



Falkland Islands Government

News Release

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Falkland Islands Celebrate the Queen's Birthday

Wednesday 21 April is the Queen's 84th Birthday but it won't be celebrated in the UK – she'll have to wait until the summer for her official birthday in June. In the Falkland Islands, however, where the population is 94% British and proud of it, the Queen's actual birthday is celebrated with a Public Holiday, a Parade through the streets of Stanley, and a fly past by the RAF.

Situated 8,000 miles away from Britain, the people of the Falkland Islands have a great and long lasting affinity to the United Kingdom which can be traced back to 1766 when the first British Settlement on the Islands was created.

A Falklands take on this very British event illustrates the extraordinary mix of local flavour and traditional ties to the UK that makes the Falklands so unique.

Queen's Birthday Parade

The Parade to celebrate the Queen's birthday will be held at Victory Green in Stanley, the Falkland Islands' capital, and will be followed by a march past at which His Excellency the Governor will take the Royal Salute. The Governor is the Queen's representative in the Islands and will be resplendent in his 19th century admiral's uniform, topped off by a white plumed helmet. Victory Green is a public park created along the sea-front on Stanley's main street (Ross Road) to commemorate the end of the First World War.

Taking part in the Parade will be contingents of the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Air Force, the Falkland Islands Defence Force supported by the Minden Band of the Queen's Division, and members of youth organisations. Also in attendance will be representatives of the Legislative Assembly and Falkland Islands Government officials. There will be a fly-past by the Eurofighter Typhoon jets that are stationed in the Falkland Islands and a 21-gun salute.

The Parade is an important occasion for Islanders and gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their loyalty to the Crown and pay their respects to Her Majesty, whose presence is symbolised by the flying of the Royal Standard during part of the ceremony.

Ten more things you didn't know about the Falklands...

1. *Not one, not two but....* Over 740 islands make up the Falkland Islands archipelago. Calculating the exact number of islands is tricky due to water levels fluctuating throughout the year. The largest islands are East and West Falkland. The majority of the population (just over 2,000) live in the capital Stanley located on East Falkland.
2. *Poles apart!* The Falklands are the same distance from the South Pole as London is from the North Pole. The Islands lay between latitude 51° and 53 °S and longitude 57° and 62°W.
3. *Sunnier spots.* The Falklands enjoy more sunshine than the UK (on average). The weather in the Falklands is warmer in winter and cooler in summer when compared to the UK, also they have less rainfall.
4. *King of the "most southerly"!* The world's most southerly capital is home to an array of southern-most events and attractions in the world. Visit the world's most southerly

cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral, or take part in the most southerly AIMS certified marathon: the challenging Stanley Marathon takes place every March.

5. *Camping?* Anywhere outside the Falkland's capital of Stanley is known locally as 'camp' derived from 'el campo' which means countryside in Spanish.
6. *Ppppick up a penguin holiday...* There are more than 300 penguins per Islander in the Falklands! The main species of penguin on the Islands are gentoo, rockhopper, king and Magellanic.
7. *The survival of Darwin.* Charles Darwin visited the Falklands in 1833 and in 1834 onboard the RMS Beagle and undertook a zoological survey of the Islands; in East Falkland there is a settlement named after him.
8. *Feathered flocks.* Over 65 per cent of the global population of black-browed albatross reside in the Falkland Islands, known locally as the 'mollymawk'. At Steeple Jason, northwest of West Falkland, you can see the largest black-browed albatross colony in the world. There are over 227 listed species of bird that reside in the Falklands, making the Islands a top spot for wildlife enthusiasts.
9. *Sound as a pound!* The Falklands pound is the official currency for the Islands and the value of this tracks UK sterling. UK sterling is accepted on the Islands as valid tender and some retailers and attractions also accept Euros and US Dollars.
10. *Hey Diddle Diddle...* Diddle-dee berries are endemic to the Falkland Islands. These tiny, red, bittersweet berries grow on the diddle-dee shrub which bears fruit in the autumn and are often used to make jam.

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For further information please contact Katie Liddell at Keene on 020 7839 2140 or katie@keenepa.co.uk. Photography and interviews are available on request.

Notes for Editors

1. The Falkland Islands are a United Kingdom Overseas Territory situated in the Southern Hemisphere about 350 miles east of the South American mainland. The Islands are made up of two main Islands (East and West Falkland) and some 700 smaller Islands, covering an area half the size of Wales. The capital Stanley is located on East Falkland.
2. Over the past 28 years, the Falkland Islands have become one of the most modern and dynamic Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom. The Islands enjoy a sophisticated system of internal self-government with self-determination and are economically self-sufficient in all areas except defence - which is estimated to be less than half of one percent of Britain's overall defence budget.
3. Oil and gas exploration in Falklands' waters commenced in February 2010 but it is not yet known whether drilling will be successful. The Falklands economy is healthy, with income from fishing, agriculture and tourism, and 40% of electricity to Stanley, capital of the Falkland Islands, is supplied by wind power. In the countryside approximately 85% of farms rely on wind power, and work is ongoing into the latest technology suitable for harnessing wind power for larger rural settlements.
4. The Islands' population has risen from 1,800 in 1982 to around 2,500 in 2006 (the latest Census). Nearly 96% of the population is British and 79% of the population is aged 55 years and under. The majority of young Islanders chose to return to the Islands to live and work, contributing to its thriving private and public sector.
5. Falkland Islands information is available at www.falklands.gov.fk.

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