About SAERI

SAERI undertakes research in the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) and other Atlantic and Caribbean coastal communities, from the tropics down to the ice in Antarctica. SAERI’s remit includes the natural and physical sciences. It aims to deliver value to its stakeholders, its staff and the broader scientific community within the United Kingdom’s South Atlantic Overseas Territories and beyond.

**OUR VISION**
Is to be an internationally recognised research institute, delivering world-class environmental research from the Falkland Islands that informs the effective stewardship of our planet.

**OUR MISSION**
Is to grow a sustainable environmental research institute in the Falkland Islands through partnership working to build capacity and inform the delivery of global environmental stewardship.
Visiting the Falklands for Research

The South Atlantic islands are remote, and access to them is not always straightforward. Access to sites and resources in the islands often requires local awareness and knowledge.

SAERI is happy to facilitate your trip by providing advice and guidance during the planning phase, making reservations and bookings, as well as providing logistical support when you and your team are in the islands.

This guide aims to provide you with information to make your visit as seamless and hassle-free as possible.
SAERI services and hosting costs

• Facilitation fee:
  1. £65 – Light Facilitation: advice on flights, contacts for accommodations, car hire and landowners contacts etc.
  2. £125 – Full Facilitation: booking of accommodations, contacting landowners etc.

• Desk space in the SAERI office, where available, can be arranged in advance at £20 per day.

• Internet access is available at the SAERI Office and will be charged at the end of your stay.

• Local telephone calls are not charged. International calls made will be charged retrospectively

• Costs incurred on your behalf are to be settled with SAERI before leaving the Falklands. Cash or bank transfer are acceptable forms of payment
Getting to the Falkland Islands

There are two main ways to arrive in the Falklands:

- **Direct flights are from RAF Brize Norton near Oxford, UK.** Southbound flights depart late on a Sunday and a Wednesday. Flight costs approx. £1565 return if facilitated through SAERI.

- **LATAM provides a weekly flight on a Saturday from Santiago, Chile, via Punta Arenas.** Rates do vary. Please contact your local travel agent to book these.

  If you are flying via LATAM Airlines, please be aware that a £26 departure tax is to be paid at the airport or in advance at the Customs office in Stanley. Cash only.

- **Transfers to and from Stanley from Mount Pleasant Airport** should be arranged in advance – we can help you with this.
Accommodation options

The Falkland Islands sees many visitors in the summer months and therefore accommodation can be hard to find at reasonable rates. Booking as far in advance as possible is always wise.

- B&Bs – range from £75 - £150 per person per night.
- Hotels – Malvina House Hotel and The Waterfront range from £120 - £200 per person per night.

Please see website below for details of choices:
https://lookoutlodge.co.fk/short-term-accommodation/
https://www.falklandislands.com/accommodation
Money Matters

The currency on the islands is Falkland Islands Pound (FKP) and Great British Pound (GBP).
Please note that Falklands Pounds cannot be accepted or exchanged anywhere outside the Falkland Islands

- There is only one ATM on the Island – Located at the Stanley Services Fuel Station, and cash can be obtained from the bank (Monday – Friday, 8.30am–3pm). Some shops offer a cashback service for a fee

- Although majority of shops can now accept payments via card, a lot of transactions are on a cash basis. It is important to ensure that this is factored into planning your trip.

- US Dollars and Chilean Pesos are accepted in some stores, but we recommend exchanging money to GBP before arriving in the Falklands for the best exchange rate.
Getting about

Stanley is 4 miles from end to end so nothing is ever that far away. Walking and taking in the views en-route is pleasant providing the weather is being kind.

Note that there is no public transport on the islands.

- SAERI has vehicles which may be hired. These are available at £40 per day for use around Stanley and at £80 per day for use out in 'Camp' and for travel across to West Falklands. There will also be a cleaning fee included after use.
- Other Vehicle hire ranges from £55 - £65 per day. It is not possible to drive off-road in rental vehicles and most are not allowed on West Falkland. Please factor this in if you are renting a vehicle. mcdobb@horizon.co.fk and rkspink@Hotmail.com can be contacted regarding hiring.
- Taxis are available within Stanley and drop-offs beyond Stanley (beach, Stanley Airport) are possible, but call ahead to get a quote.

There is no right of way in the islands and land owner permission must be sought prior to visiting any location. The same applies for camping. There are no rambling rights excepting the Stanley Commons.

Private drivers can be arranged for day trips to remote locations and also for tour guiding. We can facilitate this for you.
The Weather

It is common to experience all four seasons of weather in one day. It is nearly always windy. Just because it is summer does not mean it will not snow. All weather clothing and sunscreen should be taken ‘just in case’ wherever you go. We recommend layering your clothing. Having said this, if you are lucky enough to be here when the sky is blue and the sun is out, there really is no better place to be!

Useful Information

- The official language of the Falkland Islands is English. Spanish is widely spoken.

- The electricity supply is 240v, 50hz with a standard UK three-pin plug, so don’t forget an adaptor.

- Visitors who are not UK residents are required to pay for any medical services received and travel insurance (inclusive of medical evacuation) is needed to stay in the islands.

- Over-the-counter medicines can be easily purchased in local supermarkets, but if you take prescribed medicine it is highly recommended that you bring sufficient supplies for your stay.
Island Hopping

There are two ways to move from island to island these are:

• **Work Boat Services.**
  They provide a ferry service between East and West Falklands and can be contacted on admin@workboat.co.fk.
  For further information visit: www.workboat.co.fk

• **FIGAS provide internal flights.**
  These do not run to a set schedule and can be booked 48hrs before you need to fly. The average cost is £142.00 return.
  For quotes on flights email: operations@figas.gov.fk
  Flights can be paid for at Stanley airport before flying. Cash and card are accepted.
  For further info on the flights: https://www.falklands.gov.fk/aviationservice/
Communications

Communication in the Falklands is expensive and bandwidth is sacred. For most people at their point of origin, access to the internet is cheap, fast and unlimited.

- SURE WiFi vouchers can be purchased. These allow you to access the internet in ‘hotspot’ locations (cafés, bars and restaurants) around Stanley. Voucher costs begin at £10 and this will last approximately 45 minutes. The connection is often erratic and/or slow.

- Local SIM cards for mobile phones can be purchased for £30 which includes £10 credit – your mobile phone has to be unlocked

- If you have a contract phone, you may be able to use the local mobile network with your own SIM card, but please check this website for an up to date list of their roaming partners: http://www.sure.co.fk/
SAERI AND DATA

As part of your Research License Agreement you are required to ensure that a copy of your metadata is left in the islands for the benefit of the Falkland Islands people.

Please send it to: info@saeri.ac.fk

More information on Guidelines and Data Policies can be found here:

Undertaking Research in the Falklands: Practical Considerations

All research needs a research permit and this needs to be applied for in advance of your trip.
Email: environmental.assistant@sec.gov.fk for further information and read through this page: https://www.south-atlantic-research.org/research/data-science/check-list-before-arriving-to-the-falklands/

**Exporting Scientific Samples**
Importing and exporting geological and biological samples requires permits.
Please read the Falkland Islands Government guidelines following this page and contact the relevant departments for more information.
Export guidelines

This document lays out the export restrictions for lawfully obtained geological and biological items from the Falkland Islands.

Any passengers travelling through Chile will need to pass through Customs checkpoints. There are strict biosecurity rules governing imports that may mean items containing biological material (including but not limited to shells, soil, plant material and sand) can be confiscated on arrival.

The Department of Natural Resources (Agriculture & Fisheries) can issue phytosanitary certificates for plant samples, required for import permits on arrival in other countries; a minimum of 10 working days is required to process samples before the permit can be granted. The Veterinary Department certifies live animal exports (e.g. pets), with the process taking an absolute minimum of 21 days before departure for requisite vaccinations.

The Falkland Islands Government is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Any export of CITES species requires a permit from the Department of Customs & Immigration. These require a minimum of 10 working days to process as they may require equivalent permits from the importing country. There is a financial cost to this process. Visit www.cites.org to see the full list of CITES species.
The Environmental Planning Department issues research permits and through these can give advice on exporting biological samples; a full guidance document is available on their website. Protection of wild birds, animals and plants is ensured under the Wildlife & Conservation Ordinance 1999 and implemented by the Environmental Planning Department.

The Falkland Islands Countryside Code states that whalebones, skulls, eggs or other such items may not be exported from the Falkland Islands and may constitute an offence with possible fines up to £3000. For further information please visit: https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment/environment-department

Falklands Conservation or the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) may be able to assist visiting researchers with appropriate processes and packaging methods for exporting scientific samples. The Department of Mineral Resources can issue export permits for scientific or commercial geological samples to prove authenticity of sample origin for the importing country. General rules concerning fossicking can be found under section 25 of the Mining Ordinance 2005 which can be downloaded from www.legislation.gov.fk.

Items not covered above may not be subject to specific legal impediment. However, all materials are subject to maritime and aviation security restrictions and carrier requirements. Items that cannot be scanned may be confiscated. LATAM require any rocks/stones to travel in hold luggage.