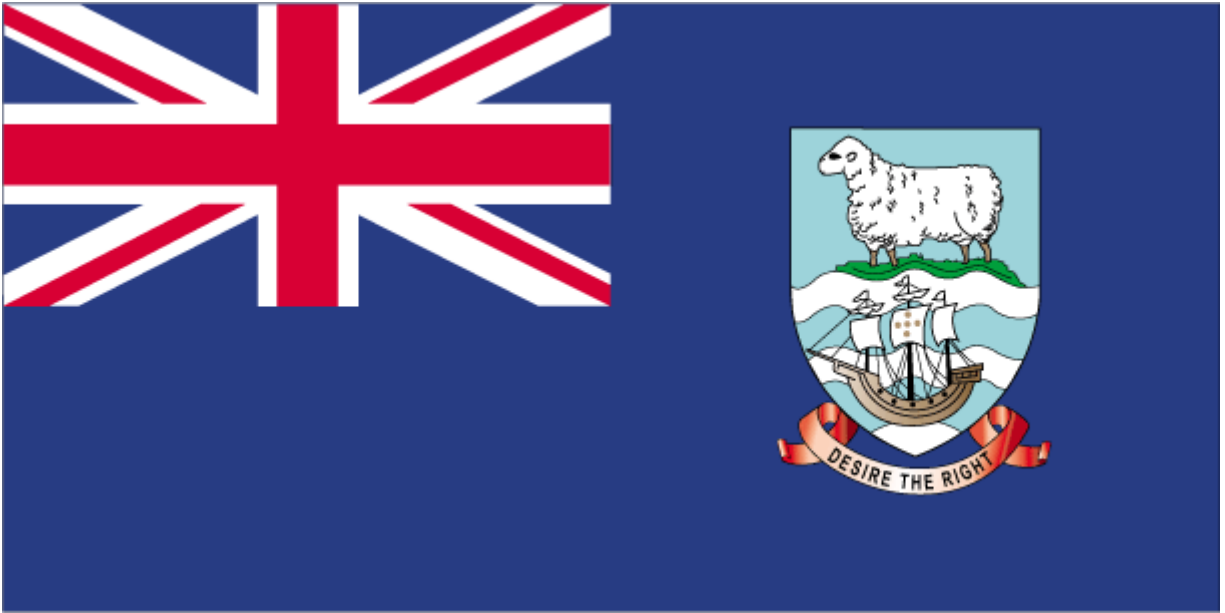




**FALKLAND ISLANDS**  
**BROUGHT TO YOU**  
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## Introduction

## Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)

**Background:** Although first sighted by an English navigator in 1592, the first landing (English) did not occur until almost a century later in 1690, and the first settlement (French) was not established until 1764. The colony was turned over to Spain two years later and the islands have since been the subject of a territorial dispute, first between Britain and Spain, then between Britain and Argentina. The UK asserted its claim to the islands by establishing a naval garrison there in 1833. Argentina invaded the islands on 2 April 1982. The British responded with an expeditionary force that landed seven weeks later and after fierce fighting forced an Argentine surrender on 14 June 1982.

## Geography

## Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)

**Location:** Southern South America, islands in the South Atlantic Ocean, east of southern Argentina

**Geographic coordinates:** 51 45 S, 59 00 W

**Map references:** South America

**Area:** *total:* 12,173 sq km

*land:* 12,173 sq km

*water:* 0 sq km

*note:* includes the two main islands of East and West Falkland and about 200 small islands

**Area - comparative:** slightly smaller than Connecticut

**Land boundaries:** 0 km

**Coastline:** 1,288 km

**Maritime claims:** *territorial sea:* 12 nm  
*continental shelf:* 200 nm  
*exclusive fishing zone:* 200 nm

**Climate:** cold marine; strong westerly winds, cloudy, humid; rain occurs on more than half of days in year; average annual rainfall is 24 inches in Stanley; occasional snow all year, except in January and February, but does not accumulate

**Terrain:** rocky, hilly, mountainous with some boggy, undulating plains

**Elevation extremes:** *lowest point:* Atlantic Ocean 0 m  
*highest point:* Mount Usborne 705 m

**Natural resources:** fish, squid, wildlife, calcified seaweed, sphagnum moss

Land use: *arable land*: 0%  
*permanent crops*: 0%  
*other*: 100% (99% permanent pastures, 1% other) (2005)

Irrigated land: NA

Natural hazards: strong winds persist throughout the year

Environment - overfishing by unlicensed vessels is a problem; reindeer were introduced to  
current issues: the islands in 2001 for commercial reasons; this is the only commercial  
reindeer herd in the world unaffected by the 1986 Chernobyl disaster

Geography - note: deeply indented coast provides good natural harbors; short growing season

People	Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)
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Population: 3,140 (July 2008 est.)

Age structure: *0-14 years*: NA  
*15-64 years*: NA  
*65 years and over*: NA

Population growth rate: 0.011% (2008 est.)

Birth rate: NA

Death rate: NA

Net migration rate: NA

Infant mortality rate: *total*: NA  
*male*: NA  
*female*: NA

Life expectancy at birth: *total population*: NA  
*male*: NA  
*female*: NA

Total fertility rate: NA

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: NA

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: NA

HIV/AIDS - deaths: NA

Nationality: *noun*: Falkland Islander(s)  
*adjective*: Falkland Island

Ethnic groups: British

Religions: Christian 67.2%, none 31.5%, other 1.3% (2006 census)

Languages: English

Literacy: NA

## Government

## Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)

Country name: *conventional long form*: none  
*conventional short form*: Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)

Dependency status: overseas territory of the UK; also claimed by Argentina

Government type: NA

Capital: *name*: Stanley  
*geographic coordinates*: 51 42 S, 57 51 W  
*time difference*: UTC-4 (1 hour ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)  
*daylight saving time*: +1hr, begins first Sunday in September; ends third Sunday in April

Administrative divisions: none (overseas territory of the UK; also claimed by Argentina)

Independence: none (overseas territory of the UK; also claimed by Argentina)

National holiday: Liberation Day, 14 June (1982)

Constitution: 3 October 1985; amended 1997 and 1998

Legal system: English common law

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Executive branch: *chief of state*: Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952)  
*head of government*: Governor Alan HUCKLE (since 25 August 2006);  
Chief Executive Dr. Tim THOROGOOD (since 3 January 2008)  
*cabinet*: Executive Council; three members elected by the Legislative Council, two ex officio members (chief executive and the financial secretary), and the governor  
*elections*: the monarchy is hereditary; governor appointed by the monarch

Legislative branch:	unicameral Legislative Council (10 seats; 2 members are ex officio and 8 are elected by popular vote; to serve four-year terms); presided over by the governor <i>elections</i> : last held 17 November 2005 (next to be held in November 2009) <i>election results</i> : percent of vote - NA; seats - independents 8
Judicial branch:	Supreme Court (chief justice is a nonresident); Magistrates Court (senior magistrate presides over civil and criminal divisions); Court of Summary Jurisdiction
Political parties and leaders:	none; all independents
Political pressure groups and leaders:	Falkland Islands Association (supports freedom of the people from external causes)
International organization participation:	UPU
Diplomatic representation in the US:	none (overseas territory of the UK; also claimed by Argentina)
Diplomatic representation from the US:	none (overseas territory of the UK; also claimed by Argentina)
Flag description:	blue with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant and the Falkland Island coat of arms centered on the outer half of the flag; the coat of arms contains a white ram (sheep raising was once the major economic activity) above the sailing ship Desire (whose crew discovered the islands) with a scroll at the bottom bearing the motto DESIRE THE RIGHT

## Economy

## Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)

Economy - overview: The economy was formerly based on agriculture, mainly sheep farming, but today fishing contributes the bulk of economic activity. In 1987, the government began selling fishing licenses to foreign trawlers operating within the Falkland Islands' exclusive fishing zone. These license fees total more than \$40 million per year, which help support the island's health, education, and welfare system. Squid accounts for 75% of the fish taken. Dairy farming supports domestic consumption; crops furnish winter fodder. Exports feature shipments of high-grade wool to the UK and the sale of postage stamps and coins. The islands are now self-financing except for

defense. The British Geological Survey announced a 200-mile oil exploration zone around the islands in 1993, and early seismic surveys suggest substantial reserves capable of producing 500,000 barrels per day; to date, no exploitable site has been identified. An agreement between Argentina and the UK in 1995 seeks to defuse licensing and sovereignty conflicts that would dampen foreign interest in exploiting potential oil reserves. Tourism, especially eco-tourism, is increasing rapidly, with about 30,000 visitors in 2001. Another large source of income is interest paid on money the government has in the bank. The British military presence also provides a sizeable economic boost.

GDP (purchasing power parity):	\$75 million (2002 est.)
GDP (official exchange rate):	\$NA
GDP - real growth rate:	NA%
GDP - per capita (PPP):	\$25,000 (2002 est.)
GDP - composition by sector:	<i>agriculture</i> : 95% <i>industry</i> : NA% <i>services</i> : NA%
Labor force:	1,724 (est.) (1996)
Labor force - by occupation:	<i>agriculture</i> : 95% (mostly sheep herding and fishing) <i>industry and services</i> : 5% (1996)
Unemployment rate:	full employment; labor shortage (2001)
Population below poverty line:	NA%
Household income or consumption by percentage share:	<i>lowest 10%</i> : NA% <i>highest 10%</i> : NA%
Inflation rate (consumer prices):	3.6% (1998)
Budget:	<i>revenues</i> : \$66.2 million <i>expenditures</i> : \$67.9 million (FY98/99 est.)
Agriculture - products:	fodder and vegetable crops; sheep, dairy products; fish, squid

Industries: fish and wool processing; tourism

Industrial NA%  
production growth  
rate:

Electricity - 16 million kWh (2005)  
production:

Electricity - 14.88 million kWh (2005)  
consumption:

Electricity - 0 kWh (2005)  
exports:

Electricity - 0 kWh (2005)  
imports:

Oil - production: 0 bbl/day (2005 est.)

Oil - 240 bbl/day (2005 est.)  
consumption:

Oil - exports: 0 bbl/day (2004)

Oil - imports: 227.9 bbl/day (2004)

Oil - proved 0 bbl (1 January 2006 est.)  
reserves:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (2005 est.)  
production:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (2005 est.)  
consumption:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (2005 est.)  
exports:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (2005)  
imports:

Natural gas - 0 cu m (1 January 2006 est.)  
proved reserves:

Exports: \$125 million (2004 est.)

Exports - wool, hides, meat, fish, squid  
commodities:

Exports - partners: Spain 81.9%, US 6%, UK 4.5% (2006)

Imports: \$90 million (2004 est.)

Imports - fuel, food and drink, building materials, clothing commodities:

Imports - partners: UK 72.5%, US 15.1%, Netherlands 8.5% (2006)

Economic aid - \$0 (1997 est.) recipient:

Debt - external: \$NA

Currency (code): Falkland pound (FKP)

Exchange rates: Falkland pounds per US dollar - 0.4993 (2007), 0.5434 (2006), 0.5504 (2005), 0.5462 (2004), 0.6125 (2003)  
*note:* the Falkland pound is at par with the British pound

Fiscal year: 1 April - 31 March

## Communications Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)

Telephones - main 2,400 (2002)  
lines in use:

Telephones - 0 (2001)  
mobile cellular:

Telephone *general assessment:* NA

system: *domestic:* government-operated radiotelephone and private VHF/CB radiotelephone networks provide effective service to almost all points on both islands

*international:* country code - 500; satellite earth station - 1 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean) with links through London to other countries

Radio broadcast AM 1, FM 7, shortwave 0 (British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) stations: provides Radio 1 and Radio 2 service) (2006)

Television 2 (British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) provides multi-channel broadcast stations: satellite service to members of UK Forces as well as islanders); cable television is available in Stanley (2006)

Internet country .fk  
code:

Internet hosts: 104 (2007)

Internet users: 1,900 (2002)

**Transportation****Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)**

Airports: 6 (2007)

Airports - with *total: 2*  
paved runways: *2,438 to 3,047 m: 1*  
*914 to 1,523 m: 1 (2007)*

Airports - with *total: 4*  
unpaved runways: *under 914 m: 4 (2007)*

Roadways: *total: 440 km*  
*paved: 50 km*  
*unpaved: 390 km (2003)*

Ports and Stanley  
terminals:

**Military****Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)**

Military branches: no regular military forces

Military NA  
expenditures -  
percent of GDP:

Military - note: defense is the responsibility of the UK

**Transnational  
Issues****Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)**

Disputes - international: Argentina, which claims the islands in its constitution and briefly occupied them by force in 1982, agreed in 1995 to no longer seek settlement by force; UK continues to reject Argentine requests for sovereignty talks

**Information current as of 7 August, 2008**

**SOURCES: The CIA World Factbook**

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