



## ***NOTES ON LIVING IN THE FALKLANDS***

***This guide has been created to provide you with an account of what to expect when preparing to travel to, and reside within, the Falkland Islands.  
It is provided as information only and rates stated in it are subject to change.***

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You should be aware that there is no public transport system in the Falkland Islands. The town is approximately 4 miles from one end to the other and your accommodation may be some distance from your workplace. There are taxi services available for those without their own transport but the cost of a taxi fare for any destination within Stanley is around £2.00 depending upon the taxi company and the time of day. ....	17
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The Falkland Islands comprises two main islands, (East and West Falkland) with some 700 smaller islands, a total land area of approximately 4,700 square miles (12,173 square km). The coastline is deeply indented with many good anchorages. Topographically the Islands are generally hilly with the highest point being Mount Osborne at 2,312 feet (705 m) in East Falkland and Mount Adam 2,297 feet (700 m) in West Falkland. Stone Runs - rivers of angular quartzite boulders - are a unique feature of the landscape. Because of the climate there are few trees, the natural vegetation being grassland with some species of heath and dwarf shrubs. Bird and marine mammal life - geese, penguins, seabirds and seals - is diverse and relatively unspoiled. There are no native land mammals. Legislation provides for the protection of most birds and certain mammals and for the establishment of some islands and areas of the main islands as wildlife sanctuaries and reserves.

## *Climate*

Situated in the South Atlantic, the Falkland Islands lie about the same latitude south as London lies north, but they have winds which are both stronger and much more frequent, and a cold surface current instead of the Gulf Stream. The Antarctic continent is also markedly colder than the polar cap of the north. Average climatic figures for the Islands capital, Stanley are as follows:

Mean annual temperature	6°C (43°F)
Mean annual wind speed	17 knots (31.5 km/hour)
Mean annual rainfall	24 inches (625 mm)
Annual max temperature	22°C (70°F)
Annual min temperature	-5°C (22°F)

Strong winds are common and the rainfall pattern is comparatively low and evenly distributed throughout the year. Nevertheless Falkland winters are not as severe as might be expected but are longer than in comparable latitudes of England. The wind chill factor can make it seem much colder. Summers are not as hot as in the United Kingdom, though the Islands enjoy more hours of sunshine than is registered in an average year at Kew Gardens. From December to April there are sometimes many seasons in a single day as the weather can change quite rapidly. In winter snow rarely lies for more than a week. As a result of damage to the Ozone Layer the UV levels in the atmosphere over the Falkland Islands are at times very high. Health professionals highly recommend the use of a high factor sun screen even on dull days and to keep your skin covered as much as possible.

## *The People*

The 2006 census records a population of 2,438 people. This figure excludes military and civilians based at Mount Pleasant Complex (MPC), and a further 84 residents temporarily absent on the night of the census. The population is youthful, with 78% aged 55 years and under (1,933 people). The population is culturally diverse and rich. For such a small and remote island there are people of many nationalities living alongside each other. Most people reside in Stanley, the Capital of the Falkland Islands the remainder live in scattered farms and settlements throughout the "Camp", the local word for the countryside, which encompasses the remainder of the Islands.

## ***Wildlife***

The unspoilt countryside and unpolluted waters of the Falkland Islands make them a haven for wildlife and a paradise for the wildlife enthusiast. Over 185 species of birds have been recorded in the Islands, over 60 of which are native breeding species. These include five different types of penguin, Black-browed Albatross, Giant Petrel, Caracara (a rare bird of prey), Red Backed Hawk, many species of duck and geese to name, but a few. Around the many miles of coastline can be found Elephant Seals, Sea Lions, Fur Seals, Dolphin, Pilot Whales and occasionally, Orca, Fin and Minke whales.

## ***The Government***

The Falkland Islands are an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom, executive authority being vested in Her Majesty the Queen and exercised by the Governor on her behalf. The Governor is advised by the Executive Council composed of three elected members of Legislative Council. The Legislative Council is composed of eight elected and two ex-officio members. The Legislative Council is empowered to pass laws for the government of the Islands, subject to the approval of Her Majesty the Queen acting through her Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. General elections are held every four years. Defence and foreign affairs remain the responsibility of the British Government.

## ***Defence***

Since the short lived invasion by Argentine forces in 1982 the Islands have been defended by a British land, sea and air garrison maintained at the minimum size required to ensure their security. The completion of the airport at Mount Pleasant (some 35 miles outside Stanley), which became fully operational in 1986, has permitted some reduction in the number of forces stationed on the Islands. Relations between the civilian and military populations are good.

## ***Health***

The Government Health and Social Services Department is responsible for all aspects of health and social services in the Islands. The general standard of health is good. The King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, (KEMH) Stanley's only hospital, was almost totally destroyed by fire in April 1984. After extensive repair and rebuilding work the KEMH was re-opened in 1987 and now offers very modern facilities with a full complement of medical, dental and nursing staff. The 27 bed hospital contains an acute care wing with a 2 bed maternity unit and a 2 bed intensive care unit. There are facilities for outpatients, accident and emergency, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, counselling, community health care and a high standard of medicine is practised. There are 4 full-time Medical Officers who provide general practitioner services, as well as a Radiographer, Surgeon and an Anaesthetist.

Dental care is provided by two dentists based in KEMH. There is no resident qualified optician, though a UK optician visits at intervals of (normally) about six months; otherwise eye testing is carried out by one of the doctors. You, and any members of your family who will be accompanying

you to the Falkland Islands, must have a medical check-up, including teeth and eyes, and undergo any essential treatment (especially work to attain dental fitness) before travelling to the Islands. Please note that non-residents of the Islands are entitled to only limited, essential dental treatment and that expensive crowns, bridges and extensive courses of treatment are not provided.

The Falkland Islands has a Reciprocal Agreement with the UK NHS by which Falkland Island residents (regardless of their national origin) can receive treatment from the UK NHS on the same basis as UK residents, likewise, UK residents can receive treatment from the Falkland Islands Health Service on the same basis as Falkland Island residents. The special arrangements which exist between the UK NHS and certain European, Commonwealth and former Commonwealth countries DO NOT apply to the Falkland Islands or to Falkland Islands residents. Officers from outside the UK are advised to maintain any health insurance cover that they currently hold in their home country, in case they choose to attend for, or require, treatment there.

### ***Social Security***

There is a contributory old age pension scheme that provides pensions for individuals upon reaching the age of 64. All employees and employers are required to make weekly contributions if earnings are above a threshold of £165 per week. Current rates are included in the annex to your contract.

There is currently no unemployment benefit.

### ***Getting to the Falkland Islands***

The most direct way to reach the Falkland Islands from the United Kingdom is on transport provided by the Ministry of Defence. A chartered passenger aircraft provides a service between RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire and the Falkland Islands, stopping off at Ascension Island for refuelling. There are 2 flights every week, departures from UK are on Wednesdays and Sundays. The flight leaves UK at about 23:45 hours and arrives at Mount Pleasant Airport (MPA) at 14.05 local time the next day. Flights to UK leave MPA early mornings on Tuesdays and Fridays arriving at Brize Norton early the following morning. Actual times may vary according to season, and it is not unusual to experience delays. Altogether the journey takes about eighteen hours including the refuelling stop at Ascension. Luggage is limited to 54 kilos total weight but there is no restriction on the number of bags or cases you may have. Please note that if you have a baby or very young child you should bring an appropriate car seat with you as part of your luggage so that it can be fitted to the vehicle being used to collect you and your family from the airport. This is also useful for your child to use on the aeroplane. It is advisable to pack your sponge bag, a small towel and perhaps a change of clothing, if there is room, in your hand luggage (cabin baggage) in case of a delay. Hand luggage is limited to 1 piece per passenger. The dimensions of this should not exceed 23cm by 30cm by 46cm and the weight must not exceed 4 kilos. Note: hand luggage is counted as part of your overall luggage allowance of 54 kilos.

Alternatively, it is possible to travel between the Falkland Islands and London Heathrow via Madrid and Santiago, Chile. It is recommended that you check your baggage entitlements with the airline or ticketing agency if flying by this route. Passengers leaving Heathrow on Thursday afternoons/evenings arrive in the Falkland Islands on Saturday afternoon. This route involves a one-night stop over in Santiago, Chile.

Flights on first appointment will be booked through the Falkland Islands Government Office in London (contacts: tel: 0207 222 2542; fax: 0207 222 2375; e-mail [recruitment@falklands.gov.fk](mailto:recruitment@falklands.gov.fk)) and you should liaise with the Recruitment Officer regarding your availability to travel. Holiday flights should be booked through the Head of the department in which you will be working.

If recruited from Australia or New Zealand travel is via Santiago, Chile. Australians and New Zealanders should check with their local authorities as regard the necessity for visas to travel through Chile. Australians are required to pay \$US30 on entry through Santiago airport. Travel on first appointment is either arranged by the Falkland Islands Government's Recruitment Agency in Australia (Portman and Partners / Agricultural Appointments Pty) or by the Human Resources Department in Stanley with a travel agent in the Falklands.

A bus service operates from Mount Pleasant Airport to Stanley about 35 miles away. Arrangements will be made for you to be transported from MPA to your home in Stanley by this bus service if it is not possible for you to be met by a representative from the Government Department you are about to join.

### ***Facilities for Local Leave***

Whilst in the Islands, you are strongly advised to seize any opportunity to see the wonderful wildlife and unspoilt natural beauty of the Falkland Islands. A number of well appointed wildlife lodges have been built at key sites around the Islands and there are also a number of self-catering cottages at various locations. (Details of the cost of staying in the tourist lodges and self-catering cottages are given in the Falkland Islands Tourism Board's leaflet which is available at Falkland House, London or from the Tourist Board in Stanley). Whilst most farms and wildlife reserves on East Falkland are accessible by roads or tracks using four wheel drive vehicles, travel to West Falklands and the outlying islands is by Islander aircraft operated by the Falkland Islands Government Air Service (FIGAS). This is an exciting way to travel but it is not cheap. Some of the cruise ships which visit the Falkland Islands in the austral summer on their way to Antarctica occasionally offer berths to Falkland Islands residents. These can be booked through local travel or shipping agents but are very expensive. An increasing number of people from the Falklands are now visiting South America owing to the availability of weekly flights to Punta Arenas and Santiago in Chile.

### ***Clothing Requirements***

We recommend warm, windproof jackets for all the family. Hats, gloves, scarves can all be purchased in the Islands. We strongly suggest you bring adequate footwear for any occasions you deem worthy, as there are no major outlets that sell a varied range of footwear.

The heavy reliance on goods being imported by sea can quite often mean that you can rarely get something you really want or need. It is always better to come prepared than rely on what is in stock in the stores. Simple items such as socks or tights can be difficult to obtain in the right size / colour / price range. It will become more than obvious when you are scouring through the shops that the clothing range is limited and sometimes, unsuitable. Many Falkland Islanders purchase clothes and footwear through mail order catalogues from the United Kingdom, United States or New Zealand. Excellent outdoor clothing can be ordered from as far away as North America but

unfortunately postal delivery time can vary. Anything up to 6 weeks is considered normal. It has been known for goods to become 'lost' in the post especially when en route through South America, but generally this is the best way of filling your wardrobe with the essentials required to make your stay in the Islands more enjoyable.

**Children's Wear:** Most children wear casual clothes to school though a school sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms for the Infant/Junior School can be ordered locally. These are optional. The range of children's clothes for sale locally is limited and many people buy from mail order catalogues.

As to knitting and dressmaking, good knitting wool is available locally. However, there is only a small amount of fabric for dressmaking available immediately but the small Haberdashery will order specific materials on request.

### ***General Cost of Living***

On average, imported food costs substantially more than the price you would expect to pay in a British supermarket. Local lamb, mutton, pork and beef can be purchased in the shops as can imported meat such as frozen chickens, turkeys, ducks, pork chops and sausages etc but the latter tend to be expensive. Mutton and beef is generally cheaper in the Falklands than in the UK and poultry more expensive. The dairy just outside Stanley supplies fresh pasteurised milk on a daily basis and fresh cream, yoghurt and eggs are also available. These products can be ordered direct from Stanley Dairy Ltd. (Tel: 31011) and delivered to your home on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, or purchased in shops. Ultra Heat Treated (UHT) milk is available in most shops as are eggs and other imported dairy products. There is one bakery operating six days per week producing a good selection of breads, filled rolls, pies, pastries and cakes.

Fresh vegetables, salad crops and a limited selection of fruit are available, but are more expensive than in the United Kingdom and the quality is variable. Some are grown locally but others are imported therefore the fresher produce can normally be found on days immediately following the arrival of the weekly flight from Chile.

The Islands have a small fish processing plant, which supplies shops with supermarket packed fresh fish, crab, mussels and squid. Some people enjoy catching their own in season. Trout can only be fished during specific seasons whereas Mullet can be fished all year round. Permission to fish must be obtained from relevant landowners.

There is quite a good selection of wine available and a wide variety of spirits and beer at prices similar to those in Britain, due to low import duty rates.

A fairly good selection of canned, frozen and packaged foods is available (mostly UK brands), and two shops have small delicatessen counters selling a selection of cold meats and cheeses.

The range of cosmetics available is small and favourite brands should be brought with you. Popular brand-name deodorants, shampoos, conditioners, hand/body lotions etc, are available in the shops in Stanley. There is no chemist (medicines being supplied by the hospital) although patent medicines can be purchased in the supermarkets. Stanley has one laundry and dry cleaning business but no launderette.

## **Eating Out**

As already indicated, apart from local meat (which is relatively cheap) most foodstuffs and household items are imported and consequently are more expensive than in the UK. But overall, there is less to spend money on than in Britain. A meal can be booked in advance at one of the restaurants - the Malvina House Hotel or The Falklands Brasserie. Prices can be up to £20 - £25 a head without wine or spirits. Michelle's Café in the town centre is open daily, providing fast food, tea/coffee and cakes. The Woodbine Café serves fish and chips and other meals every lunchtime and three evenings a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). There is an American style Diner (Shorty's Diner) on the outskirts of town that is open 6 days a week and several of the seven pubs serve lunches every day and evening snacks. About a mile out of Stanley there is The Lighthouse Café/Seamen's Mission where afternoon teas and light lunches are available.

## ***Accommodation***

At present there is a housing shortage in Stanley. New houses have provided a partial solution to the problem, but until suitable provision can be made there will continue to be insufficient housing to cater for an appreciable increase in population. Government owned houses vary in size from bed-sit flats to four bedroom houses and rentals are in the range of £240 to £645 per month. The size and type of house allocated to you will depend upon your personal circumstances (i.e. whether you are single or are accompanied by your family) and to a certain degree upon availability. All houses have basic hard furnishings including carpets and curtains and a cooker. You will be required to provide your own television, linen, crockery, cutlery and other household appliances. White goods can be rented from Government for the following costs per month: fridge/freezer £13 and washing machine £11. There is a fairly good market for second hand goods. Check out the advertisements on the back page of the weekly paper "Penguin News" each Friday or the notice board in the foyer of the West Store. If you decide to ship new household appliances to the Islands, many items can be sold locally on completion of contract. The electricity supply is the same as in UK 220-240v and sockets are the same three pin type. On first arrival and for up to three months a loan pack is available which includes all necessary items of household equipment. You will have the option to purchase your loan kit at cost price should you wish to do so. Televisions/video or DVD players/recorders and radios are not provided and you may find that the property does not have a television aerial installed.

Many Government houses have heating and hot water systems fuelled by kerosene. Cookers tend to be fuelled by gas or electricity. Domestic fuel costs are currently as shown on Appendix A, which is attached to your contract of employment. All types of fuel are available from Stanley Services Ltd, who operate the fuel station and retail outlet on the outskirts of Stanley. Arrangements will be made for a small quantity of fuel (about £200 worth), to be delivered to your house or flat prior to your arrival so that heating systems can be switched on the day before you arrive. Stanley Services Ltd will bill you direct for this. Electricity meters operate on a prepaid card system. Cards of £5, £10 or £20 denominations can be purchased from many of the shops and the Post Office.

If you are required to spend a few nights in a hotel or guesthouse upon arrival in the Islands because your house or flat is not ready for occupation, bed and breakfast charges will be met by the Falkland Islands Government. Upon completion of your contract you may, if you wish, move into a hotel or guesthouse for one or two nights to enable you to clear your house or flat before leaving the Islands. Again, bed and breakfast charges will be met by the Falkland Islands Government.

## ***Police Checks***

As part of the Immigration requirements criminal record checks are required for all overseas employees and their spouses / partners regardless of the nature of their occupation. These checks must be completed before a work permit is issued and before arrival in the Falkland Islands. Costs for these checks cannot be refunded by the Falkland Islands Government.

## ***Customs Formalities***

Import Duties are currently payable only on wines, beer, spirits and tobacco goods. Duty free allowances for these items, for persons travelling to the Islands, are similar to those in the UK. Some other importation rules that you will need to be aware of include:

### **Arms/Ammunition**

If you wish to bring arms or ammunition into the Islands with you or to send such items by sea freight, you must seek permission from the Chief Police Officer **before** making any arrangements for their transportation. (contacts: tel: (+500) 28100; fax: (+500) 27227; e-mail [admin@police.gov.fk](mailto:admin@police.gov.fk)). An Import Licence is required, and any items imported have to be produced for inspection by Customs and the Police when they arrive. A registration fee of £10 will apply and a Firearms Licence costs £25 (for life).

### **Pets**

You are advised to think carefully before deciding to bring pets with you. Dogs, for example are not permitted in *some* Government houses or flats.

Owing to the presence of the hydatidosis disease in the Islands, it is compulsory for all dogs in the Islands to be dosed with prophylactic tablets every six weeks; these are administered at the Veterinary Department. There are strict rules regarding the control of dogs, and owners of dogs found wandering unaccompanied may be liable to a fine. An Import Licence from the Veterinary Department must be applied for in respect of all animals imported into the Islands and this must be obtained **before** any arrangements are made to ship your pet to the Falkland Islands (*contacts: tel: (+500) 27366 or 27355; fax: (+500) 27352; e-mail [sbowles@doa.gov.fk](mailto:sbowles@doa.gov.fk)*) At the present time, only cats or dogs (and some other pets) that have been in Britain for the preceding six months and are travelling **direct** from the UK on a ship not calling at any port en route are permitted entry. There is a short house quarantine period imposed on arrival during which your animal will be examined by one of the Government Veterinary Surgeons.

A cat or a dog coming from another country may have to spend six months in UK quarantine before coming to the Falklands unless it meets the conditions of entry into the UK as outlined in the Pet Travel Scheme. However, just meeting the conditions of the UK's pet travel scheme does not mean that the dog or cat has automatic right of entry into the Falkland Islands. The veterinary authorities in the Falkland Islands will need to see evidence that conditions of entry into the UK have been met and ON TOP OF THIS you will still need to meet further conditions for the entry of cats and dogs from the UK into the Falkland Islands. **You must contact the Falkland Islands Veterinary Department before taking any action to ship animals to the Falkland Islands to avoid the risk of animals being refused entry to the islands.**

Information on what is required can be obtained from the veterinary office in Stanley and also from the DEFRA website (see details below). Dogs and cats are also allowed into the Falklands from

Australia and New Zealand and must meet similar entry conditions to those required for animals coming from the UK. For further information on these conditions please refer to the AQIS website in Australia and the MAF website in New Zealand. Please remember that your cat or dog may have to undergo a period of quarantine in your country of origin if you decide to take it back with you at the end of your contract.

Pet owners in UK can obtain more information on the Pet Travel Scheme from *the DEFRA Website* [www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/publications/pubcat/cvo/2000/chapa3.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/publications/pubcat/cvo/2000/chapa3.pdf) or from the PETS Helpline on phone: 0870 241 1710, fax: 0207 904 6834; or by e-mail: [pets@ahvg.maff.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pets@ahvg.maff.gsi.gov.uk)

Cats are popular pets and are easily obtained, free of charge, locally. Hamsters and guinea pigs are sometimes available. Two Veterinary Surgeons are employed by the Department of Agriculture and provide a service to Government, the farming community and the public.

### **Personal Effects**

If sending personal or household items by sea a Customs Declaration form has to be completed on arrival in the Islands and sent to the Customs and Immigration Department. These forms are available from the Customs and Immigration Department in Stanley upon request. Contacts: tel: (+500) 27340; fax: (+500) 27342; e-mail: [admin@customs.gov.fk](mailto:admin@customs.gov.fk)

### ***Local Taxation***

Details of Income Tax are shown as an appendix to your contract of employment. There is no VAT or sales tax in the Falkland Islands. VAT on some goods purchased in the UK prior to departure for F.I. can be reclaimed. You should request a VAT refund form from the place of purchase. Completed forms should be left in a mailbox provided at Brize Norton for this purpose, they will be collected and stamped by a Customs Official and returned to the VAT handling agency for processing.

### ***Baggage / Sea Freight***

Consignments of heavy baggage can be sent to the Falkland Islands by sea, however it can be up to three months between dispatch from your UK address to the date of arrival in the Islands. As there are no packers in the Falkland Islands, packing and unpacking are left to the individual and it is probably advisable not to bring expensive glassware and crockery. If travelling by MoD chartered flight full advantage should be taken of the 54 kilo baggage allowance. On flights via South America, the baggage allowance between U.K/Santiago/Falkland Islands is usually around 20 kilos. Hand luggage allowance via this route is 8 kilos. These allowances should be checked at the time of booking.

There are two main shipping agents which you can use to ship your personal effects to the Falkland Islands: Darwin Shipping Ltd c/o the Falkland Islands Co Ltd, and Exel Freight Management. Addresses of both these companies can be found at Annex 1 on pages 20 and 21. You are advised to contact these companies to obtain details on shipping dates and costs involved. Both provide a consolidation service which can reduce the overall cost if you are shipping a number of small boxes.

## ***Social Amenities***

There are branches of the British Red Cross Society, the Royal Naval Association, the Royal British Legion and the Corona Society and for children there are branches of the Girl Guides, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Rainbows, Beavers and Sea Cadets. A youth club for teenagers run by local volunteers meets twice a week and some of the local churches also run activities for youth groups. There is a small, fairly well stocked public library located on the top floor of the Falkland Islands Community School. There is one local newspaper, the Penguin News published every Friday. A Falkland Islands Journal is published annually.

There is a television service, provided by the military garrison at Mount Pleasant (British Forces Broadcasting Service - BFBS) which serves the whole of the Falkland Islands, transmitting British television programmes each day from about 7 or 8 a.m until approximately midnight. Some of these programmes are taped and some, including news broadcasts, are recorded and re-transmitted a few hours later on the same day. Children's programmes are broadcast for an hour or an hour and half each morning and afternoon. Popular "Soaps" and drama programmes (including Emmerdale, Coronation Street, Eastenders, The Bill etc.) tend to be approximately two weeks behind the UK. Between midnight and 7 or 8 a.m. the news "News 24" is available. There are no TV licence fees or subscription charges for the BFBS service.

Satellite television is also available at a cost of from £30 per month (for 10 channels) plus an installation fee of £200. The 10 channels are:

- CNN International (covers news and features)
- Sony (American TV Series)
- Discovery Channel (Scientific News and Features)
- ESPN Sports
- Warner Brothers Family Channel
- BBC World TV
- HBO (movies)
- History Channel(educational)
- People and Arts (Cultural)
- Nickelodeon (cartoons) / VH1 (music)

Further channels are available for higher fees. For more information contact KTV Ltd [www.ktv.co.fk](http://www.ktv.co.fk)

Most households have video recorders/players or DVD players and there are several video rental shops which supply both. A radio service offering a range of programmes is run jointly by the Falkland Islands Radio Station (FIRS) and the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) on FM and MW frequencies. For those interested in listening to the World Service in its entirety, it is available on FM 105. Live sporting coverage of UK and international events is usually available for several hours at weekends on "Radio 5 Live". Major sporting events such as important UK or international football games are sometimes televised live in some of the pubs in Stanley.

## **Night Life**

There are currently 7 pubs in Stanley. There are no night clubs but there is an establishment known as 'The Trough' which is open most Saturday nights and hosts its very own live Rock band; 'The

Fighting Pigs'. This venue is very popular with both the Stanley residents and members of the Military Garrison.

There are two excellent restaurants in Stanley which offer a wide variety of cuisine. You have a choice between local produce and imported food. Local fish, meat and vegetables are nearly always offered on the menus and the restaurants often host theme nights such as Chinese, Italian or St Helenian to name a few. These tend to be popular so it is advisable to book in advance whenever possible.

### ***Sports and Recreation***

**Stanley Leisure Centre** - has a sports hall including squash and badminton courts and is the meeting place for several of the clubs mentioned below and has a small gym room. Courts can be booked by members of the public as well as for club activities.

**Photography** - The Falklands offer a marvellous opportunity for photography. There is no photo processing shop in the Islands but film is available and can be sent to Chile for processing. This service is offered by Stanley Growers Ltd. Films should be submitted, with a deposit, before Thursdays to be sent on the weekly flight out. Processed photographs are returned the following weekend and available for collection from that Sunday. Photographic exhibitions are held from time to time.

**Fishing** is a popular outdoor sport, especially for trout and mullet. The trout fishing season is from 1st September to 30th April and mullet can be fished all year round. Permission from the appropriate landowners must be sought. A fairly good range of fishing tackle can be bought locally, at prices similar to those in Britain for comparable items.

**Golf** can be played on a rudimentary but challenging 18-hole course in Stanley. The course is not up to Golf Club standards found elsewhere but the level of competition, fun and sociability make up for this. There are also several home made courses around the Islands.

**Gardening** can be difficult as many of the houses occupied by Government employees are new and do not have cultivated gardens. A lot of hard work is necessary, therefore, if you wish to grow flowers and vegetables. The main crops grown locally are potatoes, carrots, turnips, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, sprouts, peas and beans. Gardening in the Falkland Islands is a challenge because of the strong winds, but with determination and perseverance and plenty of wind breaks, things will grow! Soft fruits grow in well-cultivated gardens and tomato and salad crops grow well under glass. If growing flowers, hardy perennials tend to do better. Seeds, bulbs and gardening tools can be bought at the local Garden Centre which also stocks fertilisers, bedding plants, trees and shrubs. Gardening equipment can be hired from the local Garden Centre. The Public Works Department will cut the grass at your house/flat prior to your arrival in the Islands but it is up to you to maintain your garden/yard after that. The Falkland Islands Government does not provide its tenants with garden tools or implements.

Not all Government houses have childproof fencing and, therefore, if you have small children you should contact the Public Works Department if you require assistance in improving the fencing around your property.

**Horse Riding.** Wine Glass Station, a farm about an hour's drive from Stanley, offers horse riding during the summer months. Horses are not easy to keep privately in Stanley because grazing can be difficult and imported fodder expensive. Horses can be kept on Stanley Common. Every year over

the Christmas period a 3 day race meeting is held in Stanley. This includes horse racing, gymkhana, steer riding. The Camp Sports Week is held around the end of February with a meet on both Islands, running over the same period. A day's horse racing and gymkhana is also held in March in Stanley.

**Sailing** is rare, although a handful of people own small boats. Stanley tends to be a port of call for many round-the-world yachts people.

**Football** both indoor and outdoor are very popular and there is a Football Club which plays tournament and league matches. Outdoor football is played in the summer months on the school playing field.

**Shooting** is a sport in which the Falkland Islands have successfully competed internationally. The Stanley Rifle Club has a full-bore outdoor range in use most weekends and the Pistol Club, which has a licensed range, meets regularly.

**Motor Cycling** is quite popular through the Motor Cross Club, which welcomes new members of all ages and holds occasional race meetings during the summer months. "Dirt bike riding" can still be enjoyed in the wide open spaces with landowners' permission. The most popular bike for adults is a 250cc. Bikes can be purchased locally either new or second-hand. All safety equipment can be purchased locally.

The Falkland Islands is a marvellous place for outdoor activities and for observing and photographing birds, seals and porpoises in their natural habitat. **Falklands Conservation** always welcomes new members of all ages and runs a very popular Wildlife Watch Group for young wildlife enthusiasts aged between eight and thirteen. There is a **Ramblers' Club** for those who wish to enjoy the countryside at a sedate pace and a **Running Club** for the more energetic.

There are **Badminton** and **Squash** clubs in Stanley. **Short tennis** has also become very popular. Equipment can be hired from the Leisure Centre or bought locally.

**Netball** is an increasingly popular sport and the Netball Club meets twice weekly.

**Swimming** - Stanley has an excellent indoor swimming pool. There is a swimming club for all ages of children some of whom have the chance to represent the Islands overseas and compete with swimmers from other island communities in the Island Games. Swimming galas are held on a fairly regular basis.

**Indoor Games** other than those mentioned earlier include darts (much played in winter and of high standard), snooker and pool (mainly in the pubs and clubs), bridge and other card games, such as cribbage.

Public events including dances and discos are quite frequent. **Folk Music** is popular in the Islands, with a weekly local radio show and occasional folk nights in a local pub. **Quiz nights** are occasionally held in one or more of the pubs in Stanley.

**Amateur Dramatics** - The Falkland Islands Operatic and Dramatic Association (FIODA) put on a variety of productions each year which to date have included Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, musicals, pantomime, farce, "whodunit's" and musical/talent revues. Productions for the most part take place in the Town Hall. New talent is always welcome.

## ***Employment Opportunities***

Employment opportunities for your spouse are somewhat limited as it is Government policy to give local residents preference for jobs if they are suitably qualified. Immigration rules dictate that on occasions when employment can be offered to persons who are not normally resident in the Islands the period of employment is normally limited to two years. In the case of the spouse of a person employed on a contract from overseas, the period of employment would be up to the end date of the contract. After that, the job has to be re-advertised; the job-holder may be re-appointed if it can be demonstrated there are no suitably qualified or experienced residents available. Your spouse should not be discouraged from applying for vacancies as they occur. From time to time there are skills and labour shortages in the Islands and it is possible for these gaps to be filled by non-residents.

Anyone who is not normally resident in the Islands is required to obtain a work permit before taking up employment. A work permit will be arranged for you prior to your arrival in the Islands but your spouse will have to apply to the Immigration Officer (tel. (+500) 27340) following their arrival in the Island for a work permit if he or she wishes to take up employment.

## ***Education***

The standard of education in the Islands compares very well with that in Britain. Education is free and compulsory for children between the ages of 5 and 16 years while many pupils continue into year 11 to sit GCSE examinations chosen from a range of different subjects similar to those offered in a UK school. The academic year currently mirrors the UK academic year. Students wishing to study "A" levels go to Britain at the Falkland Islands Government expense to a resident 6th form college.

The Infant/Junior School includes an optional pre-school class for three to four year olds. Classes tend to be small in comparison to the United Kingdom and there is an excellent staff/pupil ratio.

The Falkland Islands Community School, which was opened in 1992, caters for senior aged pupils as well as the community in general. It has excellent facilities and is very well resourced. The examination results achieved by senior school pupils compare favourably with the UK. The school is organised along UK lines with tutor groups, subject departments, extra-curricular activities, etc., with great emphasis being placed on involvement and self-help. Evening classes are offered in a variety of subjects throughout the year.

If you have school aged children you must contact the Director of Education in Stanley for further information prior to taking up your appointment in the Falkland Islands, particularly if you have children with special needs (Contact: tel: (+500) 27289; fax: (+500) 27292; e-mail [RFogerty.edu@sec.gov.fk](mailto:RFogerty.edu@sec.gov.fk)) You should also, for the information of the Stanley Schools, bring your children's previous school reports with you.

Open University and distant learning courses can be undertaken in the Falkland Islands at the contract officers own expense. As the Islands are not a recognised OU centre, course materials have to be sent via the Falkland Islands Government Office (FIGO) in London. If you are currently studying or contemplating taking up a course you should contact the Director of Education to discuss the options that may be available to you.

## ***Child Minding***

Childcare and crèche facilities are available for children between the ages of 3 months and 10-11 years. Rates vary between £1.85 - £2.50 per hour and opening hours are generally Monday to Friday between 07.30 – 17.30.

There are currently two Nurseries in operation, Rug Rats and Stanley Kids Zone.

Childminders using private homes, are also available though there is no official registration system.

## ***Religion***

There are three churches in Stanley - Christ Church Cathedral (Church of England), St Mary's (Roman Catholic) and the Tabernacle (United Free Church). There are also small Bahai and Jehovah's Witness communities. A number of other religions are represented in the Islands.

## ***Communications***

### **Internal Travel**

At present three Britten Norman "Islander" aircraft provide passenger, freight, mail and medical services to farms and settlements throughout the Islands. The Islands' coastal vessel also provides a regular ferry service between East and West Falkland.

### **Mail Services**

Overseas air letter mail is carried between the United Kingdom and the Falkland Islands once or twice weekly on the Ministry of Defence chartered aircraft. Air parcel mail and DHL services are provided via the regular weekly air service with Chile. Mail is sorted in the Stanley Post Office but there is no delivery service. You should arrange with the Postmaster (tel: (+500) 27180) to have a mail box in the Post Office for the duration of your stay in the Islands (this is provided free of charge). The surface mail service from UK is operated approximately every four or five weeks. Timing is key; a parcel posted in UK just as or days after a ship sails to the Falkland Islands will be held until the next ship departs. It can therefore take up to 8 weeks or more for a surface parcel to arrive in the Islands.

### **Telephone/Fax/E-mail**

Cable & Wireless Plc provide a national and international telephone/fax/internet service. Whenever possible, and if you wish, arrangements will be made with Cable and Wireless for a telephone to be installed in your home prior to your arrival in the Islands. A deposit is required of either £50 for access to local calls only with a credit limit of £100; or £100 for access to international calls and the Internet with a £300 credit limit. The deposit is refundable upon leaving the Islands provided that all bills have been settled. Arrangements can be made for this deposit to be paid from your relocation grant before you arrive in the Falklands Islands. Cable & Wireless require 10 clear working days to provide a new line. You are advised to bring with you your own telephone equipment.

Residential line rental is £8.00 per month payable in advance, with an additional charge of £1 per month for itemised billing.

From February 2006 International telephone call charges are as follows:

To the UK (standard rate)	£0.90 per minute
To the UK (off-peak rate)	£0.60 per minute
To Rest of World (standard rate)	£1.00 per minute
To Rest of World (off-peak rate)	£0.80 per minute

For dial-up internet connections there is a one-off connection/registration fee of £20, a monthly access charge of £10 and the following charges apply when connected:

Standard rate weekdays (6am to 6pm)	£0.06 per minute
Off-peak rate weekdays (6pm to 10pm)	£0.04 per minute
Daily twilight zone (10pm to 6am)	£0.02 per minute
Weekend rate (6am to 10pm Saturdays and Sundays)	£0.04 per minute

Cable and Wireless also offer a Broadband (DSL) package from £19.99 per month which includes 250MB of usage. This requires the use of a filter and modem.

Fax machines are available to rent or buy. Rental charges for a fax machine are approximately £35 per month but it would be advisable to buy rather than rent as purchase costs are from £140 upwards. Cable & Wireless offers a wide variety of fax machines, telephones (cordless & corded) and answering machines.

For further information about Cable & Wireless services and charges please visit their website at [www.cwfi.co.fk](http://www.cwfi.co.fk)

Information regarding the GSM mobile service available in the Falklands can be found on the Cable & Wireless website [www.touch.co.fk](http://www.touch.co.fk).

## ***Currency and Banking***

The currency of the Falkland Islands is the pound (£) which is on par with the pound sterling (£). Local currency notes and coins (of the same denominations as UK) are in circulation and sterling is also accepted anywhere in the Islands but to change Falklands currency to Sterling the bank will charge 1% (minimum charge of £1.00). UK and Euro cheques are accepted in some places provided they are accompanied by a cheque guarantee card. There is however, a charge of £2 for processing a UK cheque for under £400 and 0.25% + £1 for a cheque over that amount. Building Society cheques can be paid into a bank account but cannot be cashed over the counter. The use of credit cards is limited.

The only bank in the Islands is a branch of the Standard Chartered Bank Plc and it provides a full range of banking services. You will have to open an account with this Bank in Stanley on arrival as your salary will be paid direct to your account approximately 3 working days before the end of each month. In order to open an account, you will have to show your passport and provide the Bank with details of your bank account in UK or the country from which you were recruited. It may take several days for an account to be opened and a chequebook will not be issued until funds have been deposited in your account. It may be advisable for you to have some cash with you for immediate purchases. If you are eligible to receive a relocation grant (check your contract) the balance of this will be available upon arrival and could be used to open your bank account. If you wish to receive part of this grant in cash, please let the Recruitment Officer at Falkland House (or the recruitment agency in Australia/New Zealand) know so that the appropriate arrangements can be made.

Telegraphic Transfers are available upon application to the Bank supported by identification. The Bank will not give loans to a Government employee recruited from overseas until he/she has been in post for several months.

The bank by law will request the following information from you when you open a bank account.

<b>FOR ALL ACCOUNTS</b>
Customer Mandate.
Original Form of Identification (including <u>photograph</u> , name, date of birth, nationality) such as passport.
Proof of Residence. <u>Falkland Islands address:</u> It may be possible for a serving member of the bank's staff to verify your Falkland Islands residential address. If not then evidence as listed below will be required. <u>Overseas address:</u> <b>Proof of overseas residence will be required if you have not been in the Falkland Islands for at least three years.</b> <i>The sort of evidence required for an address whether in the Falkland Islands or overseas is: an <u>original</u> of at least one of a utility bill; another bank's account statement; a letter from a local council (say for local taxes); a tenancy agreement; an employment contract; a reference letter from your current employer (confirming your overseas residence address) or other proof deemed acceptable by the bank.</i>
Bankers' Enquiry Authorisation.
Fax indemnity (where required).
<b>FOR CURRENT ACCOUNTS</b>
Cheque Book Request as required.
Third Party Mandate (where required).
<b>FOR SAVINGS ACCOUNTS</b>
Savings Account Request Form.
Signature Card(s).
Third Party Mandate (where required).
<b>FOR JOINT ACCOUNTS</b>
Separate Joint Account Mandate.

## ***Personal Transport***

You should be aware that there is **no public transport system** in the Falkland Islands. The town is approximately 4 miles from one end to the other and your accommodation may be some distance from your workplace. There are taxi services available for those without their own transport but the cost of a taxi fare for any destination within Stanley is around £2.00 depending upon the taxi company and the time of day.

If you wish to purchase a vehicle in the Falklands or bring one with you the following information will be of use.

### **Driving licences**

A valid (full) driving licence from the country from which you have been recruited can be used in the Islands for up to one year, but a Falkland Islands (full) driving licence must then be obtained

from the Police Station at a cost of £5. A test is not required, submission of a valid (full) licence is sufficient. For those learning to drive a provisional licence costs £10 and a full (life) licence costs £20.

### **Driving Charges**

Road tax is currently £99 a year for a car or Landrover. There is also a one off vehicle registration fee of £35. You must purchase insurance cover to drive private vehicles and be included on the FI Government policy for official vehicles. 'Act' Insurance, which covers physical injury to third parties but not damage to their vehicles or other property is available at around £48 for a small car. Third party insurance is available for an additional £17. Insurance for fire and theft depends on the value of the vehicle and costs an additional £2 per £1,000 and £1 per £1,000 respectively. Full Comprehensive insurance is currently only available for vehicles less than 5 years old.

### **Driving in the Falklands**

Driving in the Falklands is a unique experience. The speed limit in the town is 25 miles per hour. Use of seatbelts, where fitted, is compulsory on all roads. The 35 miles of road which link Stanley to Mount Pleasant is only partly sealed and extreme care must be exercised when driving on it.

The central (older) part of town is made up of a grid system on a steep hill and right of way is given to those travelling up or down this hill. There are a number of zebra crossings about the town, mainly near schools, and it is advisable that you have a drive around on first arrival to acquaint yourself with these, as some of them are not sign posted. During the week between the hours of 8am and 5pm the front road (Ross Road) is a no parking zone between it's junctions with Philomel Street and Reservoir Road.

If snow does lie in winter, most junctions and some roads in Stanley are cleared or gritted. Snow chains are a good idea for small cars if you intend driving out of Stanley but are not normally necessary for four wheel drive vehicles.

**N.B** Be sure to familiarize yourself with the 'ice-route' in winter. This is the least steep route through town and is gritted in times of ice and snow. You may find that some of the steeper hills are blocked by traffic cones when considered dangerous to drive on. Please use an alternative route if this is the case.

Camp driving can be fun but without experience or local expertise it is easy to find ones self firmly "bogged" – i.e. stuck in the peat bogs.

### **Vehicle availability**

Four wheel drive vehicles are most commonly used in the Islands and popular vehicles include the Landrover, Landrover Discovery, Mitsubishi Shogun or equivalent models, Suzuki Jeep, Toyota, and Subaru 4x4. These can be driven not only over Stanley's roads and the approximate 450 miles of unsurfaced roads, but also over the Camp (the area outside Stanley) where roads diminish to rough tracks. Some kind of vehicle is advisable in Stanley and for general use around the town a small family car is quite adequate. You may wish to consider purchasing a second hand vehicle on arrival or bringing a second hand vehicle with you, and we would advise you to think carefully before going to the considerable expense of buying a new vehicle. There is a reasonable market for second hand vehicles although you may sometimes have to wait a while to find exactly what you want. Details of the models and costs of frequently imported vehicles are attached at Annex 2. Motor cycles are also used, both in Stanley and for Camp driving and mountain bicycles can be used in Stanley. There are a number of garages that carry out repair and maintenance work.

## **Shipping down a vehicle**

If you intend shipping a vehicle to the Islands (rather than buying a second hand vehicle locally) avoid bringing a vehicle which requires complex servicing expertise or specialist tools. The cost of shipping a car / Landrover to the Islands ranges from approximately £1000 to £1,500. Please obtain costs from the shipping agents. There are no special instructions for the importation of vehicles but they must be insured and registered at the Police Station on arrival (£35). Resale can be effected tax-free.

## ***Your Employment***

### **When you arrive**

Upon your arrival in the Falkland Islands you will be met at Mount Pleasant Airport by a member of the department you are joining, or arrangements will be made for you to travel with Falkland Islands Tours and Travels on their bus service. You will be driven into Stanley (a journey of approximately one hour) and taken to the property that has been allocated to you.

The next day you should be taken to the Human Resources Department by your Line Manager to register for pension contributions and to sign your contract if you have not already done so.

If you require an advance of salary please let the Payroll Manager know at this time so that she can start to make arrangements for this. You will be given a letter to take to the Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) confirming both your overseas address and also your local address. **You need this and the information listed in the box on page 17 to open up a bank account.** Please inform the Payroll Manager of your new bank account details as soon as possible. Salaries are paid monthly in arrears directly into your SCB account. Pay day is always 3 working days before the end of the month

### **When you leave**

When your contract has come to an end and you have decided to leave the Islands, there are a few things you must do before you leave. Approximately two weeks prior to your departure your final salary payment will be made. It is then your responsibility to obtain a Tax Assessment Form from the Tax Office, leave forwarding addresses with the Pensions Officer and make arrangements with the Housing Officer about the return of your allocated property. You should ensure that the grass is cut, or that arrangements are in place for it to be done, before vacating the property.

## ***Conclusion***

The Falkland Islands have many good things to offer of which natural, unspoilt beauty, a pure unpolluted atmosphere, magnificent wildlife and a safe and secure environment in which to raise a family are but a few. Quality of life is a difficult thing to measure but most people who live in this closely-knit community would agree that the Islands offer a high standard.

Further information:

[www.falklands.gov.fk](http://www.falklands.gov.fk)  
[www.visitorfalklands.com](http://www.visitorfalklands.com)  
[www.horizon.co.fk](http://www.horizon.co.fk)

## ***Freight Forwarding Information***

**Shipping Company:** DARWIN SHIPPING LTD

**Contact:** Andy Watson  
Crozier place,  
Stanley,  
Falkland Islands  
Telephone : 00 500 27629 Fax : 00 500 27603  
e-mail : [darwin@horizon.co.fk](mailto:darwin@horizon.co.fk)

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHIPMENT OF FREIGHT VIA DARWIN SHIPPING LTD

All goods should be suitably packed for conventional shipping and sea voyage. They should also be clearly marked with the consignee's name and destination address.

**All cargo for consolidation must be booked through AMG office.**

Contact : Mr Nigel Flegg TEL: 0044 1992 523291 FAX: 0044 1992 523414

**The following details must be provided - number of cartons, kilos, cubic measurement and shipping mark. Delivery instructions will then be issued.**

**If Insurance is required, you must inform Darwin Shipping Ltd, Stanley Tele:- 27629 Fax:- 27603**

You must ensure that a completed Standard Shipping Note, copy of suppliers invoice and appropriate Customs documents accompany the goods.

Freight should be delivered to:-

AMG NORTH WEALD LTD  
NO 3 BUILDING  
NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD  
NORTH WEALD  
EPPING, ESSEX CM16 6AA

**Although AMG will receive cargo continuously, please note the closing dates on the sailing schedule for which goods need to be received by, in order to be shipped on a particular sailing.**

For Customs entries please note port of exit is Southampton.

Freezer / Chiller Goods : Please contact FIC UK for special instructions.

**Hazardous Goods:** Please contact FIC UK for special instructions.

**Please be warned that unless all instructions are complied with, vehicles may not be permitted to unload cargo and could be turned away.**

FIC UK details:-

Kenburgh Court, 133-137 South Street, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 3HX  
Telephone 01279 461 630 Fax:- 01279 461 631  
Email:- [admin@fihplc.com](mailto:admin@fihplc.com)

**Shipping Company:** **EXEL FREIGHT MANAGEMENT**

**Contact in the UK:** Gary Webb  
Sea Mounting Centre  
(Marchwood Military Port)  
Building 36, First Floor  
Marchwood  
Hampshire  
Tel: 02380 663455  
Fax: 02380 666021

Email: [Gary.webb@exel.com](mailto:Gary.webb@exel.com)

A consolidated service is also available through forwarding agents detailed below. All consolidated cargo should be clearly marked with the consignees name c/o Stanley Services Consolidation. For further information please contact:

Geodis Wilson  
Unit 6  
Waterloo Industrial Estate  
Hedge End  
SOUTHAMPTON  
SO30 2QT

Tel: 01489 797 711  
Fax: 01489 779 950

E-mail: [Diane.webb@ukgeodiswilson.com](mailto:Diane.webb@ukgeodiswilson.com)

