



FIG Recruitment – Candidate Brief
Appendix 2 – General facts and island living



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Front page: Moody Valley looking towards Two Sisters | © Zoran Zuvic
Below: Elephant seal | © Marc Bouldoukain



Part I – General facts

The Islands

The Falkland Islands, a self-governing British Overseas Territory, are located in the South on the same latitude as London lies north. Set 400 miles from the South American mainland and 8,000 miles from the UK, we comprise 778 islands ranging in size, with the two main islands being East and West Falkland. Our capital, Stanley, is located on East Falkland, and was granted city status in 2022. The total land area of the Falklands is 4,700 square miles (approximately half the size of Wales in the United Kingdom).



The average temperature varies between a maximum of 24°C in January down to a minimum of minus 5°C in July/August. Rainfall is generally low; winters are not as severe as the UK and the Islands enjoy more sunshine per annum than the south of England.



The countryside (anywhere outside of Stanley, locally known as Camp) is comparatively bare of forestry, but it has its own unique flora and fauna and pristine open landscapes with scenery like no other place in the world.

In geographical terms the Islands have a fascinating history that has resulted in some striking natural features such as the impressive rock formations known as 'stone runs', but which are actually rivers of angular quartzite. There are a number of designated nature reserves and marine protected areas.

Wildlife is found in abundance including some of the world's most significant seabird and marine mammal populations; with the Islands being home to vast colonies of penguins and albatross, as well as over 200 species of other birds. They are also popular breeding grounds for sea lions, elephant and fur seals and over 15 species of whales and dolphins. Some visit to breed over the summer months, whilst others are endemic to the Falklands.

The protection of this unspoiled environment is a high priority in the Islands Plan, and FIG spends around £1.5m per annum in environmental research with university partners from Imperial College London, Queens University Belfast, British Geological Survey and an independent local trust, [Falklands Conservation](#). The [South Atlantic Environment Research Institute](#) (SAERI) was also set up to encourage growth in the level of research undertaken in the Islands and to develop the location as an international research platform.

Whilst most revenue comes from the fishing industry (through fishing licence fees) and from tourism, sheep farming is still an integral part of the Falklands' way of life; with meat, hides and wool making up a significant portion of the goods exported from the Islands. Fish and squid make up the remainder of the exports.

Though Falklands history has included British, French, Spanish and South American influences, (as can be seen through place names in particular) it is British culture which predominantly prevails in the Islands. In 2013 a referendum was held to determine whether the Falklands supported the continuation of their status as a British Overseas Territory. Of a turn-out of 92%, 99.8% voted to remain a British.

Since the first sighting of the Islands in August 1592 by British sailor John Davis onboard the *Desire*, the Falkland Islands boasts a rich history, including maritime heritage, the experience of living through the 1982 conflict and natural and social history. You can learn more about our history and culture via the [Historic Dockyard Museum](#) or [Falkland Islands Association](#).

We welcome you to come and learn more about our history and culture, discover our unique way of life and meet our island community. You can also find more information on the Islands through the [Falkland Islands Tourist Board](#).

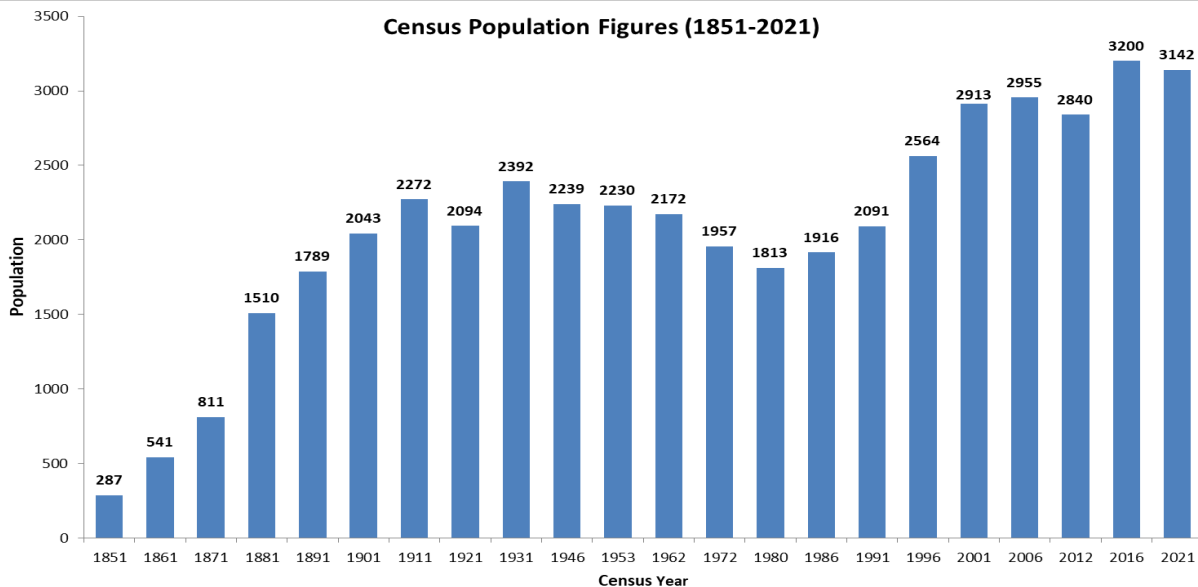


Wakeboarding in Stanley Harbour | © Angela Moffatt

The people

Well known for their friendly and open nature, the Islands have a usually resident population of approximately 3,700 people. Over 2,900 live in Stanley which is the southern-most capital in the world.

The remainder of the population live in smaller farm-based settlements in Camp. The population itself is predominantly of British birth or descent and many can trace their family on the Islands back to the mid-nineteenth century. In addition, there is a permanent military garrison at the Mount Pleasant Complex (MPC), some 35 miles west of Stanley, comprising UK military personnel and approximately 400 civilian workers and their dependents. The growth of the non-military population is highlighted in the chart below¹.



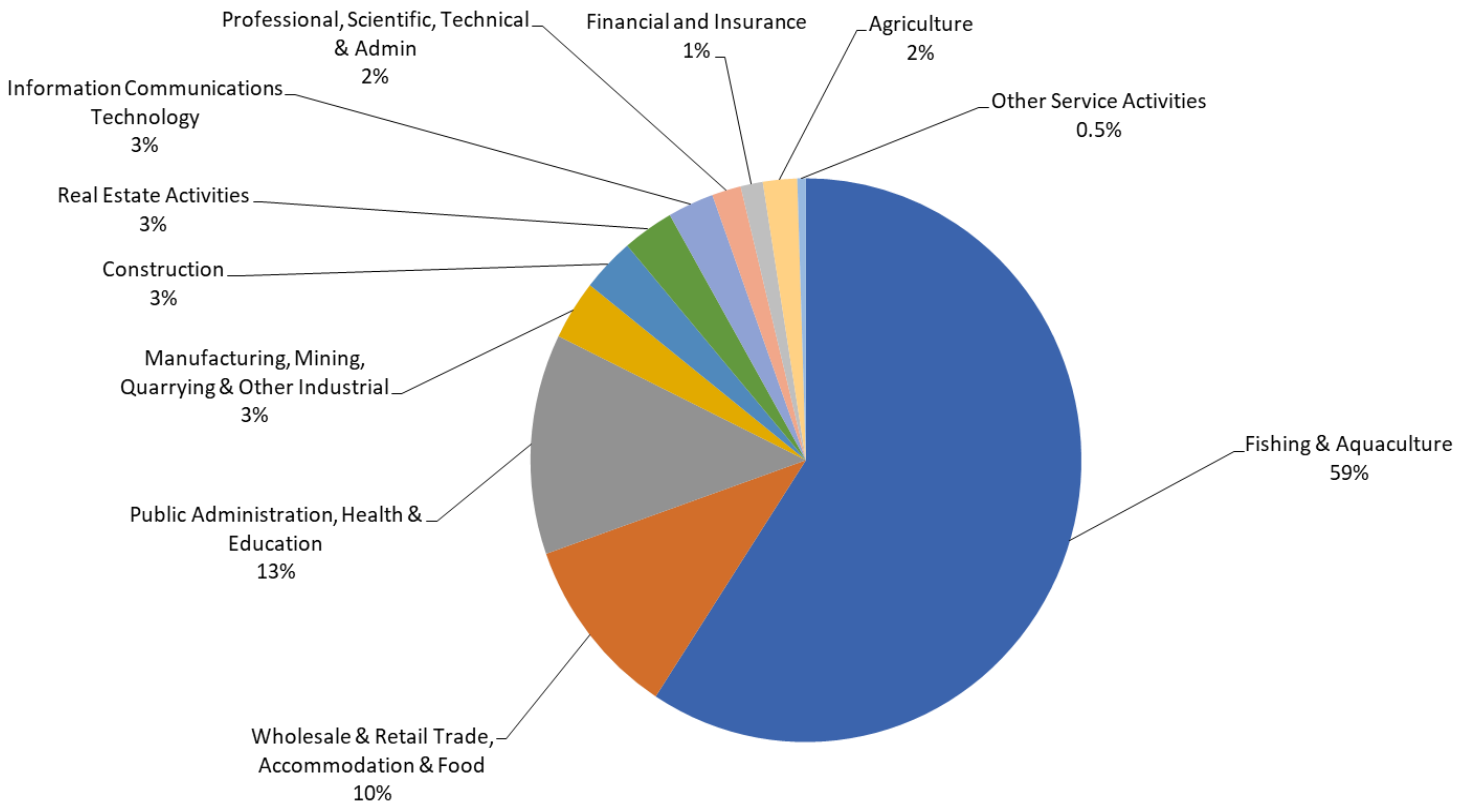
¹ The chart shows the usually resident and present populations counted on each census night. Figures for 1851, 1861 and 1871 are estimated. Civilian personnel and their families based at MPC are included in census counts for 1996 onwards.

The economy

As the chart below shows, the Islands’ economy is one which is continuing to grow, and in response to government measures to re-energise economic activity; has held up well against the backdrop of the pandemic. Non-resource GDP in constant prices has grown at a compounded average growth rate of +3.6% per year between 2011 and 2022.

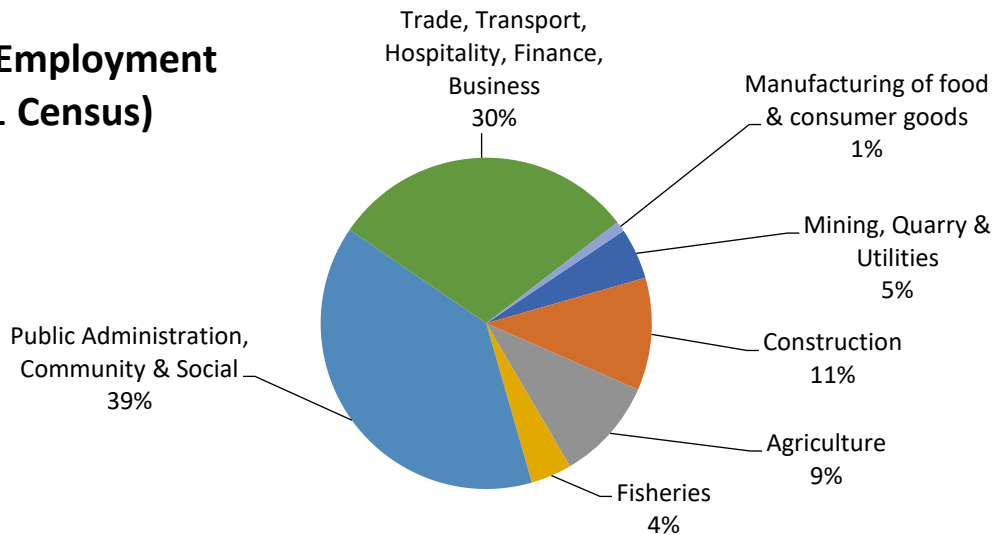


GDP by industry



The Falkland Islands enjoy low unemployment and have a high labour force participation rate. The strong economy in the Islands provides a high standard of living for its residents and allows FIG to provide a broad range of public services. The Islands have a favorable demographic makeup with a relatively large working-age population as a result of inward migration, and a low dependency ratio by developed world standards.

Primary Employment (2021 Census)

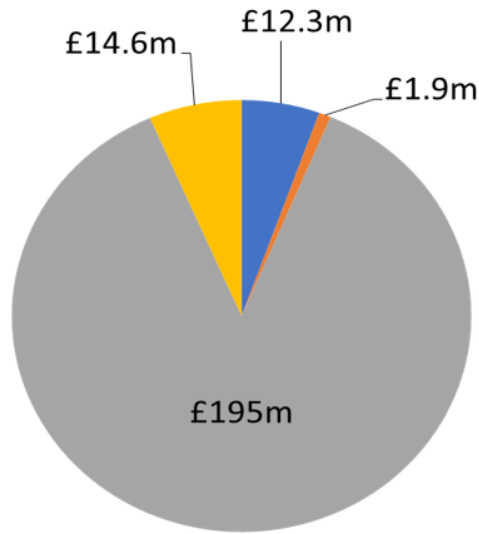


The main economic driver since the late 1980s has been commercial fishing, with the establishment of a controlled conservation zone in 1987, now at 200 nautical miles from the coastal baseline. Fishing vessels in the zone catch around 200,000 tons each year, principally *Illex* and *Loligo* squid. Revenues to FIG are in the region of £30 million per year from license or quota fees, as illustrated in the following chart. In some recent seasons there have been downturns in catches, but Government’s substantial cash reserves has proved invaluable in smoothing economic fluctuations. The commercial fishing industry remains a buoyant sector today and revenue from the fishery is the main income source for FIG although oil exploration activities have also boosted GDP in previous years.

Small businesses have also been helped to establish and grow by the [Falkland Islands Development Corporation](#) (FIDC).

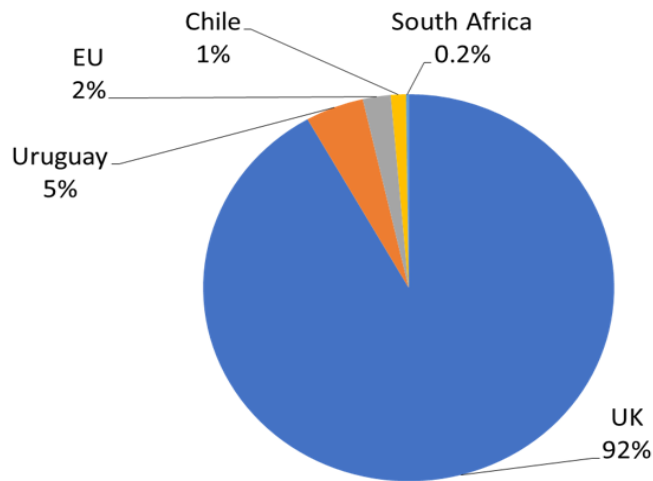


Jigger vessel An Fong 116 fishing | © Alan Henry



Exports (2019 Figures)

- Agriculture - Wool
- Agriculture - Meat
- Fisheries - Squid & Finfish
- Tourism - Cruise & Land



Imports (by value)

- UK
- Uruguay
- EU
- Chile
- South Africa

Tourism

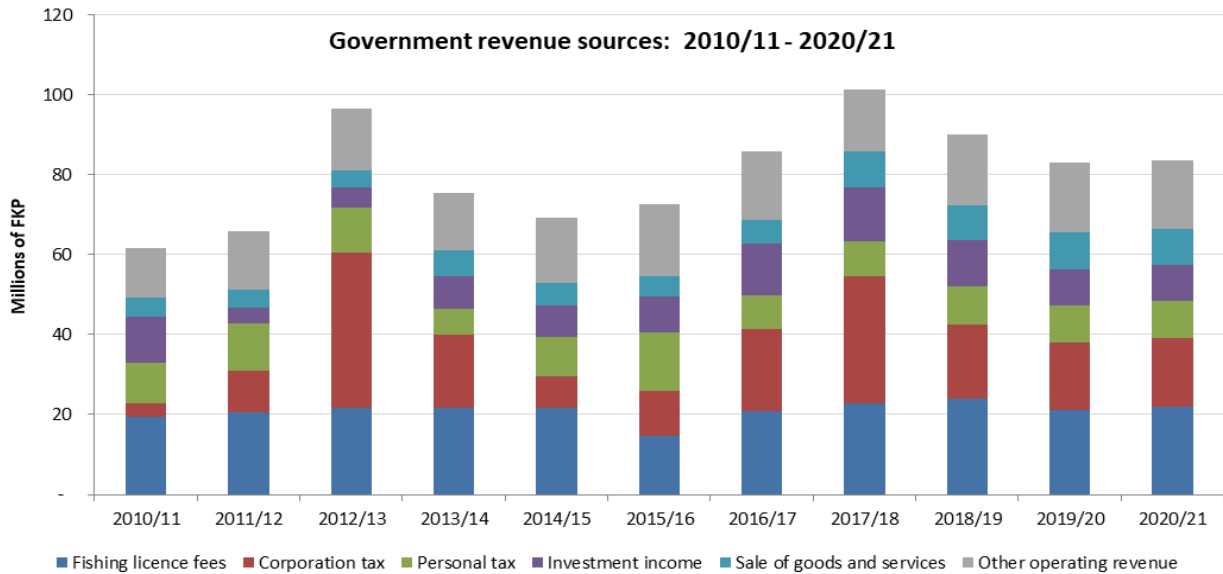
Air connections to the Islands include two flights a week by Ministry of Defence (MOD) Chartered Airline from Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, and a weekly LATAM (Chile) flight service connection to South America.

Tourism is a very important part of the economy, and the Islands see an influx of both land-based tourists and cruise ship visitors – as many as 70,000 - during the tourist season (October-March).

There are a number of self-caterings and lodges located around the two main and the outer-islands which welcome visitors.

Government facts and figures

The chart below highlights the Government's revenue streams (Falkland Islands Government Revenues by GFS category 2010/11 to 2020/21).



Latest key figures

The operating budget for 2024/25 is £101.8 million (excluding internal recharges) with the main areas of investment for the coming 12 months including:

- £18.9m for health and wellbeing
- £10.9m for education and training
- £2.8m increase in government wages, including a cost-of-living increase for all staff and step point increments
- £8.4m on protecting the environment, including funding for subvention bodies and scientific research

Our commitment to capital projects, which provide a boost to private sector activity, will continue in 2024/25. The top priorities within the capital programme are the new Port Facility, new Power Station, Sand Bay Wind Farm Phase 3 and the new waste management facility. Other significant projects and programmes of work include: improvements to the hospital and services for vulnerable people, including the completion of Tussac House in 2024, the continuation of maintenance to Stanley and MPA roads, repairs and investment in new Camp roads, the new Sports Facility, replacement of critical ICT infrastructure, continued funding for housing and building maintenance, and the development of new housing plots which will see an addition of £6m to the capital programme fund.

Part II – Island living

If successfully appointed, more information regarding moving to, living and exploring the Islands is available in the Welcome Guide, however, a brief overview on some areas has been detailed below.

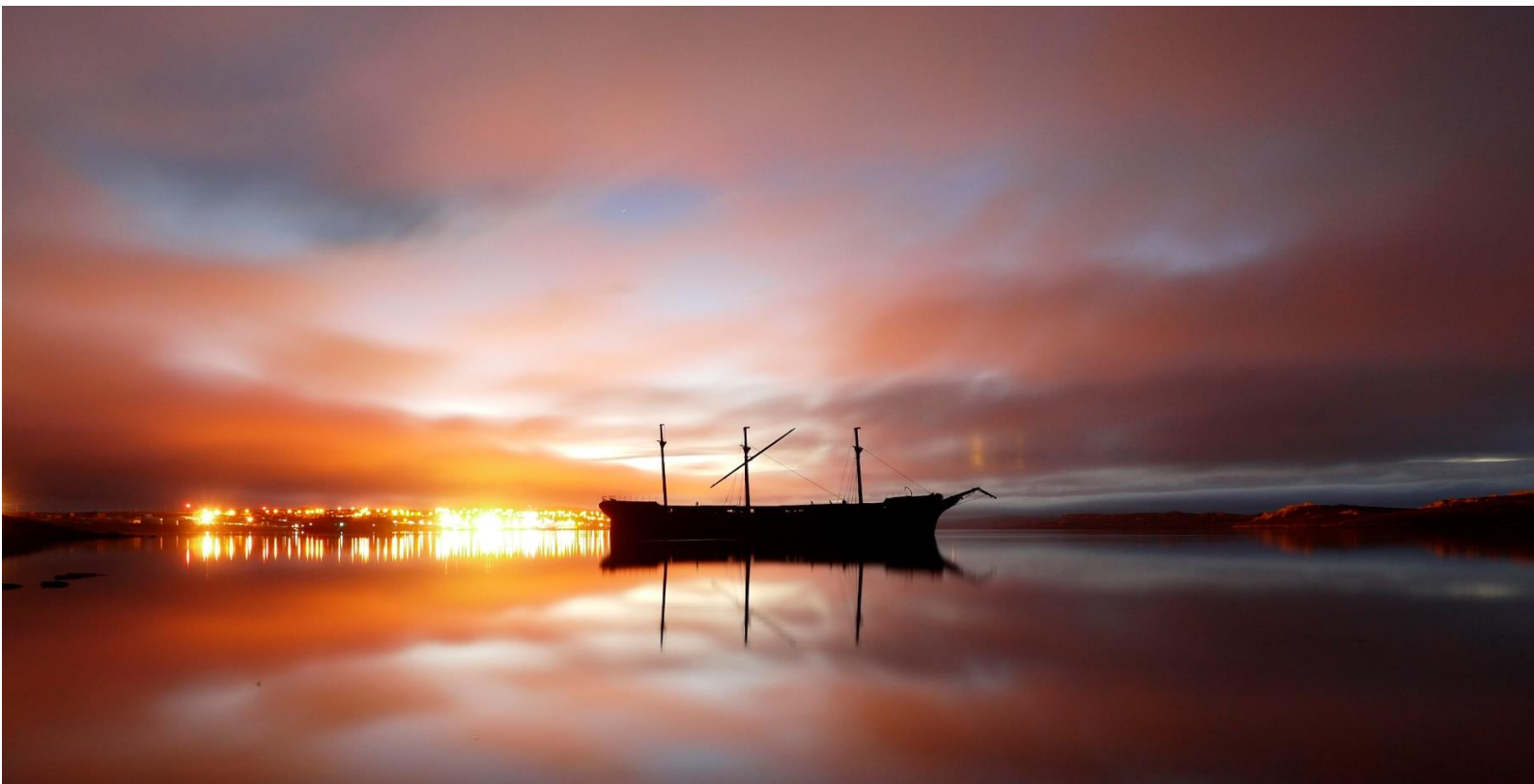
Getting out and about

Stanley is small, it is possible to get around mainly on foot or bicycle, but there are a few taxi drivers working around town. Most people drive everywhere, and cars usually retain their value when you come to resell. There are a number of beaches and hill walks in close proximity to Stanley, including penguins at Gypsy Cove, approximately 10-minute drive from central Stanley.

The [Community Directory](#), developed by the Public Health Unit, provides information about sport, support groups and other clubs or groups within the Falkland Islands. People in the Falklands regularly compete in the Small Islands Games and the Commonwealth Games, as well as in other international competitions. This is co-ordinated by the FI National Sport Council.

Most land outside of town is privately owned – you can't just park up and go for a wander. Permission must be obtained from the landholder. Everyone however is free to roam on Stanley Common – this includes the range of hills/mountains to the West of Stanley (Tumbledown, William, Harriet, Wall, Two Sisters, Longdon, Wireless Ridge), land South of Stanley between the Stone Corral and Eliza Cove, Rookery Bay, Surf Bay, Canopus Hill or on Cape Pembroke peninsula. Leaflets and maps of self-guided walks near Stanley are available from the Tourist Board.

Britten-Norman BN-2B Islander planes can take you across the islands, as part of a daily scheduled air-taxi service from Stanley Airport. You simply notify FIGAS of your chosen date and destination, and they will slot you into the schedule, which is then published on Facebook and Falklands Radio, the evening before travel. There is also a ferry service which operates between East and West Falkand.



Lady Liz shipwreck in Stanley Harbour | © Saul Zuvic

Currency & banking

The currency of the Falkland Islands is the Falkland Islands Pound (FKP) which has the same value as Sterling when used in the Falkland Islands. British pounds are accepted throughout the Islands and dollars are also accepted in some locations. The Falkland Islands Pound cannot be exchanged outside of the Islands, but Bank of England notes are accepted. Standard Chartered bank is the only commercial bank on the Islands and new accounts can be set up to allow salary payment and transfers to and from UK banks.



Cape Pembroke Lighthouse under a blanket of stars | © Marc Bouldoukain

Electricity

The electrical current is 220/240 volts, 50 Hz. Standard British appliance plugs will work in the Falklands. Household electricity is paid for by Electric Card which can be purchased at various outlets in Stanley.

Fuel

Diesel and Petrol prices are lower than in the United Kingdom. Bottled Gas (propane) is comparable to UK prices. [Stanley Services](#) is the provider of fuel on the islands.

Telecommunications

[Sure](#) Telecoms provides telecommunication services in the Falkland Islands. This includes telephone and internet services. Being remote means that there is a reliance on a satellite link. Accordingly, internet speeds are slower in comparison to UK fibre optic, and services are more expensive.

Shopping

Stanley has two large supermarkets and several smaller convenience stores. These are stocked with a good selection of imported goods (canned, frozen and other packaged foods). Supplies of fruit and vegetables are grown locally or imported from South America. These in particular can be in limited supply and more expensive than the UK. Fresh local produce such as beef/lamb is readily available and of good quality and typically less expensive than the UK.



King Penguins | © Marc Bouldoukain

Eating out

Stanley has several good quality restaurants serving a range of local food. There are also several diners in Stanley and some of the local pubs provide bar meals. Falkland menus feature locally grown produce such as lamb, beef and vegetables, as well as seafood caught both inshore and offshore. Strong links with Chile mean that a range of excellent wines are also available from South America.

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