



The Falkland Islands

Status

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

Time difference

GMT - 4 hours (FI winter)

GMT - 3 hours (FI summer)

In camp, sometimes the settlement or even a house may adopt 'camp time' which is local summer time to give the farmers more daylight to work in.

Capital city

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

GMT - 3 hours (FI summer)

Currency

The local currency is the Falkland Islands pound (£FK), which has the same value as the British pound (also acceptable as legal tender throughout the Falklands).

Population

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

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

Geography & location

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

Flora & Fauna

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

Weather and climate

The Falklands are as close to the South Pole as London is to the North Pole. On average, the Falklands are cooler than London in the summer, but warmer in the winter. Summer is a wonderful time, with long daylight hours similar to England's southern coastal regions. East Falkland is generally wetter than West Falkland. Average summer temperature (max): 15.0°C

Average winter temperature (max): 4.9°C

Average annual rainfall: 573.6mm

Food

The Falklands boast some of the best seafood in the world. Depending on the season you can enjoy Falkland calamari, mussels, oysters, sea trout, kingclip, and Patagonian toothfish. Tender, naturally grown lamb, beef, and upland goose pate are also popular dishes in local eateries.





Hello and welcome to the Infant & Junior School here in Stanley. Stanley is the capital of the Falklands Islands in the southern Atlantic Ocean. Only 2,300 people live in Stanley.

The school is like those in England, we follow the same subjects although we do change what we teach in History, Geography and Environmental Studies to reflect where we live.

IJS was opened in 1955 and since then we have had 3 extensions to cope with the increasing numbers. There are now about 250 children in the school ranging from 3 years old to 11 years old. We have children from many different countries. As well as those from the Falklands we have children from Britain, St Helena, Chile, Canada, Argentina, Australia, Russia and Peru.

Nearly all our teachers have been trained in Britain including 3 teachers who were born in the Falkland Islands but we have one from Australia.

There is a lot to do both in and out of school. We have lots of clubs such as football, knitting, drama, newspaper club and cricket, as well as worldwide organisations like Brownies, Girl Guides, Cubs and Scouts. Lots of children also belong to the swimming club. We have a History club called Pastfinders and a conservation group called Watch Group. There is a youth club called The Shack which opens every Thursday.

We can drive to military base at Mount Pleasant 56km away and use their cinema and 10 pin bowling alley.

There is also Camp Education which looks after all children who live outside of Stanley. There are 21 children and seven teachers! Some children go to very small schools in Goose Green and North Arm. Other children have a travelling teacher stay with them for 2 weeks and then have telephone lessons for 4 weeks. The teachers have to fly in the small FIGAS planes which can hold up to 9 passengers; one lucky teacher even gets a trip to a child living on a remote island by helicopter!

We have lots of visitors to our school. Princess Anne came to visit us earlier this year; everyone was very excited, and surprised that she didn't wear pink and a crown!

Nicholas Barrett
Head Teacher