Bay and GB43593C, Southern Thule-Douglas Strait)

Fishing Vessels are required to have charts 3587 and 3588 or equivalent electronic versions. All other vessels are strongly advised to carry them.

Maps

Directorate of Overseas Surveys D.O.S. 610 South Georgia 1:200 000

Directorate of Military Survey 1501 SN24-9 1-GSGS South Georgia

British Antarctic Survey. 2004. South Georgia, 1:200 000 scale map. BAS (Misc 12A and 12B). Cambridge (to be updated 2017)

British Antarctic Survey. 2010. Thatcher Peninsula, 1:25 000 scale map (Series BAS 25, Sheets 4A & 4B) Cambridge

British Antarctic Survey. 2014. Busen Region, 1:25 000 scale map (Series BAS 25, Sheets 5A & 5B) Cambridge

British Antarctic Survey. Barff Peninsula (in production), 1:25 000 scale map (Series BAS 25) Cambridge

South Georgia Explorer 1:250 000 Visitors Map. Dist: NHBS, Totnes, UK

Note that the BAS 2004 map may be obtained from Stanfords in the UK (www.stanfords.co.uk)

Alternatively this map may be accessed and downloaded in a digital format from: www.add.scar.org

IAATO guidelines on understanding fur seal behaviour and advice for interactions

Understanding Fur Seal Behaviour and Advice for interactions



The Antarctic Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus gazella*), once hunted to near extinction, has seen a dramatic rebound in its numbers, now exceeding 5 million individuals worldwide, with over 95% using South Georgia as a breeding site. Fur seals are highly mobile on land and in water, and can be extremely aggressive during the breeding season (November – January). In the, late summer (February - April), females and pups move away from the beaches up into

the tussock, often a surprising way inland. When surprised by human visitors, they can be easily startled and are likely to show an aggressive response.

It is important to note the special nature of fur seals: Both behaviour and numbers of fur seals on a landing beach should be considered when planning an excursion.

Every individual is different, and each interaction with fur seals needs to be judged as such. The below descriptions and advice have been compiled from Field Staff and Fur Seal Biologists to help assist field staff and passengers make the best possible choice when interacting with fur seals.

Understanding fur seal behaviour:

- Fur seals can move extremely quickly on land, but are not able to stop quickly: be sure to give a galloping fur seal plenty of room.
- During the breeding season, males will arrive on the beaches first and set up territories, generally five square meter areas which they will defend forcefully, especially when females begin coming ashore and start to pup.
- Fur seals know the boundaries of their own territory, but these boundaries are not easily distinguishable to the visitor. There is always a risk of disrupting these territorial boundaries when landing. Care should be taken to stick to the periphery of seal congregations as much as possible.
- Fur seals which are disturbed will move into other territories, disturbing harems, causing fights between seals, and risk harm to self and/or other seals - especially pups. This movement can create a domino effect where seals then move and disturb molting penguins or other wildlife.
- During the breeding season (November – January) fur seals are especially sensitive to human presence, sight and smell. Human presence near harems may illicit an extremely aggressive response from either females or males.



Annex 9

IAATO guidelines on understanding fur seal behaviour and advice for interactions

- Be aware of behaviour that indicates a seal has been disturbed. Such behaviours include, but are not limited to:



- An increase in alert or vigilance,
- Head turning,
- Change in posture from lying to erect,
- Hurried movement in any direction, including moving into another fur seal's "territory" or towards you,
- Open mouth threat displays, snorting or whimpering,
- Aggressive displays or bluff charges in your direction.

- When any of the above behaviours are observed, be especially alert.
- Often males give more warning when on the attack, whereas females and pups may bite first and then run away.
- Pups are often left alone while the mother is out at sea feeding. Single pups are not abandoned.
- At congested breeding beaches during the height of the season, it may not be possible to land due to the sheer number of seals and forceful defense of territories. Zodiac cruising is often a preferably option to protect the seals and visitors alike.

Advice for viewing fur seals on land:

- Fur seals can travel much more quickly than humans over loose or slippery terrain.
- Avoid sudden movements and or eye contact on land or in boats that might frighten the fur seals.
- On beaches, avoid getting between fur seals and the sea: walk 'above' them.
- Be aware fur seals are highly mobile on land and might charge (and potentially bite) if approached too closely: Keep an "escape" path open in case a hasty retreat from a charging seal is needed.



- When moving near fur seals, travel as a group as quickly and quietly as possible.
 - Do not lie down in the vicinity of adult fur seals, especially bulls.
 - Any seal response other than a raised head should be avoided.
 - If any individual(s) move toward or have a hurried entry into the water, you should retreat slowly and carefully.
- When walking onshore, harems require larger buffer zones – single seals may require less distance, but circumstances are variable especially during the breeding season (Nov – Jan).

Annex 9

IAATO guidelines on understanding fur seal behaviour and advice for interactions

- Do not disturb or surround harems – groups of females (with or without accompanying pups) and one dominant male.
- Fur seal pups are often very inquisitive and may approach close to passengers. Do not touch or entice fur seal pups. Although small, pups can cause injuries.
- Stay away from jousting bull fur seals.
- Be aware of animals in tussock grass, a field guide should lead carrying walking stick or equivalent to keep the seal at a distance.
- When in tussock covered areas, where seals cannot see visitors and visitors cannot see seals, it is advisable to maintain a regular noise level so the animals are alerted to human presence and not startled inadvertently, which could lead to an aggressive response.
- Fur seals have noxious bacteria in their mouths, which can quickly cause infections. Any fur seal bites should be examined by a medical professional, and thoroughly cleaned and monitored – the smallest scratch can become infected.

