Protecting wildlife from invasive species

Gorse is very useful for hedging and stock shelter, especially around settlements. Stock eat the young shoots. Where native fachine and tussac grass have been grazed out, gorse may provide alternative nesting sites for birds. Hedges that are managed need to be regularly trimmed to keep them under control.

However, away from settlements gorse is a problem. Bushes spread slowly and may eventually dominate large areas and smothering vegetation, altering soil structure and nutrient levels and changing the habitat structure. These changes can have a long-term impact, persisting for decades after the gorse has been removed. Gorse currently threatens native and endemic plants at eight Important Plant Areas.

To prevent the spread of invasive species and diseases, you are asked to comply with a few simple measures when travelling around the islands: make sure all of your clothing, equipment and luggage is free from soil, animal faeces, seeds, insects and rodents, and scrub your footwear before each visit to a new wildlife site or seabird colony. If you have any questions about biosecurity, or wish to report disease-related issues, please speak to the landowners or call the Department of Agriculture 27355 / Falklands Conservation 22247 for advice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Falklands Conservation would like to thank Falkland Islands Holidays for their collaboration in the production of this booklet - www.falklandislandsholidays.com.


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Falklands Conservation is a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 03661322 and registered charity No 1073859. Falklands Conservation is registered as an Overseas Company in the Falkland Islands.

Falkland Islands HOLIDAYS

Published by Falklands Conservation, July 2016. Designed by Eye on The Ball Ltd +44 1256 478309.

Registered Office: Waterlor Close, Abbotsley, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 6UX.

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Protected under the Conservation Act 1981.

www.falklandsconservation.com
Wildlife in the Darwin area

In the area surrounding Darwin it is possible to see a variety of flora and fauna. Here is a list of some birds and plants to look for during your stay.

**Birds**
- Magellanic penguin
- Western gull
- Rock cormorant
- Black-browed albatross
- Upland goose
- Kelp gull
- Falkland steamer duck
- Crested duck
- Tern
- Cormorant
- Variable hawk
- Peregrine falcon
- Magellanic oystercatcher
- Black oystercatcher
- Tern-banded gull
- Whistling skua
- South American tern
- Bull owl
- Falkland falcon

**Plants**
- Sheep's sorrel
- Gaudichaud’s orchid
- Goose (invasive)
- Orange-haworthia (invasive)
- Sour grass
- Vanilla daisy
- Yellow pale mallee

**Visitor Accommodation**
Darwin House was built in the mid-1970s and has 6 bedrooms with the versatility to make rooms into either twin or double occupancy. Fully furnished the house includes a bar and a conservatory with excellent views of the Cheesewring, Wichram Heights and Mount Ushuaia (705 m), the highest mountain in the Falklands. Guests can enjoy fabulous farmhouse style cooking and relax with ‘smoko’ tea/coffee and a selection of cakes in the sitting room or conservatory.

**Opening Hours**
September-May: 7 days a week.
Non-residents welcome for lunch and dinner. Bookings are advised.
Drop in for tea, coffee and freshly made cakes/biscuits.
For a relaxing away day or for corporate events, Darwin House is available for non-residential full or half day hire.

**Contact**
AI and Lorraine, Darwin House, East Falkland, Falkland Islands, PO Box 122 Phone: +500 31213 Email: info@darwinhouse.com

Contact Stanley’s front road is taken over by 30 minutes drive from Darwin.

Contact Darwin Settlement

Contact Height in feet

Kilometres

Harbour

Farm

Cape Meredith

Hoste Inlet

Farm

Shallow

Double

T

2297

Hill Cove

F

Speedwell

A

Port

F

FALKLAND

Arm

O

SOUND

Darwin

San Carlos

Choiseul Sound

A

Long Island

STANLEY

The Falkland Islands archipelago lies in the Southern American continent. It consists of two large islands, East and West Falkland, and more than 750 small islands and islets.

The Falkland Islands archipelago lies 350 km (280 miles) to the east of the South American continent. It consists of two large south and east of South Falkland (known as East Falkland) and the North of South Falkland. It is approximately 90 km (50 miles) from Stanley.

Approximately 40 minutes from Mount Pleasant Airport, Darwin House is the nearest tourist accommodation and an ideal place to stay or finish your visit to the Falkland Islands. Goose Green airstrip roughly 2 km away is conveniently placed for local flights to and from other settlements, as is the ferry that links New Haven and Port Howard on West Falkland, 30 minutes drive from Darwin.

**Visit Falklands Conservation**

Contact Falklands Conservation is the charity taking action for nature in the Falkland Islands. It is a UK registered charity number: 1073859. You can also purchase securely online at www.falklandsconservation.com

Contact Cassin’s tern. It was rehabilitated for 8 weeks at O Beach, Brazil on the 17 September 2011. It then made its way to Saunders Island and was finally released at the CRAM facility and released at Port William. The penguin’s flipper band had a white cone rubber flipper bands.

Contact Their records confirmed that the penguin’s flipper band had a white cone rubber flipper bands.

Contact The outcome – an information database but much of it is undocumented. Our work informs the Falklands, and adds to the biodiversity of the area. As interest in island restoration has helped Falklands Conservation and restorations and eradications here. Falklands Conservation is working with the FIG Veterinary Department rescue and rehabilitate dozens of oiled penguins. In January we received word that our programme for the Falklands, and adds to the biodiversity of the area. As interest in island restoration has helped Falklands Conservation and restorations and eradications here.

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The area now known as Darwin was originally called Rincon del Toros by Gauchos who were most likely stationed in the Port Louis area. The name would have signified the herds of wild cattle grazing there. In 1833 and 1834 HMS Beagle made voyages in and around the Falklands with the naturalist Charles Darwin on board. He made several forays in Camp and was reputed to have stayed the night in the vicinity of what is now Darwin settlement hence the site received its name.

The settlement was initially a centre for cattle ranching and later more specifically for sheep farming. At the height of development, it was the largest centre of population outside Stanley with over 200 workers. The community included shepherds and farm hands, as well as a master craftsman, a doctor, school master and a parson. Today the estate is not a farm but remnants of these times can still be seen with the original gaucho stone corral built in 1874 and the Galpon, a stone shed built in 1894, beside it. The idyllic surroundings are a haven for flora and fauna.

By 1920 the site became too small for the thriving settlement and over the next 2 years all the farm buildings, church and most of the houses were transferred by sled to Goose Green, 2 km away.

Today Goose Green is the largest sheep farm on East Falkland with over 100,000 hectares of grazing land providing pasture for approximately 80,000 sheep. It is possible to see the farm in action between the months of November and February when the sheep are gathered and then sheared. In 1982 Goose Green became a household name after the first and longest battle in the conflict between Britain and Argentina.
Please follow the guidelines

MAINTAIN A DISTANCE of 6m (20ft) between you and any wildlife at all times.

WILDLIFE HAVE RIGHT OF WAY AT ALL TIMES. Do not block wildlife from returning or entering the sea.

TAKE CARE on steep slopes and slippery rocks.

LEAVE GATES as you find them.

BE AWARE of biosecurity. Do not introduce invasive species to the area.

BE CAREFUL not to trample the burrows of nesting seabirds, particularly those of Magellanic penguins. Avoid walking across areas of high burrow density.

LAMBING SEASON
The lambing season is from October to December. During this time visitors are asked to take extra care not to disturb ewes as they may abandon lambs if startled.
History and military

1849  Boca Turf Wall is erected. Original divide between sheep and cattle farms
1852  Darwin Cemetery was established.
1856  First building at Darwin erected.
1857  The Manse – the Parson’s house was erected in Darwin. The house was demolished in 1970’s, the foundations of the Manse are mostly grassed over but can still be seen.
1873  A church was erected at Darwin. The church was of iron construction and designed to accommodate a school. It was later moved to Goose Green where it doubled as a social centre and dance hall. In the 1982 conflict with Argentina, the church hall was used to imprison 114 locals.
1874  The Stone Corral was built in Darwin for horse taming and cattle work. In 1982 the corral suffered some damage. The Historic Buildings committee effected repairs in 1998.
1890  Stone causeway and connecting bridge built to connect Darwin with the wool shed on the opposite bluff.
1890  New Manager’s house built. The house was built to incorporate the old Manse. Darwin house was demolished in 1979 and the materials used elsewhere.
1894  The stone Galpon was built.
1926  Bodie Creek Bridge built
1950s A 40 bed boarding school was built at Fish Creek. The school was burnt down during the 1982 battle for Goose Green.
1982  Colonel ‘H’ Jones, the commanding officer of the parachute regiment was killed whilst attacking an Argentine position to the west of Darwin. A cairn marks where he fell, as seen in the main photograph.

The ‘Garland’
Built in Liverpool in 1862, 3-masted steel barque. On March 3rd 1900, while on a voyage from Hamburg to Talcuhuano, she put into Stanley with damage caused to her bottom plates by broken jars of acid. After a survey she was condemned and later towed to Darwin to be used as a cool hulk. During this time the figurehead parted from the stem and remained in the mud until 1966, when it was discovered and is now on display at the Historic dockyard Museum in Stanley.

Battlefield Tours:
contact Lorraine or Al on 31313.

A tour helps you understand the battle for Goose Green as British Paratroopers made their way from San Carlos towards Darwin and Goose Green. There are stops at the British and Argentine Cemeteries, Darwin ridge, Boca Hill, the shearing sheds and community centre at Goose Green.

Of particular interest to many are the memorial and grave of Lt Col H Jones who was the highest ranking British Army officer killed in the conflict and was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery.