

# Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas

## KEY FACTS

**Official name:** Falkland Islands

**Head of State:** Queen Elizabeth II, represented by Governor Nigel Robert Haywood (from 16 Oct 2010)

**Head of government:** Chief Executive Dr Tim Thorogood (since 7 Jan 2008)

**Area:** 12,173 square km (including East and West Falkland and adjacent islands)

**Population:** 3,140 (2010)\* (2,563; census figure 15 Apr 2012)

**Capital:** Stanley

**Official language:** English

**Currency:** Falkland pound (F£) = 100 pence

**Exchange rate:** F£0.66 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

\* estimated figure

The long awaited referendum on the future of the Falkland Islands association with the United Kingdom was held on 10 and 11 March 2013. The question whether the Falklands should remain as a British Overseas Territory (BOT) was overwhelmingly won with 92 per cent voting to remain a BOT. Turnout was 99.7 per cent.

Despite this, on 8 August Argentine President Christina Fernandez restated Argentina's demand for sovereignty of the Islas Malvinas when speaking at a UN Security Council (UNSC) meeting in New York. Argentina had become a non-permanent member of the UNSC in January. She reiterated her demand that UN Resolution 2065 should be observed and that both parties should 'sit down and discuss' the issue. The UK says there is nothing to discuss since the Islands had voted overwhelmingly to remain British.

Keeping up with the Falkland Islands' oil saga can be tricky. Both companies and discoveries come and go, but by mid-2012 Premier Oil and Rockhopper Exploration had agreed a US\$1 billion deal. Under the agreement Premier bought 60 per cent of Rockhopper's Falklands interests for US\$231 million, and will pay a further US\$770 million if plans to develop the oil prospects are approved.

Premier Oil is still considering plans for exploration work in 2014, with first oil being produced in 2017.

Meanwhile, the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) has been considering various socio-economic impact assessments. These include how best to ensure that local companies are engaged by oil companies and contractors and addressing what (if any) perceived barriers there are stopping local companies from taking a more pro-active approach to seeking the oil industry's business.

Work has also begun within FIG and industry to identify and/or address other infrastructure issues such as: a second water supply, airport limitations, and oil yard issues. It is thought that the private sector is likely to respond well to the increased demand in housing, and it is also unlikely

that there will be a lack of office space as activity increases. Similarly, there has been increased interest in the provision of commercial accommodation.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

### Historical profile

1592 First sighted by English mariners (Captain John Davis in ship *Desire* – the motto of the islands became *Desire the Right*).

1690 The first landing was by British Captain John Strong in the ship, *Welfare*. The Falkland Islands were named after the then Treasurer of the Navy, Viscount Falkland.

1764 French settlement was recorded. The islands were named Les Malouines after the French town of St Malo, hence the Argentine name of Malvinas for the islands.

1765 Captain John Byron (British) took formal possession of the islands at Port Egmont.

1767 The French settlement was sold to Spain and named Puerto de la Soledad.

1770 The Spanish ousted the British from Port Egmont.

1771 The British garrison was re-established.

1774 The garrison was withdrawn, leaving a plaque 'as a mark of possession' and a flag 'left flying'.

1820 The flag of the United Provinces of La Plata (Spanish) was hoisted at Puerto de la Soledad.

1823 The governor of the islands was nominated by the United Provinces Government (but did not visit).

1824 A German merchant, Louis Vernet, was given land by grant of the Buenos Aires government and a settlement of mixed nationalities, over the next few years, was established at Puerto de la Soledad.

1828 Vernet was appointed governor by the United Provinces. He attempted to stop sealing operations by other nations.

1831 The US protested about these actions and sent *USS Lexington* to sack Puerto de la Soledad (with the US president's approval). The islands were again unpopulated.

1833 Port Louis (Puerto de la Soledad) was taken over by the British, asserting full

rights under naval superintendents until 1842.

1842 The first British governor, Richard C Moody, took up residence.

1981 The Falkland Islands and its dependencies were designated as British Dependent Territories.

1982 Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands. The UK despatched a military force, composed of naval ships and troops. The UK recaptured the islands.

1983 The British Nationality (Falkland Islands) Act gave islanders full British citizenship.

1990s The UK and Argentina resumed diplomatic relations. Both sides agreed to a formula to protect their respective positions on sovereignty and maritime jurisdiction, while discussing other matters. The UN committee on decolonisation urged the UK and Argentina to negotiate an ending to the dispute. The UK remained adamant that the self-determination of Falkland Islanders was paramount. Argentina adopted a constitutional amendment asserting its sovereignty over the islands.

1999 In an effort to improve relations, Argentine nationals were allowed to visit the islands for the first time since 1982.

2001 The UK agreed to allow Argentinean private aircraft and shipping to visit the islands.

2002 The Falkland Islands and its dependencies were designated as a self-governing British Overseas Territories (BOT).

2003 The 33rd General Assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS) passed a statement of support for Argentina's claim to the Falkland Islands. The OAS called on Britain and Argentina to resume negotiations over the South Atlantic archipelago as soon as possible.

2004 Relations between Argentina and the UK deteriorated as Argentina banned charter flights to and from the Falklands crossing its airspace, and an Argentinean ice breaker, the *Almirante Irizar*, began 'policing' a Falklands conservation zone by challenging fishing vessels, demanding details of their permits. Argentina also gave permission for Aerolineas Argentinas to begin direct flights to the Falkland Islands, without regard for any UK agreement.

2006 The BBC ceased its broadcasts to the Falklands Islands, after 62 years. Alan Huckle became governor.

2007 Argentina terminated a 1995 agreement with the UK on oil exploration in the vicinity of the Falkland Islands. An agreement with BHP Billiton for at least two exploration wells to be drilled by 2010 was signed.

2008 Dr Tim Thorogood became chief executive of the Falkland Islands. Following an Anglo-Argentine feasibility study, it

was estimated that there were 20,000 unexploded ordinances (UXO) that had yet to be disarmed, and which 'would present significant technical challenges and risks'.

2009 Argentina laid claim to 1.7 million square kilometres of ocean, including the Falklands Islands and other island chains governed by the UK. Argentina passed the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the British law, which defined the southern-most Argentine province as Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and the Southern Atlantic Islands, including the Falkland Islands and part of Antarctica. The law means Argentine local government could try and collect royalties from oil companies with offshore operations that had previously been levied by the Argentine federal government.

2010 Rockhopper Exploration announced that it had made a 'significant oil discovery'. In retaliation for the drilling, the Argentine government decreed that all vessels sailing to and from Argentina, the Falklands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands were first to request authorisation from the Argentine government. The UK responded with a note to Argentina's chargé d'affaires in London, pointing out that the UK considers that Argentine Presidential Decree 256/2010 and Disposition 14/2010 'are not compliant with International Law including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea'. The note also reaffirmed British sovereignty over the Falklands and South Atlantic Islands, and stated it has 'no doubt that the surrounding maritime areas of the Falkland Islands, and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands are not Argentine jurisdictional waters'. The island government released its Economic Development Strategy for public consultation, in July. It aims for a sustainable financial future of the islands, ensuring employment, maximising income and facilitating growth, using private and public interests. Uruguay denied entry to *HMS Gloucester*, the frigate charged with guarding the Falklands. The frigate was en route to the Falklands and the captain had requested permission to take on fuel and provisions in Montevideo. Nigel Haywood was sworn in as governor. In his annual Christmas message Prime Minister Cameron assured the Falkland Islanders that there were '... no doubts whatsoever about the United Kingdom's sovereignty over the Falkland Islands; and there can and will be no negotiations on the sovereignty of the Islands unless you, the Falkland Islanders, want them.'

2011 The points system in the immigration policy for a permanent resident's permit was deemed to be too difficult to achieve and members of the legislative

assembly (MLA) agreed to review and discuss altering the criteria used. In December, the Latin American trading bloc Mercosur approved a proposal by Argentina to deny access to members' ports of any ship flying the Falklands Islands' flag.

2012 On 18 January the UK's Prime Minister David Cameron accused Argentina of 'colonialism' when claiming continued sovereignty of the Falklands, and its demand for renewed talks on the future of the islands. The UK announced the deployment of *HMS Dauntless*, one of its new advanced Type-45 destroyers, to the South Atlantic region of the Falkland Islands on 31 January. On 1 February Keith Padgett became the Chief Executive. On 4 February Prince William (second in line to the UK throne) arrived in the Falklands Islands for a six-week rotation as a RAF search-and-rescue pilot. His arrival, and the warship's deployment, drew criticism from Argentina, which regarded them as acts of provocation by the UK as the 30th anniversary of the Falkland's war drew near. On 10 February Argentina submitted an official protest to the UN for what it called the UK's 'militarisation' of the seas around the islands. The UN General Secretary called on both parties to avoid 'escalation' in tensions. On 12 June, President Fernandez de Kirchner (Argentina) demanded that the UK enter negotiations over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands (Las Malvinas), while addressing the UN Committee on Decolonisation. Prime Minister Cameron (UK) responded on 13 June by saying there would be 'absolutely no negotiation' on sovereignty rights. Meanwhile the Falkland Islanders decided to conduct a referendum on their 'political status' in 2013. On 2 August Buenos Aires province, in a largely symbolic move, banned all British merchant ships passing to or from the Islands from using its ports. The move is to prevent Falklands' ships flying the British Red Ensign (instead of the Falklands' flag) from using the ports. On 19 October, Rockhopper Exploration announced a £600 million (US\$965 million) co-operative deal with Premier Oil to undertake drilling in the Sea Lion prospect, with oil expected to flow by 2017. Sir Rex Hunt, the former governor of the Falklands Islands in post during the Argentine occupation, died on 12 November. On 22 December the appointment of Mr Colin Roberts CVO was announced as the next Governor of the Falkland Islands. He will take up his appointment in April 2014.

2013 A referendum held on 10 and 11 March on whether the Falklands should remain as a British Overseas Territory (BOT) was overwhelmingly won with 92 per cent voting to remain a BOT. Turnout

was 99.7 per cent. In July the Falkland Islands were allocated US\$5.2 million from the 10th Round of the European Development Fund to support economic development priorities. The funds will enable FIG to further develop its tourism and rural strategies. Also in July the Executive Council published its Hydrocarbon Development Policy Statement. At the core of the policy are robust regulations, supply chain support and the insurance of long-term benefits for Islanders. On 8 August Argentine President Fernandez restated Argentina's demand for sovereignty of the Falkland Islands when speaking at a UN Security Council (UNSC) meeting in New York. Argentina had become a non-permanent member of the UNSC in January. She reiterated her demand that UN Resolution 2065 should be observed and that both parties should 'sit down and discuss' the issue. The UK says there is nothing to discuss since the Islands had voted overwhelmingly in a referendum in March to remain British. Admiral Sir Sandy Woodward who commanded Britain's task force sent by then prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, to retake the Falklands in 1982, died on 5 August.

### Political structure

#### Constitution

The original constitution, which dated from 1985, with amendments in 1997 and 1998, was replaced by a new constitution in January 2009. The islander's rights to self-determination are prescribed. The operations of the Governor and Executive and Legislative Councils are mandated under the constitution. The first chapter enshrines the Falkland Islanders' right to self-determination in accordance with the United Nations Charter, although Argentina has never accepted the principle as applying to the Falkland Islands. Defence and foreign affairs are the responsibility of the UK government.

#### Form of state

Overseas territory of the United Kingdom

#### The executive

Supreme authority is vested in the British monarch and exercised by the governor with the advice and assistance of the Executive and Legislative Councils. The governor presides over a five-member Executive Council (three elected and two *ex-officio* members). The governor is obliged to consult the Executive Council, except for defence and security issues (when the Commander of the British Forces in the islands advises and directs). If the governor opposes the Executive Council an immediate report must be presented to the UK government in explanation. The governor is responsible for external affairs and the public service.

### National legislature

The Legislative Council is composed of eight members (three from Camp (countryside) constituency and five from the Stanley constituency) elected by universal adult suffrage and two *ex-officio* members – the chief executive and the financial secretary. The council has a substantial measure of responsibility for the island's affairs.

#### Legal system

English common law

#### Last elections

5 November 2009 (legislative council); 10 and 11 March 2013 referendum on whether the Falklands should remain as a British Overseas Territory (BOT).

**Results:** Legislative council: eight out of the ten seats were filled by election of non-partisan candidates, the remaining places being filled by *ex-officio* members. Referendum (2013) 92 per cent voted to remain a BOT. Turnout was 99.7 per cent.

#### Next elections

November 2013 (legislative council)

#### Political situation

Along with all other British Overseas Territories, a new constitution, proposed by the UK government, was agreed by the Falkland Islanders in 2008. The UK government was keen to see all of its territories take more responsibility for themselves, while maintaining implacable support for Falkland Islanders' self-determination in the face of Argentina's adamant refusal to give up any part of its claim on the Falkland Islands.

The islands are prospering with the growth in tourism, a low unemployment rate and the continued quartering of military staff. In 2010, oil and gas exploration was underway and in May Rockhopper Exploration announced that it had made a 'significant oil discovery' offshore. On 9 July, the island government released its *Economic Development Strategy, for public consultation. It set out the aims for the economic and sustainable financial future of the islands, ensuring employment, maximising income and facilitating growth, using private and public interests.*

### Population

3,140 (2010)\* (2,563; census figure 15 Apr 2012)

There has been a continuing drift of population from the countryside, known in the islands as the Camp, to Stanley, which is home to 80 per cent of the population. East Falkland has a Camp population of 233 and West Falkland, 174. There are a further 483 people at Mount Place Military Base.

**Last census:** 15 April 2012: 2,563

**Population density:** 4.8 inhabitants per square km.

**Annual growth rate:** 1.1 per cent (2003)

### Ethnic make-up

White, almost exclusively of British descent. Workers from St Helena make up about 10 per cent of the population.

### Religions

Anglican, Roman Catholic, United Free Church, Evangelist Church, Jehovah's Witnesses, Lutheran, Seventh-Day Adventist.

### Main cities

Stanley (capital, estimated population 2,279 in 2012); Goose Green (68), Port Howard (34), Grytviken (20).

### Languages spoken

#### Official language/s

English

### Media

#### Press

The two weekly newspapers are *Teaberry Express* ([www.falklandnews.com](http://www.falklandnews.com)) and *Penguin News* ([www.penguin-news.com](http://www.penguin-news.com)).

Official announcements and government directives are published in periodic publications of *The Falkland Islands Gazette*. The Falkland Islands News Area Network ([www.falklandnews.com](http://www.falklandnews.com)) provides a news agency service covering local headlines and from other regional newspapers such as *SAFIN Magazine*, *St Helena News*, *The Islander Newspaper* and the *Antarctic Sentinel*.

#### Broadcasting

**Radio:** The Falkland Islands Broadcasting Service and British Forces Broadcasting Service operate a local radio station and provide 24 hours/day listening on FM and MW. Satellite radio services are also available.

**Television:** Apart from the BFBS which provides satellite and cable TV services primarily for the military personnel stationed on the islands, KTV ([www.ktv.co.fk](http://www.ktv.co.fk)) also operates a satellite service which distributes nine channels including BBC, CNN, TNT and HBO. Falkland Islands Television Limited (FITV) was set up in 2010 to broadcast locally produced news programmes.

### Economy

The Falkland Islands are self-financing with an economy largely dependent on tourism and agriculture, of which fisheries are the main sector. The sale of fishing licences to foreign trawlers typically generates over £40 million (around US\$70 million) and tourism around £5 million (US\$8.8 million) annually. The most lucrative seafood is the *Illex argentinus* (Argentine shortfin squid).

Almost 80 per cent of the total marine catch is exported to Spain. The Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) is keen to enhance the island's

development prospects through a National Aquaculture Strategy. After fishing, wool is the largest component of farming income. High quality wool is exported to the UK while FIDC is attempting to increase value added features. Other developments include an abattoir designed to meet EU standards in order to exploit the islands' certification as a country producing organic food. Exports go to Denmark, Sweden and Spain as well as the UK. Over 40,000 tourists typically visit each year, most arriving by cruise ship. Land based tourism generated over £3 million (around US\$4.8 million), encouraged by the new inter-island ferry service. Improved hotel accommodation and access have been included in development plans. There are regular, scheduled flights from Chile, and the UK, via the RAF military airbase at Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. Although the RAF and Falkland Islands Tourist Board are committed to providing a comprehensive service for travellers, the route and distance still places a limitation on the numbers visiting by air.

In July 2013 the Falkland Islands were allocated US\$5.2 million from the 10th Round of the European Development Fund to support economic development priorities. The funds will enable FIG to further develop its tourism and rural strategies.

#### External trade

As a UK Overseas Territory the Falkland Islands is a part of the European Union's Association of Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT Association), and some EU laws apply, specifically animal slaughter and commercial food hygiene regulations.

There are several rural associations that market local meat, wool, hides and fish.

#### Imports

Principal imports include fuel, food and drink, building materials and clothing.

**Main sources:** UK (typically 70 per cent of total), US (15 per cent), The Netherlands (9 per cent).

#### Exports

Wool, sheepskins and hides were virtually the only exports until the arrival of the fishing industry, which has grown to dominate commodity exports. Finfish, including hake, and *Dissostichus eleginoides* (Patagonian toothfish, also known as Chilean sea bass), plus *Illex argentinus* (Argentine shortfin squid) are, together with wool, the main exports.

**Main destinations:** Spain (typically 80 per cent of total), US (6 per cent), UK (5 per cent).

#### Agriculture

Soil quality is generally poor – peat over clay (peat is used as fuel). Virtually all

available land has been used for sheep farming although small areas of arable land are cultivated (eg potatoes, hay crops, vegetable crops grown by individual households).

A hydroponic garden facility constructed in Stanley yields good quality vegetable crops for local and shipping consumption. There is an indigenous tussock (or tussac) grass (*Poa Flabellata*, which will grow to a height of 3–4 metres) but because of its palatability for livestock, it has been over-grazed in most places.

Constant strong winds affect the suitability of all flora, and only the hardiest will survive. Indigenous grass covering large areas is known locally as 'whitegrass' (*Cortaderia Pilosa*) and a heather-like plant 'diddle-dee' (*Empetrum Rubrum*) is common.

There are around 90 farms. The average size is 10,000ha, with an average of 6,400 sheep. Sheep stock are a Corriedale/Polwarth mixture with small admixture of other breeds, eg Romney. The average clip per sheep is over 3.55kg. Certain sheep diseases found elsewhere (eg foot rot, skin complaints/parasites) are either absent or not considered a problem on the islands.

An abattoir meeting EU standards was opened in 2001 and is an important part of the Islands' organic farming programme. Farmers are being encouraged to diversify. The Islands have accreditation as organic under the brand name, Falklands' Finest.

Mutton is the principal source of protein and is supplemented during winter by beef. A dairy farm on East Falkland provided an important proportion of the islands' milk was closed in July 2009. The pasture is improved by nitrogen fertiliser in quantities that would be uneconomic over a larger area.

The Interim Conservation and Management Zone inaugurated by the British government in 1986, was substantially revised in 2005. The revised law regulates the new system of transferable fishing rights. The Falklands have managed and policed a fish reserve and generated significant revenues through the annual award of fishing licences. These go to support the islands' health, education and welfare system. They have dropped to around £15 million (US\$30 million) in recent years as a result of drop in *Illex* (squid) catches. Squid accounts for 75 per cent of the fish taken.

The Fisheries Department monitors marine activity daily and restrictions have been imposed on seismic fleets, especially during the fishing season.

The Falkland Islands Fishing Companies Association (FIFCA) was formed in 2007 to represent the fishing industry.

#### Industry and manufacturing

Small industrial units serve both onshore and offshore commitments. Hand-knitted local garments are produced for sale to visitors.

The Falkland Islands' largest private company, Falkland Islands Holdings plc, is quoted on the London Stock Exchange where it began trading in 1998. Activities are mainly retail trading and provision of services to the Falkland Islands. It controls about 80 per cent of retail sales, is the agent for Land Rover, the most popular vehicle, owns the Darwin Shipping Line and operates the port in Stanley.

#### Tourism

Tourists to the islands typically have to display determination to visit the islands down in the South Atlantic, 500km from South America and 770km from South Africa. Arriving by air requires either a flight on an RAF aeroplane from the UK (Brize Norton), which involves an 18 hour flight with two refuelling stops or a once weekly LAN scheduled connecting flight from Punta Arenas, Chile, to Mount Pleasant International airport.

The islands have little in the way of tourist infrastructure, but the islanders are welcoming and can provide accommodation, typically on a bed-and-breakfast basis. Wildlife tourism is popular, as is visiting the battlegrounds of the 1982 military conflict.

The Falkland Islands Tourist Board (FITB) ([www.falklandislands.com](http://www.falklandislands.com)) provides current and vital information for all visitors.

#### Mining

There is speculation that the great blanket bogs which obscure much of the inland geology of the islands may hide some diamond-bearing kimberlites and exploration is under way. There has been some evidence of gold.

#### Hydrocarbons

Although there is potential in the oil sector in the Falkland Islands, currently no oil is being produced and the islands rely on the import of petroleum products. Coal and gas is neither produced nor imported. Oil consumption is 2,600 barrels per day. Exploration for oil began in 1996 and in 2002 Falkland Oil and Gas Ltd (FOGL) was formed to manage exploration and operations of any potential oil field finds. Geological mapping has included most offshore regions surrounding the islands and it is thought to contain a potential 200–250 million barrels of oil. The first drilling of an exploratory began in 2009. In 2009 a previously designated oil well was redefined as a natural gas discovery, possible holding 96 billion cubic metres. An announcement on 27 June 2011 by the UK-based, Rockhopper Exploration

confirmed that commercially viable oil and natural gas deposits offshore, in the North Falkland Basin, in a field known as Sea Lion had been recorded. However, no production was intended in the near future.

The US-based Noble Energy Company announced on 8 August 2012 that it had an agreement to take over the operations of much of FOGL's prospectus and its potential hydrocarbons finds in the south and east Falklands basins in the South Atlantic for the investment of US\$180–230 million (2012–15). Later in 2013 Noble Energy will also acquire a 35 per cent stake in FOGL's offshore licence in the northern areas (excluding two already allocated).

In July 2013 the Executive Council published its Hydrocarbon Development Policy Statement. At the core of the policy is robust regulation, supply chain support and ensuring long-term benefits for Islanders.

### Energy

The majority of households use oil for heating. Stanley has a power station that generates 9.0MW of electricity. Outside Stanley, settlements generate their own power on an individual basis. There is a plentiful supply of peat (turf), although few houses have peat stoves.

The Sand Bay Wind Farm has three turbines, installed in 2007, producing 300,000 units of electricity, and around 25 per cent of all electricity consumed in Stanley, saving the island 20–25 per cent of annual oil imports as the existing diesel generators are used less. Another three wind turbines were installed in 2010.

### Time

GMT minus four hours (GMT minus three hours April–September)

### Geography

The Falklands Islands, comprising two large islands and about 700 smaller ones, are in the south-western Atlantic Ocean, about 770km (480 miles) north-east of Cape Horn, South America. They are 500km (300 miles) from the South American mainland.

The coastlines are marked by rocky headlands and sandy beaches. Vegetation comprises low grasses, ferns and shrubs. There are many small lakes and peaty pools and three rivers: the San Carlos on East Falkland and the Warrah and Chartres on West Falkland. There are hill ranges on both main islands, the highest points being Mount Osborne on East Falkland (705m) and Mount Adam on West Falkland (700m).

### Hemisphere

Southern

### Climate

Temperatures range from minus 6–21 degrees Celsius (C) with occasional lows of minus 10 degrees C and highs of 25 degrees C. Rainfall is around 700mm per year. Strong to gale-force winds are frequent during spring and early summer.

### Entry requirements

#### Passports

Valid passports required by all, valid for three months.

#### Visa

Not required by nationals of EU/EEA countries, North America, Australasia and other commonwealth countries, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Israel, Andorra, Liechtenstein, San Marino and Vatican City. For further confirmation and exceptions contact the Travel Co-ordinator in London (+44-(0)207-222-2542). Booking forms for the flight from the UK include details and purpose of visit and are required to be completed before or on arrival. All visitors are required to have a return ticket, accommodation and sufficient funds.

#### Currency advice/regulations

There are no restrictions on the import and export of local or foreign currency. The Falkland Islands has its own currency which is equivalent to UK sterling. The notes and coins cannot easily be exchanged for sterling or other currencies outside the Islands. Sterling is freely used on the islands and dollars are accepted.

#### Customs

200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, 100 cigarillos or 250 grams of tobacco; one litre of alcohol, two litres of wine; and 10 litres of beer or cider.

Import licences are required for plants, foodstuffs and firearms.

#### Prohibited imports

Uncooked or cured meat and plants are only allowed in under licence. Livestock is allowed on any in-coming aircraft.

### Health (for visitors)

#### Mandatory precautions

None

#### Advisable precautions

Yellow fever vaccination in case of any stopover in Africa en route.

Radiation alerts are issued with local weather forecasts when the ozone hole stretches over the islands. Precautions against skin cancer should be taken with high factor sunscreen and clothing protection.

### Credit cards

Credit cards are generally accepted at hotels and retail outlets.

### Public holidays (national)

#### Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 21 Apr (Queen's Birthday), 14 Jun (Liberation Day), 8 Aug (Battle Day), 25 Dec (Christmas Day), 26 Dec (Boxing Day), 28–29 Dec (Stanley Races).

#### Variable dates

Good Friday, Peat Cutting Day (first Mon in Oct).

### Working hours

#### Business

Mon–Fri: 0800–1200. 1300–1700.

#### Government

Mon–Fri: 0800–1200, 1300–1630.

#### Shops

Mon–Fri: 0900–1200, 1300–2000.

### Telecommunications

#### Telephone/fax

Direct satellite telephone and telefax links are in operation throughout the Islands.

#### Postal services

A new post code for the islands has been issued through the Universal Postal Union: FIQQ 1ZZ.

#### Internet/e-mail

E-mail use is widespread and there is an Internet cafe in Stanley.

### Electricity supply

Voltage and plugs for electrical appliances are the same as in the UK, 240V 50Hz.

### Getting there

#### Air

Flights to the Falkland Islands depart from RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, UK, six or seven times per month. For information, contact a travel agent or the Falklands Islands Government office in London (tel: +44 (0)207-222-2542). LanChile operate weekly flights from Santiago via Puerto Montt and Punta Arenas. Details from any travel agent or from International Tours and Travel in Stanley (tel +500-22041; fax +500-22042).

Air Seychelles are contracted by the brokers to run the Brize Norton flights from 24 January–30 September 2010.

**International airport/s:** Mount Pleasant International Airport (MPN); 56km from Stanley.

**Other airport/s:** Stanley Airport

**Airport tax:** Embarkation tax of £22 per passenger (applicable departure flights only).

#### Surface

**Water:** Cruise ships stop in at Stanley.

**Main port/s:** Stanley.

### Getting about

#### National transport

**Air:** Depending on bookings and weather conditions, the Falkland Islands Government Air Service (FIGAS) operates daily services to the majority of settlements with

a fleet of eight-passenger Britten-Norman Islander aircraft.

**Road:** There is a limited amount of surfaced road mainly around Stanley and Mount Pleasant. Gravel roads are a common feature.

**Water:** There is an inter-island ferry service between East and West Falkland.

**City transport**

**Taxis:** There is a limited taxi service in Stanley and at the airport, provided by Stanley and Lowes Taxis (tel: (+500) 21381) and Cindy Cars (tel: (+500) 22123).

**Buses, trams & metro:** There is a bus service from the airport to Stanley, operated by Falkland Islands Tours & Travel (+500-21775).

**Car hire**

4X4 vehicles can be rented from Falkland Islands Company Ltd, Crozier Place, Stanley (tel: (+500) 27678).

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

**Telephone area codes**

The international dialling code (IDD) for the Falkland Islands is +500 followed by subscriber's number.

**Chambers of Commerce**

Falkland Islands Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 378, West Hillside, Stanley (tel: 22-264; fax: 22-265; e-mail: [commerce@horizon.co.fk](mailto:commerce@horizon.co.fk)).

**Banking**

Standard Chartered Bank, Box 166, Ross Road, Stanley (tel: 27-220; fax: 27-219); UK contact (tel: +44(0) 20-7280-7500).

**Travel information**

Falkland Islands Company Travel Services, Stanley (tel: 27-633; fax: 27-603).

Falkland Islands Government Air Service (FIGAS), c/o Falkland Islands

Government, Stanley Airport (tel: 27-219; fax: 27-309; e-mail: [figas@horizon.co.fk](mailto:figas@horizon.co.fk)).

Falkland Islands Tourist Board, London, UK (e-mail: [manager@tourism.org.fk](mailto:manager@tourism.org.fk)) issues an accommodation guide.

Falkland Islands Tours & Travel (tel: 21-775; e-mail: [astewart@horizon.co.fk](mailto:astewart@horizon.co.fk)).

RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, UK (tel: +44 (0)1993-897-366).

Travel Co-ordinator, Falkland Islands Government Office, Falkland House, 14 Broadway, Westminster, London SW1H 0BH, UK (tel: (+44 -20) 7222-2542; fax: (+44-20) 7222-2375; e-mail: [travel@figo.u-net.com](mailto:travel@figo.u-net.com)).

**National tourist organisation offices**

Falkland Islands Tourist Board (FITB), Shackleton House, Stanley (tel: 22-215; fax: 22-619; e-mail: [jettycentre@horizon.co.fk](mailto:jettycentre@horizon.co.fk); internet site: [www.falklandislands.com](http://www.falklandislands.com)).

**Ministries**

Chief Executive, Thatcher Drive, Stanley (tel: 27-110; fax: 27-109).

Department of Agriculture and Mineral Resources, Stanley (tel: 27-355; fax: 27-352).

Department of Civil Aviation, Stanley Airport (tel: 27-300; fax: 27-302).

Department of Education, 23 Ross Road, Stanley (tel/fax: 27-292).

Department of Fisheries, PO Box 598, Stanley (tel: 27-260; fax: 27-265).

Department of Oil, Ross Road, Stanley (tel: 27-322; fax: 27-321).

Department of Public Works, Stanley (tel: 27-193; fax: 27-191).

Governor's Office, Government House, Stanley (tel: 27-433; e-mail: [gov.house@horizon.co.fk](mailto:gov.house@horizon.co.fk)).

Treasury, Falkland Islands Government, Thatcher Drive, Stanley (tel: 27-143; fax: 27-144).

UK Government Office, Falkland House, 14 Broadway, Westminster, London SW1H 0BH, UK (tel: +44

(0)20-7222-2542; fax: +44 (0)20-7222-2375; e-mail: [rep@figo.u-net.com](mailto:rep@figo.u-net.com)).

**Other useful addresses**

Attorney General, PO Box 143, Stanley (tel: 27-273/4; fax: 27-276).

British Geological Survey, Petroleum Geology Group, Murchison House, West Mains Rd, Edinburgh, EH9 3LA (tel: +44(0)131 667-1000; fax: +44 (0)131 668-4930).

Cable & Wireless, Stanley (tel: 20-800; fax 22-206).

Customs & Immigration, Stanley (tel: 27-340; fax: 27-342).

Falkland Islands Development Corporation, Stanley (tel: 27-211; fax: 27-210).

Falklands Islands Co Ltd (FIC), Crozier Place, Stanley (tel: 27-600; fax: 27-603).

Medical Services/King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, Stanley (tel: 27-415; fax: 27-416).

Meteorological Office, RAF Mount Pleasant (tel: 73-557).

Overseas Territories Department, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, King Charles St, London SW1A 2AH (tel: +44(0)20-7270-3000; fax: (0)20-7270-2086).

The United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust (administers the Shackleton Scholarship fund), c/o 14 Broadway, Westminster, London SW1H 0BH, UK (tel: +44 (0)20-7222-2542; fax: +44 (0)20-7222-2375).

**Internet sites**

Falkland Islands Government: <http://www.falklands.gov.fk>

Falkland Islands information: <http://www.falklands-malvinas.com/>

Falkland Islands web portal: <http://www.falklandislands.com>

Falkland Islands News Network: <http://www.sartma.com>

United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust: [www.ukfit.org.uk](http://www.ukfit.org.uk)