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## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the Falkland Island pound, consisting of 100 pence.

## Government

## General

The Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), consisting of a group of numerous islands, are a Crown Colony of Great Britain.

East Falkland Island and West Falkland Island, the only two islands of any size, are separated from each other by a sound that varies in width from 2.3 to 12 miles. The group as a whole provides numerous sounds and bays which form excellent harbors. The S part of East Falkland Island is low, but the N part rises to a considerable elevation.

The aspect of the islands is not striking. Ridges of rocky hills, more than 300m high, traverse extensive tracts of treeless moorland, which are bounded by rocky coasts.

West Falkland Island is slightly greater in average elevation than East Falkland Island. Steep cliffs, exposed to the fury of the W seas, front the W sides of this island and the adjoining islets.

The islands have a cool temperate climate, very much affected by strong winds, particularly in the spring.



**Flag of Falkland Islands**

The Falkland Islands, a dependency of the United Kingdom, are claimed by Argentina. In April 1982, Argentine forces occupied the islands but the United Nations Security Council voted for their immediate withdrawal. After a military campaign, the Argentine forces surrendered and the United Kingdom regained possession in June 1982.

The colony is administered by an appointed Governor, assisted by an Executive Council (which is the equivalent of a cabinet) and an 8-member elected Legislative Council. A

Military Commissioner is responsible for defense and internal security.

The legal system is based on English common law.

Stanley, the principal city, stands at the E side of East Falkland Island and is the location of the seat of government.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Good Friday	Varies
The Queen's Birthday	April 21
Liberation Day	June 14
Falklands Day	August 14
Spring Holiday	First Monday in October
Battle Day	December 8
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day	December 26

In addition, the first business day after Boxing Day is a public holiday known as Christmas Holiday. A government holiday is celebrated the two business days following Christmas Holiday.

## Industries

The principal industries are sheep farming, wool processing, and fishing. Numerous foreign vessels purchase licenses to fish in the adjacent waters. Offshore exploration for oil and gas is being carried out in the vicinity of the islands.

## Languages

The official language is English.

## Mined Areas

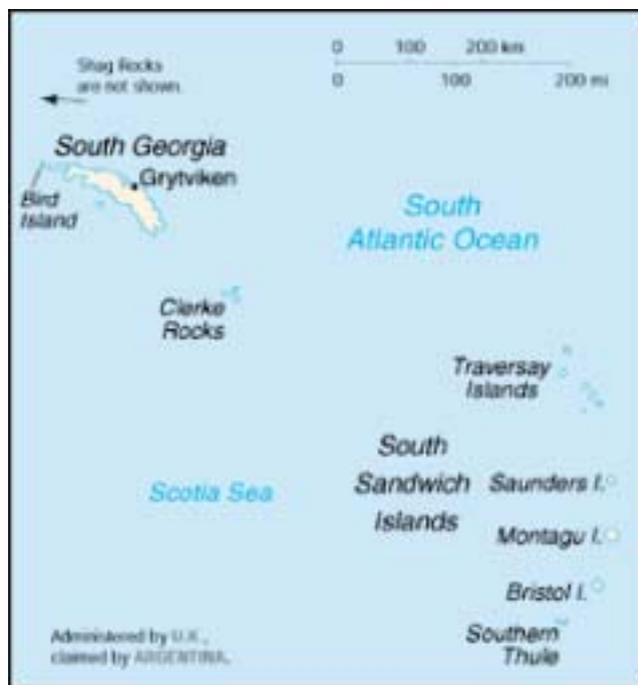
Mines laid in the vicinity of the Falkland Islands during the 1982 conflict have been cleared and hazards to shipping have been marked; however, undiscovered dangers to navigation may still exist. Vessels wishing to enter Falkland Islands' waters are advised to contact the Harbor Master in Stanley.

Dangerous materials and ammunition may be found on many of the shores.

Stanley, Port Fitzroy, Goose Green Settlement, Darwin Settlement, Port Howard, and Fox Bay are areas within which land mines or booby traps are known to exist. There is no evidence that other areas contain land mines or booby traps; however, they may contain unexploded bombs or missiles. Mines have been found on beaches and river banks outside of known minefields. The seaward approaches to land minefields are not marked. Special care is required when approaching the beaches and rivers lying adjacent to the above-mentioned areas.

## Offshore Islands

### The South Atlantic Territories of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands



### South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

South Georgia Island, the South Sandwich Islands, Shag Rocks, and Clerke Rocks are all dependencies of the United Kingdom.

South Georgia Island lies 800 miles SE of the Falkland Islands and has an area of about 1,450 square miles. It has no permanent population and is administered by a Commissioner, who resides in the Falkland Islands. A small military garrison is situated at Grytviken, on South Georgia, and a biological station, maintained by the British Antarctic Survey, is reported to be located on Bird Island.

Argentine forces invaded the island on 3 April 1982; however, a British naval task force recovered the territory on 25 April 1992.

The terrain is high and consists of very steep glacier-covered mountains. Mount Paget, the summit, is 2,934m high and saddle-shaped. In summer, the lower hills standing near the coast appear to be light brown in color, being free from snow and, in most cases, covered with grass and moss. There is little flat land and the island, except for patches of sparse grass and moss, is almost entirely barren. The SW side of the island is permanently frozen. The shores, especially at the N side, are deeply indented, but the bays are dangerous during most of the year because of large quantities of loose ice.

The climate is the same as for the Falkland Islands, being cloudy and humid with strong W winds.

The South Sandwich Islands have an area of about 130 square miles and lie 470 miles SE of South Georgia Island. The

group consists of a chain of nine uninhabited islands, connected by a low submarine ledge. The islands, which offer little shelter, are mostly volcanic with some showing signs of activity. Zavodovski, the northernmost island, is reported to be in constant eruption.

The climate consists of fog, mist, and snow. The inclement weather and poor visibility render the islands difficult to approach. During the winter and spring, the group is completely surrounded by pack ice.

### Time Zone

For the Falkland Islands, the Time Zone description is QUEBEC (+4). Daylight Savings Time (PAPA (+3)) is maintained from the first Sunday in September until April 21 of the following year.

For the South Atlantic Territories of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, the Time Zone description is OSCAR (+2). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

#### World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

### U.S. Embassy

There is no U.S. Embassy in the Falkland Islands or the South Atlantic Territories of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

These groups are dependencies of the United Kingdom.