



CAST YOUR LINE TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ON A WILDERNESS FISHING BREAK

The pristine wilderness of the Falklands, the abundance of wildlife and the breathtaking scenery make the Falkland Islands a fisherman's paradise.

Whether casting out into the crystal blue waters of the ocean, or enjoying the perfectly situated rivers and treeless banks, the strong runs of fish will surprise many a keen angler. This compact group of over 740 islands enjoys a remote location, 400 miles off the south-eastern tip of South America, and boasts waters teeming with fish.

Whether it's river, estuary or sea fishing, there are many locations to fish in the license-free Falklands waters. Some of the highlights include:

- Warrah River – Relatively short river in the foothills of Mount Robinson and Muffler Jack Mountain at the northern end of West Falkland, with a reputation for the size and quality of fish rather than quantity.
- Chartres River – Smaller than the Warrah and best known for its consistency, deep runs and pools. It's more common to find larger quantities of fish here. Chartres lies in the south-western foothills of the Hornby Mountains, flowing for 15 miles before running into the sea at Christmas Harbour.
- San Carlos River – An easy drive from the capital, Stanley, San Carlos rises between Wickham Heights and White Mountain and flows into the Falkland Sound through a long estuary and Port San Carlos. It is a slow flowing river with some pools as well as good fishing opportunities on the estuary throughout the main season.
- Murrell River – Close to the capital, Stanley, on the eastern slopes of Mount Vernet, this short river has a freshwater stretch that is closed to public fishing but the estuary provides excellent opportunities, with easy bank access and wading.



A number of other spots are regularly fished on full or half day ventures from Stanley and Mount Pleasant including The Frying Pan, Swan Inlet and the Estancia. And when the fish stop biting and the sun sets, expect to spend your evenings feasting on local squid, Blackened Patagonian Toothfish, smoked Upland goose breast pate or butterfly leg of mutton or fish, all local specialities.

We've compiled some fishy facts to get you hooked on the Falklands

The fishing season officially opens on **1** September and runs until **30** April.

Sea trout fishing in the Falklands is recognised as one of the best wilderness fishing experiences in the world. Professional and amateur fisherman can visit the San Carlos and Little Chartres Rivers are good spots for fishing trips as the sea trout are plentiful.

The Falklands sea trout is actually Northern European brown trout which was only introduced to the Islands **50** years ago.

The species has adapted and thrived in the clean waters of the Falklands with fish in excess of **10** pounds regularly hooked! The biggest sea trout catch has been recorded as **22lbs 12.5ozs**, caught by Alison Faulkner from the San Carlos on 25 March 1992.

In the 2008/09 season the heaviest fish caught was **16.8lbs**.

The Falklands mullet – a member of the group of fish known as rock cod – is commonly found in estuaries and creeks around the archipelago. Mullet in excess of **20lbs** have been recorded but individuals weighting between three and 10 pounds are more common.

Charles Darwin, who visited the Islands in 1833 and 1834, recorded the Falklands Minnow, which grows up to **8cm** in length – quite a sizeable minnow!

The first record of fishing rights granted on the Islands was in **1823** to Jorge Pacheco and Luis Vernet.

Revenue from the fisheries in the Falklands remains the main source of income for the government, accounting for around **60 per cent** of GDP. To sustain the successful fishing industry of the Falkland Islands; its Government devotes some **£5million** of fisheries income each year on fisheries protection and research.

For further information on the Falklands Islands please visit www.falklandislands.com. Media enquiries should be directed to Suzanne Holiday at Keene on 020 7839 2140 or falklandstourism@keenepa.co.uk.



Become a Falklands fan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/naturesbestkeptsecret.

Notes for Editors:

- Visitors do not need a fishing licence to fish in the Falkland Islands, however certain waterways have specific daily limits. For the latest information visit www.falklandislands.com.
- The Falkland Islands have a raw, unspoilt quality that entices locals and tourists back time and again. Visitors to the Islands are spoilt for choice with more than 227 species of identified birds (including several of the world's largest endangered breeding colonies), as well as whales, dolphins, elephant seals, sea lions, delicate flora and rugged geographical formations.
- The best time to visit the Islands and experience the local culture and wildlife is October to April. The average summer temperature (December to March) is 15° Celsius (59° Fahrenheit) and the Falklands has more sunshine hours and less rainfall than the UK.
- There are over 40 international tour operators offering tailor-made packages and escorted tours to the Falkland Islands. See www.falklandislands.com for the latest list.
- Visitors can reach the Falklands on the weekly LAN Airways flight via Chile or the charter flight operated twice weekly from RAF Brize Norton in the UK by the Ministry of Defence.