



**Girlguiding UK**  
*girls in the lead*

# Branch Associations

## Falklands

### Capital – Stanley

#### Geography

Consists of East and West Falkland, and about 200 smaller, uninhabited islands, which lie about 770km north east of Cape Horn and 480km from the nearest point on the South American mainland. They cover 12,173km<sup>2</sup>. The landscape is treeless moorland, with deep peat deposits and hills ranging across the northern parts of both islands. The highest point is Mount Usborne at 705m.

#### Climate

Temperature ranges from 3-9°C (36-48°F). The cool Antarctic current means that it is nearly always windy. There is a moderate rainfall of 62mm per annum.

#### Transport / Travel Information

There are 50km of surfaced roads outside Stanley and about 390km of unsurfaced stony tracks. Most road travel outside Stanley is by Land Rover or motorcycle. A commercial ship runs between the Falklands and Britain four or five times a year. MOD ships arrive every three weeks. Flights from Britain are provided by the MOD from Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. The Government runs internal air services.

#### History

First sighted by an English navigator in 1592, the first landing (English) occurred almost a century later in 1690, and the first settlement (French) was not established until 1764. The colony was turned over to Spain in 1766. A territorial dispute has raged since, first between Britain and Spain, then Britain and Argentina. The UK asserted its claim by establishing a naval garrison in 1833. Argentina invaded the islands on 2 April 1982. The British responded and after fierce fighting forced an Argentine surrender on 14 June 1982.



#### Economy

The economy was formerly based on agriculture, mainly sheep farming, but today fishing contributes the bulk of economic activity. Fishing licences for foreign trawlers total more than \$40 million per year, which supports the island's health, education, and welfare system. Dairy farming supports domestic needs; crops furnish winter fodder. Exports feature shipments of high-grade wool to the UK and the sale of postage stamps and coins. Tourism, particularly eco-tourism, is increasingly rapidly with nearly 30,000 visitors in 2001. The islands are now self-financing except for defence. Seismic surveys in the surrounding region suggest substantial oil reserves.

#### Government / Legal

The Governor presides over an Executive Council. English legal system. The crime rate is very low.

## How Guiding Started

The earliest record of guiding in the Falkland Islands was of a Unit starting in 1915, and closing in 1939. In 1947 an attempt was made to revive guiding, but a local leader could not be identified. At that time the Girls' Brigade took the place of guiding and no effort was made to form an Association as there were not enough girls to support two organisations.

<b>1915</b>	First Guide Unit formed.
<b>1939</b>	Guiding ceased in the Islands.
<b>1988</b>	Mrs Fullerton, wife of the Governor of the Falkland Islands, visited Commonwealth Headquarters in London to discuss the starting of a guide Association in the Falklands.
<b>1989</b>	First Guide Unit and Brownie Pack opened. Visit of trainer from UK.
<b>1992</b>	A Falkland Island Ranger Guide travelled to the UK to continue her education and became a member of the Association's Junior Council.
<b>1994</b>	After two years of fundraising, the new Guide Headquarters was opened in Stanley.
<b>1998</b>	A group of older girls attended the World Scout Jamboree in Chile.
<b>2005</b>	Three Guides attended an international camp in the UK.
<b>2007</b>	Visit of Branches Adviser from UK.
<b>2010</b>	A Centenary Ultimate Adventure to the Falklands was attended by UK Senior Section members, who had additional hospitality when flights via Chile were disrupted. 2 leaders and 8 Guides attended the Centenary Camp and Branch Out. Branch Out was held at Waddow Hall, and was attended by nearly 100 girls and leaders from all Branch Associations, so was a unique event.



## Guiding Today

There are Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and occasionally Senior Section members. Many girls leave the islands for further education in the UK, so membership of the Senior Section is limited. All the units have leaders who are Falkland Islanders so that continuity can be maintained.

The girls largely follow the UK programme and enjoy going on parades for events such as Battle Day and The Queen's Birthday. Camping can present difficulties because of the windy weather. Camp fires can also be a problem as the soil is very peaty and can smoulder and burn. This doesn't stop camping, but extra precautions are necessary!