

Falkland Islands

Footprint



Essential information

A natural paradise, the Falkland Islands are a self-governing Overseas Territory offering incredible wildlife viewing in an outstanding, unspoilt environment, 400 miles off the southeastern tip of South America.

Climate

The climate is temperate, changeable and oceanic, dominated by persistent westerly winds which average 16 knots. At Stanley, the maximum temperature in summer (January-February) is 24°C (76°F); in winter (June-August) temperatures can fall to -5°C (22°F). Stanley's annual rainfall is about 600 mm, less than the

UK average, and there are more hours of sunshine than the UK.

Time difference

GMT -4 in winter (May-August), -3 in summer. Some people use 'Camp time' (as opposed to 'Stanley time'), which does not use daylight saving.

Health

No special precautions are required. The King Edward Memorial Hospital is in Stanley: reception T28000, casualty T28042 (emergencies T999). All visitors should have medical insurance.

Visas

All travellers must have full, current passports to visit the Islands.

Citizens of Britain, North America, Mercosur, Chile, and most Commonwealth countries and the EU do not need a visa; on entry they are given an entry permit, initially valid for four weeks. Cruise ship passengers only need a visa (depending on their nationality) if they intend to spend time on the Islands before or after the cruise. If in doubt, check with a British Embassy or Consulate.

Currency

The Falklands pound (£) is on a par with sterling, with local notes and coins (UK notes and coins are also legal tender).

Telephone

International code: +500



You never forget your first rockhopper penguin. With massive 'eyebrows' that make them look like hundreds of mini Denis Healeys, these small but incredibly feisty birds seem to epitomize the Falkland Islands. Tough yet beautiful, rugged but characterful, and definitely full of surprises.

Famous for all the wrong reasons in the early 1980s, those of us who watched the Falklands War on our television screens probably never dreamt that we could one day visit these amazingly remote islands for pleasure. But, visit we can, and in doing so, be one of a select number of appreciative guests.

Whether you're interested in wildlife, people, photography, walking or wilderness, the Falklands are unique. In an increasingly homogenized world, the Falklands deserve to be right at the top of any true traveller's wishlist. I hope you find this guide as inspirational as I have.

Lyn Hughes, Editor in Chief
Wanderlust Magazine



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Island hopping

Travelling in a Falkland Island Government Air Service (FIGAS) Britten Norman Islander aircraft is the quickest and most fun way of moving around the many islands that make up the archipelago. The planes land on grass airstrips beside which sits a Land Rover, engine running, attached to the landing strip's fire tender. The skills of the pilots are second to none and this is the only way, other than from a cruise ship, to discover the attractions of Bleaker, Sea Lion, Carcass, Pebble, Saunders and Weddell islands. Each has a diversity of flora, fauna and natural beauty to experience. Moreover, apart from the main islands of East and West Falkland, each island's lodge or self-catering option has its own distinct character, so it is worth visiting more than one. "Round-robin" or "scenic flights" with FIGAS are alternative options if time is limited.



As you fly over the islands, you see a green mottled landscape, with the occasional isolated road in view. The treeless land is marked by stone runs, escarpments, ponds, peaty streams and steel blue rivers taking crazy courses. There are mazes of water between islands and peninsulas, gouging out coves and inlets. The surf rolls onto empty beaches. Scanning the ocean for whales you will see rafts of albatross and flights of petrels.

STUNNING LANDSCAPES MAKE FOR GREAT PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES...

A photographic paradise

There are so many points of focus: colourful buildings, fantastic landscapes and ever-changing light from sunrise to sunset, tiny settlements nestling in large open spaces. The wildlife is equally photogenic: the playful antics of penguins, fur seals quietly basking among the clumps of tussock grass, male elephant seals fighting on the shore, the relaxed swimming of sea lions, small birds hopping cheerfully between the rocks and the delicate beauty of Falklands flowers. All are amazingly easy to photograph in many locations around the Islands. Keep your camera at the ready and watch out for the super-inquisitive "Johnny Rook" (striated caracara) who may be keen to carry it away!

EMPTY BEACHES...



Battlefield tours

The Falkland Islands have a rich military history, with residents of the Islands having participated in both World Wars, as well as the 1982 conflict between Great Britain and Argentina. Some of the fiercest fighting in 1982 took place in the hills around Stanley. Along with the monuments at each key site there are scattered remnants of guns, downed helicopters and jets and the personal belongings of the conscripted soldiers. Foxholes still contain tattered blankets and ration packets. Walk at your own pace around Longdon, Two Sisters, Mount Harriet and Tumbledown, or arrange for a local guide with expert knowledge to bring the battle scenes to life.

Museum and maritime history

A self-guided walk around Stanley will lead to many discoveries of sunken wrecks and a maritime

history that spans back to the 17th century. The Falkland Islands Museum (see page 6) provides an insight into the Islands' past, from those first settlers to the present day. Unusual and fascinating artefacts reveal their struggle on this remote archipelago as well as the ingenuity to improvise in order to survive.

Whale watching

Fourteen species of marine mammals have been recorded in Falkland waters. A trip out of Stanley to Berkeley Sound affords the opportunity to try to spot some of these at sea with spectacular blows often exhibited by various species of baleen whale. Peale's and Commerson's dolphins regularly accompany boats and visit the bays and inlets.

Farm life

A number of farms offer the chance to view or participate

in farm life first-hand. Sheep shearing, sheep herding using dogs (or Land Rovers and quad bikes!) and peat cutting and its subsequent use as fuel are traditional Falkland Island activities which can be experienced on some tours or while staying at a tourist lodge. Alternatively try milking the cows or just getting to know the domestic animals. Another integral part of farm life is Falklands hospitality, with a warm hearth away from the wind and hearty meals to fortify you for the next day's activities.

Sporting activities

Join in the world's most southerly marathon in March, play golf on the most southerly golf links with a variety of unusual hazards despite the treeless fairways, or fish for brown trout and mullet in the rivers or coastal estuaries. This is one of the last wilderness fishing experiences in the world where fish in excess of 5 kg (10 lbs) are regularly caught.



MEMORIAL TO HMS COVENTRY IS A POIGNANT PLACE...

LIBERATION MONUMENT SERVES AS A REMINDER OF THE MILITARY PAST...

The vast majority of Falkland Islanders live in the capital, Stanley (population 2,115), the southernmost capital in the world. Many of the houses overlooking the Harbour have brightly-painted iron roofs and trim gardens. There are frequent reminders of the Islands' British and maritime heritage: red phone boxes, military monuments, pubs, shipwrecks and Antarctic exploration vessels. Wildlife is close at hand, from the seabirds in the Harbour to the dunes of Cape Pembroke and the open skies of the surrounding vast camp.

THE STANLEY WATERFRONT GREETES VISITORS TO THE FALKLANDS...



Sights

Stanley is fairly compact and easy to walk around. The **Falkland Islands Museum**, Britannia House, Ross Rd West, covers all aspects of island life, including natural history, several periods of settlement and the 1982 conflict. The ticket includes entry into Cartmell Cottage, one of the original houses on Pioneer Row, whose interior reflects life in the late 19th century and the 1940s. More colonists' cottages can be seen on Pioneer Row and on Drury Street.

In the centre of town is **Christ Church Cathedral**, the most southerly Anglican Cathedral in the world, built in 1892. Its tower has a ring of five bells and the stained glass dates from the 19th and 20th centuries. Outside is a whalebone arch, which is illuminated at night.

Almost opposite the Cathedral is **Victory Green**, on the waterfront, one of several

military monuments, in this case to the First World War. A little further west, in front of the Secretariat, is the Memorial to the 1982 Liberation, at which a ceremony is held each 14 June. Further west is the Royal Marines Monument, celebrating their significant role in Falklands history. Close by is **Government House**, a large white and green mansion with its glasshouse frontage, built in the 1840s.

East of the centre is the **Stanley Cemetery**, whose tombstones provide a touching record of early settlers. In the nearby Memorial Wood, every tree is named after a British and Falkland casualty in the 1982 conflict. Another reminder of the Conflict is the Totem Pole on Stanley Airport Road, erected by British soldiers to show the distance to their home towns. Like many such poles the world over, travellers have added indicators to their homes.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL AND GOVERNMENT HOUSE



Sleeping

Stanley accommodation ranges from homely, characterful bed and breakfasts to small, boutique hotels. There is a variety of options to suit all needs, and most offer bed and breakfast as an option, with some providing internet and also gym facilities. Accommodation prices range from £20 to £100 per person per night.

Hotels

Malvina House Hotel, 3 Ross Rd.
Miller's Hotel, John St.
Waterfront Hotel, 36 Ross Rd.

Motels

Shorty's Motel, Snake Hill.
Lookout Lodge, Keil Canal Rd.

B&Bs

Bennett House B&B,
 14 Allardyce St.
Kay's B&B, 14 Drury St.
Lafone Guest House, Ross Rd.
Sue Binnie's, Brandon Rd.

For a full list of places to stay in Stanley and their amenities please visit falklandislands.com

Eating & drinking

Stanley offers a few options for food and drink ranging from good, freshly baked bread and sandwiches to innovative cooking with local produce. Good pub grub can be found in

a few places as can take away fish and chips. For evening entertainment head to The Globe pub.

The Bread Shop, Dean St and Fitzroy Rd.
Deano's Bar, 40 John St.
Falklands Brasserie, Philomel St.
The Globe, Philomel St.
Lighthouse Seaman's Centre, over the bridge next to FIPASS ('The Seaman's Mission').
Malvina House Hotel, 3 Ross Rd.

Michelle's Café, Philomel St.
The Narrows Bar, 39 Ross Rd East.
Shorty's Diner, Snake Hill.
Stanley Arms Bar, 1 John Biscoe Rd.
Victory Bar, 1A Philomel St.
West Store Café, Ross Rd, in the supermarket.
Woodbine Café, 29 Fitzroy Rd.

WALKING IN AND AROUND STANLEY IS GREAT FUN...



Walks around Stanley

If you take the coastal path past the FIPASS floating harbour, you round the head of the bay to the final resting place of Lady Elizabeth (228 ft), an iron-built, three-masted sailing ship. At low tide you can walk out to her.

Cross the peninsula beyond Lady Elizabeth to Gypsy Cove, 4 miles, 2 hours walk each way from centre (10 minutes by car), which features a colony of Magellanic penguins, black-crowned night herons and other shorebirds.

Penguins, battlefields and farming communities are the highlights of daytrips on East Falkland. Some are only available to cruise ship passengers.

Cape Pembroke

The easternmost point of the Falklands is Cape Pembroke, 7 miles from Stanley, whose lighthouse can be opened with a key from the Museum. The Cape itself offers great day walking, with plenty of wildlife watching: dolphins, whales and numerous bird species. There is also a memorial to the crew of the Atlantic Conveyor, a supply ship sunk by Argentine forces in 1982.

Sparrow Cove, Kidney Cove, and adjacent areas, only a short distance from Stanley by boat, are good areas to see four species of penguin and other wildlife. Tours are the only way to get there.

Bluff Cove

Bluff Cove, about an hour's drive from Stanley, has a large lagoon and long sandy beach where over 2,000 gentoo and a growing colony of king penguins live. It is currently only accessible to tours from cruise ships, who get a taste of off-road driving Falklands-style, traditional sheep farming and, in the Sea Cabbage Café at Bluff Cove Lagoon, typical Islands tea.

Long Island

On Long Island, 20 miles from Stanley, is a 22,000-acre sheep farm belonging to a 6th generation Falkland Island family, whose traditional way of life, with a dairy and using sheep dogs and island-bred horses to gather sheep, is popular with cruise passengers and day trippers. There are excellent hikes along the beach and shore of Berkeley Sound, with rockhopper, gentoo and Magellanic penguins.

Volunteer Point

Volunteer Point, on the peninsula north of Berkeley Sound, is a wildlife sanctuary. It contains the only substantial nesting colony of king penguins outside of South Georgia and is the most accessible site in the world. Gentoo and Magellanic penguins, geese and other birds can be photographed easily, but keep a respectful distance. Sea lions and dolphins may be seen from the long, white sand beach. It is on a private farm approximately 2½ hours' drive from Stanley. Visits are arranged with local guides who know the route and understand local conditions. Guided tours take in key battlefield sites from the 1982 conflict, the original settlement of Port Louis and the largest stone run (literally a river of rock) in the Islands. On cruise ship days many vehicles go in convoy to Volunteer Point. To stay longer, the wardens, currently Derek and Trudi Petterson, offer lodging and meals for four people sharing, and camping.

Cape Bougainville

Further west on the north coast is Cape Bougainville, where sea lions, rockhoppers and the

occasional macaroni penguin live in the tussock grass. It is reached from Salvador (Gibraltar Station) by off-road tracks, so hire a driver/guide who understands the terrain and the techniques to cross it.

Darwin & Goose Green

Beyond Mount Pleasant airport, the road divides, one branch turning north to San Carlos (see below), the other going to Darwin (1½-2 hours from Stanley), a little community with the wreck of the Vicar of Bray (last survivor of the California Gold Rush fleet). Another old iron ship, the Garland, can be seen up the bay. Just before Darwin is the Argentine cemetery for those killed in the 1982 conflict; many headstones commemorate, sadly, unknown soldiers. Just beyond is the larger settlement of Goose Green, where The Galley Café offers self-catering.

San Carlos & around

The road to San Carlos is hilly, with lovely views of higher mountains inland and the bays and inlets of Falkland Sound to the west. San Carlos (2 hours from Stanley) is a picturesque waterside settlement with the English cemetery from the 1982 conflict and a museum covering the conflict and the local way of life. Terence and Sheila McPhee's

WILDLIFE IN THE FALKLANDS...



KING PENGUINS



ELEPHANT SEALS



PIED OYSTERCATCHER & CHICK



ROCKHOPPER PENGUINS



PEALE'S DOLPHIN



STRIATED CARACARA OR JOHNNY ROOK



LONG TAILED MEADOWLARK



GENTOO AND KING PENGUINS CAN BE FOUND AT BLUFF COVE...

East Falkland

working farm, Kingsford Valley Farm has two comfortable self-catering cottages. Nearby is the ruin of the Ajax Bay Refrigeration plant, used as the British forces base in 1982. Tours run from Kingsford Valley Farm.

The new road heads north to Port San Carlos, Elephant Beach Farm and Cape Dolphin. At Race Point Farm, John and Michelle Jones offer full board or B&B at the Big House. Gentoo rookeries, Magellanic and rockhopper penguins at Fanning Head and Rookery Sands Beach are close by and there are good walks and excellent trout fishing on the San Carlos river. Guided 4WD tours available, also horse riding.

At Elephant Beach Farm (1½-hour drive from Stanley), a self-catering cottage sleeps up to eight, traditional meals by request. Here gentoo penguins and many other bird species, sea



KINGSFORD VALLEY FARM

lions, Commerson's and Peale's dolphins can be seen. The private property offers fishing for Falkland mullet in the tidal lagoon, and fossicking among the whale skeletons on the coast.

Cape Dolphin

Cape Dolphin, at the northernmost tip of East Falkland, includes three species of penguin, storm petrels, sea

KINGSFORD VALLEY FARM IS A GREAT PLACE FOR THE FAMILY...

lions, the occasional whale and large numbers of ducks and birds on Swan Pond. Allow a full day to make the most of the cape; camping is also possible by prior arrangement. You can return to Stanley on the North Camp road via Teal Inlet and Estancia.

GENTOO PENGUIN SURFING!



GEORGINA STRANGE, WWW.USGOWNWATERS.COM

KING PENGUINS ON THE BEACH...



ALLAN WHITE

West Falkland

Port Howard

On West Falkland, there live just 127 adults. Port Howard is one of the principle settlements, a neat, picturesque place, and the largest privately owned farm in the Islands with approximately 42,000 sheep and 400 cattle running across 200,000 acres. The original settlement is 3½ km south and Bold Cove is the site of the first British landing by Captain John Strong in 1690. It's an excellent base to explore West Falkland. Activities include trout fishing, 4WD tours to wildlife and flora, 1982 war relics, fossil beds and hiking to Mount Maria. Port Howard Lodge has a small war museum and takes Land Rover tours and will drive to first-class trout fishing spots.

Hill Cove settlement

About an hour west of Port Howard a road branches northwest to Hill Cove settlement, another 30 minutes' drive. You can visit the only forest in the Falklands (an experiment in shelter planting), or make an appointment to see the boutique skin tannery run by Henry Boughton. At West Lagoons, adjacent to Hill Cove settlement, Shelley and Peter Nightingale have full-board accommodation on a sheep farm. At Shallow Bay Self-Catering, 25 minutes from



FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

Hill Cove, Paul and Dae Peck offer accommodation in the original stone home.

Crooked Inlet Farm

Further west is Crooked Inlet Farm at Roy Cove. Joy and Danny Donnelly run the sheep farm and still use horses for sheep work. The settlement is very photogenic, particularly in late spring when the yellow gorse blooms, with commanding views over King George Bay to Rabbit, Hammock and Middle Islands. They have a comfortable self-catering property. There's also trout fishing, riding or guided 4WD tours of the area.

Little Chartres Farm

In the centre of West Falkland is Little Chartres Farm, which is an ideal base for trips to all points; excellent trout fishing, hiking, wildlife watching and tours are available. The farm has two comfortable rooms, full board with

DIDDLE-DEE BERRIES...

good food. West is a beautiful road to Dunnoose Head and Shallow Harbour, passing the Narrows and Town Point nature reserves.

Fox Bay

To the south is Fox Bay, the largest settlement; half is government-owned, half, Fox Bay West, is private. The road passes Hawknest Ponds, where swans may be seen, in a region of 2,000 lakes and ponds.

Port Stephens

Port Stephens is a spectacular piece of country at the southwestern tip of West Falkland. Accessible by road and air, the area has rugged headlands and is home to rockhopper and gentoo penguins, as well as many unusual geological formations at Indian Village and breathtaking coastal scenery. Self-catering accommodation is available.



THERE ARE SOME STUNNING PANORAMAS TO BE FOUND ON AND AROUND SAUNDERS ISLAND...

Bleaker Island

Bleaker Island, a 30-minute flight south from Stanley, has a wonderful coastline with white sandy beaches and sheltered coves. Bird species include rockhoppers, Magellanic and gentoo penguins, waterfowl, ruddy-headed geese, Falkland skuas and an impressive imperial shag colony. The area north of the settlement is a National Nature Reserve. One of the key features of the island is Big Pond, where you can spot Chiloe wigeon, silvery and white-tufted grebes, speckled and silver teal and occasionally the rare flying steamer duck. The island is owned and run by Phyll and Mike Rendell. Visitors can stay at Cobb's Cottage which offers modern self-catering with three bedrooms.

Sea Lion Island

Sea Lion Island in the southeast, 35 minutes' flight from Stanley, is a wildlife sanctuary, a delightful place to explore and relax. Many southern sea lions breed on the beaches; southern elephant seals also breed here. Up to three pods of orca whales are resident around the island and can be seen cruising the shore in search of elephant seal and sea lion pups risking their first swim (summer months). The island also has magnificent bird life: gentoo, Magellanic and rockhopper penguins, giant petrels, imperial shag, flightless steamer and other ducks, black-crowned night herons, tussacbird, oystercatchers and striated caracara. Also on the island is the HMS Sheffield memorial. Sea Lion Lodge (full board) is open in the austral summer (1 September-31 March), and is within easy reach of the wildlife.

Pebble Island

Pebble Island is thought to be named after the unusual pebbles found on its beaches. Pebble is home to more than 40 species including gentoo, rockhopper, macaroni and Magellanic penguins (you can see five species of penguin in a single day), imperial shag, waterfowl, and black-necked swans. Sea lions can also be found on the coast. The eastern half of Pebble Island contains large ponds and wetlands with many waterfowl and wading birds. Pebble Island Lodge is well-appointed and run by Jacqui Jennings and Allan White.

Saunders Island

Saunders Island, besides a representative sample of wildlife, contains the ruins of the 18th century British outpost at Port Egmont. There is a small group of king penguins at the Neck, a

three-hour walk, 45 minutes by Land Rover from the settlement. Gentoo, Magellanic, rockhoppers, imperial shag and black-browed albatross can also be seen here, as well as dolphins wave surfing and whales spouting. A further 1½-2 hours' walk goes to the point where elephant seals can be seen. At the Rookery, on the north coast, you can see rockhoppers, imperial shag and black-browed albatross. Another good place is the bay just north of the settlement with many gentoo and Magellanic penguins. There are many other wildlife sites on this large island. Suzan and David Pole-Evans offer two self-catering cottages at the settlement, a self-catering Portakabin sleeping eight at the Neck and a self-catering Rookery Inn, within walking distance of the Rookery. Near the Rookery cottage is a backpackers' Portakabin for two.

Carcass Island

Carcass Island, taking its name from HMS Carcass which visited in the late 18th century, is west of Saunders. One of the most spectacular and attractive islands for wildlife and scenery, species include striated caracara, gentoo and Magellanic penguins, gulls, geese and elephant seals. The island also has great examples of tussac grass. The island is cat, rat and mice free, allowing small

bird species such as Cobb's wren to flourish. A recommended trip from Carcass is on Michael Clarke's boat, Condor, to West Point Island, to see a large colony of black-browed albatross and rockhoppers. Dolphins may be seen on the way. Crossing is about an hour each way. Cruise ships also stop at West Point. Carcass Island is owned and run by Rob and Lorraine McGill who rent rooms in the main farmhouse (October-March). Tours go to sites on the island, a perfect combination of hospitality and wildlife.

Steeple Jason

Steeple Jason is one of the largest of the isolated Jason group, northwest of West Falkland, accessible only by boat, small cruise ships mostly. Its two peaks, 263 and 290 metres, are divided by a narrow neck. There are significant seabird colonies, including the world's biggest black-browed albatross nesting site. All the islands are nature reserves; Steeple Jason is owned by the Wildlife Conservation Society of New York.

Weddell Island

Weddell Island, in the southwest, named after explorer James Weddell, is the third largest island of the archipelago, a little bigger than Malta but with only

two residents (and then only October to March). It has self-catering accommodation with all mod cons in a lovely setting on an inlet, open October-March. The island has an interesting history and plenty of wildlife. This includes Magellanic and gentoo rookeries, sea lions in the tussac grass, imperial shags, shore birds, geese and introduced species such as Patagonian grey fox and nine reindeer. In the surrounding waters are albatross, Peale's and Commerson's dolphins. There are good hikes straight out of the settlement.

New Island

New Island, at the extreme west edge of the archipelago, is a nature reserve owned by the New Island Conservation Trust (newislandtrust.com). The aim of the project, begun in 1973 by Ian Strange, is to ensure that the island operates as a reserve in perpetuity. There is a fully equipped field station in the settlement for scientific studies. The recently refurbished Captain Charles Barnard Memorial Museum and Visitor Centre is visited by passengers on cruise vessels. Contact can be made through the Trust's website.

Planning your trip

When to go

The best months to visit, for the weather and most wildlife watching, are October to April when the cruise season also runs.

Getting there by air

Flights from Santiago, Chile, to Mount Pleasant, via Punta Arenas with LAN (lan.com) leave every Saturday and, once a month, stop at Río Gallegos in Argentina on both the outward and return flight. This means that you can extend your visit by exploring Chilean or Argentine Patagonia, or use Santiago or one of the hubs between London and Chile (Buenos Aires or São Paulo,

perhaps) for travelling further in South America. Prices start from around £1,300 for the round trip fare (London-Madrid-Santiago-Mount Pleasant). Footprint's *South American Handbook* has all the details.

The Ministry of Defence operates an airbridge (with a civilian charter) to the Falkland Islands twice a week. Flights depart from RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, and take about 20 hours including a refuelling stop in Ascension Island at the half way point. Fares: £1,975 return; group rates £1,775 for six or more; premium economy return: £3,585. Children aged



ARRIVE BY AIR OR
SEA, YOU DECIDE...

two to 12 pay half the adult fare. For the latest MoD schedules and prices, contact the Falkland Islands Government Office in London, T020-72222542, travel@falklands.gov.fk. MoD flights include the Falkland Islands £22 exit tax. Mount Pleasant airport is 35 miles from Stanley.

Getting there by boat

Cruise ships en-route to/from South Georgia and the Antarctic are a popular way to visit the Islands. South American cruises also call. Vessels typically visit between October and April each year. Passengers usually land for tours of Stanley and nearby sites, pub lunch, farmhouse tea, and call at some outlying islands. For more information visit falklandislands.com.

Itineraries

A suggested itinerary for a one week stay in the Falklands is:

- **Day 1** Kingsford Valley Farm.
- **Day 2** Pebble Island.
- **Day 3** Pebble Island.
- **Day 4** Saunders Island.
- **Day 5** Take a trip out to the Neck to see four species of penguin and black-browed albatross.
- **Day 6** Fly to Stanley. Visit the Falkland Islands Museum and Gypsy Cove.
- **Day 7** Volunteer Point – the world's most accessible King Penguin colony on a 4WD tour.
- **Day 8** Visit the 1982 battlefield sites on your way to Mount Pleasant Airport.

An additional week would allow much more time on West Falkland (Port Howard, Little Chartes or Port Stephens) and more of the Outer Islands such as Carrass or Weddell Island.

Getting around by air

There aren't many places which offer a flying experience like The Falklands. Where else would your pilot also be the postman and your whale-watching guide? Where else would your host double up as your airport baggage handler?

The Falkland Islands Government Air Service (FIGAS,

T27219, reservations@figas.gov.fk) flies to farm settlements and settled outer islands on a daily shuttle service. To book a seat, contact FIGAS with as much notice as possible; daily schedules are announced the previous afternoon on local radio and by fax and telephone. One-way airfares in 2009 cost between £30 and £120, depending on distance (Visa and MasterCard accepted); luggage limit 20 kg. Services are daily October-end March, six days a week otherwise; no flights on 1 January, Good Friday, 21 April, 14 June, 25 December. Flights leave from Stanley Airport, 3 miles east of town on the Cape Pembroke peninsula, 5 minutes by car.

Getting around by ferry

A drive-on, drive-off ferry sails between New Haven (East) and Port Howard (West) Monday, Wednesday, Friday one week, Friday, Sunday the next, up to twice a day depending on bookings. Check to see if you can take a hire car on at time of booking. For schedules see workboat.co.fk.

Car hire

Land Rovers can be rented from Falklands Islands Company, Travel Services in Stanley, and Mitsubishi Pajeros from Stanley Services Ltd on Airport Rd.

Operators who arrange tours to the Falklands

Audley Travel: T01993-838 600; audleytravel.com.

Cox & Kings: T020-7873 5000 Ext. 290; coxandkings.co.uk.

Journey Latin America: T020-8747 8315; journeylatinamerica.co.uk.

South American Experience: T0845-277 3366; southamericanexperience.co.uk.

Steppes Travel: T01285-885333; steppestavel.co.uk.

Wildlife Worldwide: 0845-130 6982; wildlifeworldwide.com.

Taxis

Taxi fares within Stanley are £3, to Stanley airport £6. Bonner's Taxis, T51126, abonner@horizon.co.fk, for transport in Stanley, to Mount Pleasant airport and tours. Also in Stanley, Town Taxis, T52900.

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS...



SECLUDED INLETS AND QUIET ANCHORAGES...

Wildlife calendar

Seasonal

- **Rockhoppers** October-May.
- **Magellanic penguins** September-April.
- **Black-browed albatross** breeding season: September-May.
- **Elephant seals** September-December; their 25-day moulting period begins in late January-early February.
- **Sea lions** December-March.
- **Sei whales** January-February till May-June.
- **Other whale species** January-February till May-June.

For wildlife calendars, booklists, checklists and reports, visit falklandislands.com.

All year round

- **Commerson's and Peale's dolphins** (Though the former are less evident in winter).
- **Orcas** Best seen on Sea Lion Island.
- **King and gentoo penguins** Are present, as are most other birds.
- **geese**
- **ducks**
- **skuas**
- **petrels**
- **long-tailed**
- **dark-faced meadowlark**
- **ground tyrant**
- **Falkland thrush**
- **pipit**
- **Striated caracara (Johnny Rook)** Can be seen on Sea Lion, Carrass and Weddell islands.
- **Tussacbird** and **Cobb's wren** On islands unaffected by introduced predators.

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“”

Johnny Rook, the stinkers and the loggers, the balsam bog and the diddle-dee, Edward Lear couldn't have dreamt up better names for these Falkland Islands residents. To uncover their mysteries, start here.

**Ben Box, author,
South American Handbook**

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Wanderlust

