



PORT STANLEY

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Great Britain's incomparable 18th century writer, Dr. Samuel Johnson, was convinced that though the English were the "undisputed lords of tempest-beaten barrenness" the Falkland Islands were not worth one drop of English blood. Referring in sympathy to the bleak isolation of the British military garrison stationed in the Falklands, Johnson writes; "They must be in a state that contemplates with envy the exiles of Siberia." And isolated they were. Mother England lays nearly 8,000 miles over the north-east horizon and the closest point of the Tierra del Fuego mainland is 350 miles to the southwest across some of the most treacherous and unforgiving waters on earth.

The Falkland Islands are a self-governing Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom and the islanders are British citizens. Stanley was named in honor of the thrice elected Prime Minister of 19th century England, Lord Edward Stanley. Over the years Stanley has been an important whaling center and coaling station for the Royal Navy. The island has been and continues to be a supplier of fine wool and sheep. There are approximately 240 sheep on the islands ... that's 240 sheep for every man, woman and child ... adding up to well over ½ million. Today Stanley has expanded its economic base with commercial fishing and, of course, tourism.

The Falklands have, on occasion, been described as little more than desolate and windblown rocks cast into the middle of nowhere. However, to many countless men Stanley the last port of call they would ever live to see. And what of those who had sailed west to east around the fearsome Cape Horn...their canvas now in shreds, their ships and sailors now battered. It is impossible to imagine the joy and the indescribable gratitude courageous survivors must have felt when finally setting eyes upon what to them was surely nothing short of a paradise. This was no "bleak and gloomy solitude" of a rock...this was a safe port in the storm tossed tempest of the southern sea...this was Stanley and these are the "Land ho...bless it all, we made it... eight bells and all is well!"... Falkland Islands!

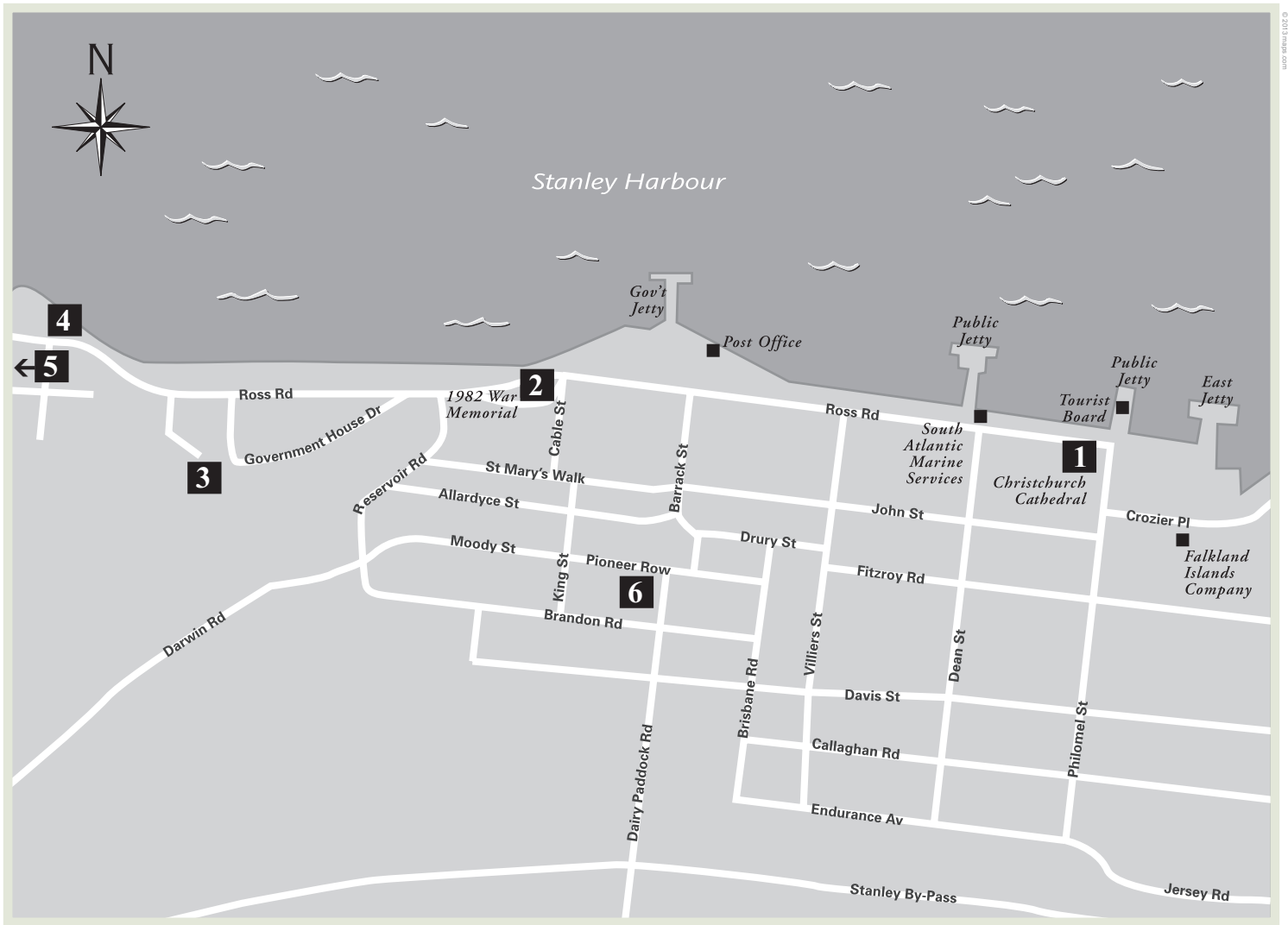


HISTORY

History credits England's Elizabethan era navigator and explorer John Davis with having discovered the Falkland Islands in 1592. The islands, however, had already been on many maps for nearly a century making it far more likely that Ferdinand Magellan or Amerigo Vespucci had charted them first. But it was English Captain John Strong in 1690 that made the first recorded landfall, claiming the islands for Britain and naming them in honor of the Commissioner of the Royal Admiralty, Antony Cary, 5th Viscount of Falkland, Scotland. It would take over ¾ of a century before the first English settlement was established. Over the next 200 years the islands were alternately abandoned and resettled and claimed by France, Spain, Argentina and England. The United Kingdom took firm control in 1833.

The British built Stanley and its Royal Navy base in 1843. The port proved to be invaluable for England's South Atlantic Navy and a welcomed refuge for international merchant ships that were attempting to or had just succeeded in sailing around South America's dangerous and deadly Cape Horn.

In June, 1982 the military junta that ruled Argentina made a grave miscalculation of British resolve when they ordered their troops to invade and reclaim the Falklands from the United Kingdom. England, led by Prime Minister Margret Thatcher, called on their Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Nepalese Gurkhas to retake the islands. Fighting was



fierce and both sides lost many precious lives on land and sea and in the air. England proved victorious. The Argentine military junta fell and was replaced by a democracy. But Argentina has not relinquished its claim to these islands they call Las Islas Malvinas. Dr. Johnson wrote of the Falklands over 200 years ago; "Claims that have remained doubtful for ages cannot be settled in a day." Today the United Kingdom and the people of the Falkland Islands have no doubts whatsoever.

PORT STANLEY PLACES OF INTEREST

1 The **Christ Church Cathedral** was completed in 1892. This Anglican Church claims to be the southern most church in the world. Representing the fact that Stanley was once an important whaling center, there is a large and distinctive arch in front of the church that is made from Blue Whale jaw bones.

2 The **Liberation Monument** is dedicated to the memory of the members of England's Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines that lost their lives in the 1982 war to free the island and its people from Argentine military occupation.

3 **Government House** is designated as a national historic site, a "listed building" of the United Kingdom. This handsome stone building has been the residence of the island's governors since its construction in 1845.

4 The **1914 Battle of the Falklands Memorial** is dedicated to the men of Britain's Royal Navy who defeated a fleet from the Imperial German Navy in the waters east of the islands thereby saving the Falklands from occupation. The date, December 8, is still celebrated annually in Stanley.



5 The **Falkland Islands Museum** is located in Stanley's Britannia House. The museum is home to an extremely interesting display of artifacts, documents, photographs, models and maritime instruments that tell the story of Stanley's amazing seafaring history.

6 The **Nutt Cartmell Cottage** is located on Pioneer Road. This cottage is one of the original homes that were built in Stanley in the mid 1800s. The authentic and everyday furnishings, household items and photographs give visitors a feel for what life has been like in Stanley over the past century and a-half.

Beyond Port Stanley

Bluff Cove and **Sparrow Cove** are home to impressive and interesting penguin colonies. Falkland Islanders are justly proud of and go to great lengths to care for these protected birds.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Port Stanley and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only the items you need and secure any valuables on-board.

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Bargaining: Prices are generally fixed.

Tipping: A 10% tip is customary at restaurants and pubs. It is usually added to the bill. A 10% tip for taxis is common.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

Most produce available on the island is grown in local green houses using hydroponics. Cuisine on the island is primarily and understandably English. Tea, mutton, lamb and fish and chips are common fare.

English beer (bottled or canned, not on tap) is the most common adult beverage.

SHOPPING FACILITIES

The Falklands are famous for the quality of wool produced. It is understandable that the locally made sweaters and knitwear are of a very high quality and available at a very reasonable price. Falkland Island stamps and jewelry made out of Falkland pebbles (a type of agate) are also very popular with guests visiting the island.

LOCAL CURRENCY

The Falkland Pound is the island's currency. It is tied to the British Pound Sterling which also circulates on the island. U.S. dollars and euros are also widely accepted. Many establishments accept Visa and MasterCard.

POST OFFICE

The Post Office is located in Stanley's Town Hall which is on Ross Road approximately 300 yards to the west of the Jetty Visitor Centre.

TRANSPORTATION

Limited taxi service is available in Stanley.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Falkland Islands Tourist Information Office in Stanley is located in the Jetty Visitor Center, which is adjacent to the pier.

