

Mission Atlas Project

Falkland Islands

Basic Facts

Country Name: Falkland Islands (*Islas Malvinas*)

Country Founded in:

Overseas territory of the UK; also claimed by Argentina, but Liberation Day (from Argentina by the UK) is celebrated as June 14th, 1982.

Population:

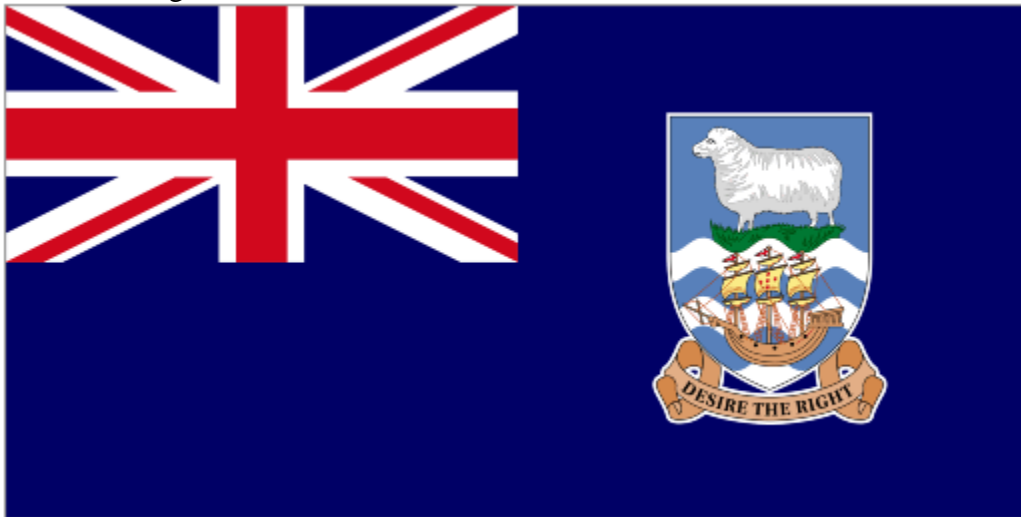
2,967, around 1,000 British military, outside workers, and contractors live there for short periods of time

Geography/location in the world:

Southern South America, islands in the South Atlantic Ocean, east of southern Argentina. It contains two main islands and around 100 smaller ones off the coast of Argentina.

Number of people groups: 4

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot

Freedom of religion is granted under British rule. There is no established church.

Major Religion and most of the population are Christians. Estimates place Christianity as the religion of around 95% of the people. Other religions make up some 3% of the population and non-religious some 2%.

Demographics –

The population is 2,967. The exact figures for the age structure are unavailable. However, the population has been growing at a rate of 2.44%. The birth rate and life expectancy rate is unknown because of the lack of research on these people. There are around 58 people 80 years old or older. 121 couples are living together, but not married.

Around 1,990 people live in the capital of Stanley. Only 144 live on the West Falkland Island.

This will include population statistics, urbanization information and other general demographic information.

Language –

English is their official language because of their history with the United Kingdom. A few converse in Spanish because of their relation with Argentina.

Society/Culture –

Besides British customs, they celebrate Liberation Day (June 14) and Falkland Day (August 14) along with various Christian days. Dress and lifestyle is much like the United Kingdom.

Government Type:

It is a territory of the United Kingdom which is a parliamentary democratic dependency. Therefore, there are no administrative divisions. The monarchy is hereditary; governor appointed by the monarch.

The constitution was ratified on 3 October 1985; amended 1997 and 1998.

The legal system is 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 Howard PEARCE (since 3 December 2002); Chief Executive Chris SIMPKINS (since NA March 2003); Financial Secretary Derek F. HOWATT (since NA). The cabinet is made of the Executive Council who are three members elected by the Legislative Council, two ex officio

members (chief executive and the financial secretary), and the governor. Elections do not occur because of the monarchy which is hereditary; governor appointed by the monarch

Legislative branch:

Unicameral Legislative Council (10 seats - 2 ex officio, 8 elected by popular vote, members serve four-year terms); presided over by the governor. Elections: last held 22 November 2001 (next to be held November 2005), all 8 candidates are independents. There was a 71% voter turnout

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court (chief justice is a nonresident); Magistrates Court (senior magistrate presides over civil and criminal divisions); Court of Summary Jurisdiction

There are no political parties because all of the candidates are independent.

Economy –

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 Falklands exclusive fishing zone. These license fees total more than \$40 million per year, which goes to 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.

The GDP is \$75 million with per capita being \$25,000.

Of those of working age, 98.5% of the men are employed while 79.3% of the women are employed. Overall, unemployment is around 1%. 95% work in fishing and agriculture while tourism is another major source of income. Everyone able is employed and there was an actual labor shortage in 2001. Exports include wool, hides, meat. They import fuel, food and drink, building materials, and clothing.

Their money is the Falkland pound which is comparable to the British pound.

Literacy –

Literacy rates are not available at this time.

Land/Geography –

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

It consists of two main islands with around 100 smaller ones off the coast of Argentina. The land is 12,173 sq km which includes the two main islands of East and West Falkland and about 200 small islands.

It is slightly smaller than Connecticut.

The land is rocky, hilly, and mountainous with some boggy, undulating plains with the highest point being Mount Osborne at 705 m. West Falkland Island is hilly, especially in the east, where Hornby Mountain is located. It is 77m high and is parallel to the Falkland Sound.

Because of the shape of the country, it provides natural harbors, but a short growing season. The strong winds do not allow trees to grow. Though many have tried to forest the land, their attempts have failed. The ground is made of clay, slate, and soft sandstone.

The climate is cold marine; strong westerly winds, cloudy, humid; rain occurs on around 250 days of the year; average annual rainfall is 24 inches in Stanley; occasional snow all year, except in January and February, but does not accumulate

Natural resources include fish, squid, wildlife, calcified seaweed, sphagnum moss.

The land is not farmable so they utilize it for permanent pastors, mainly sheep.

History –

Though the English navigator and explorer, John Davis, first saw the islands in 1592, Sebald de Weert, a Dutch sailor, first visited them in 1600. He called them *Sebald Islands*. John Strong, and Englishman, named them *Falkland* after navigating the Sound in 1690. He is officially recorded with the first landing of the Islands.

The French came from Saint-Malo giving it the name *Malvinas* in 1764. There, Louis de Bougainville founded a naval base at Port Louis. While they were on the East Island, the British established a small colony in 1765 under the leadership of John Byron. During 1770, the Spanish bought the rights to the land from the French while the British left in 1774. Because of Argentinean independence from Spain in 1816, they claimed the land as their own in 1820. They

began colonizing the islands under the decree of Luis Vernet. However, the British took control of the islands in 1833, expelling the Argentines.

Argentina claimed the land under their Spanish name, *Islas Malvinas* while considering them part of the *Tierra del Fuego* Province. Diplomatic attempts were made by the United Nations to settle the dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom during the 1960s, but failed. Argentina, which claims the islands in its constitution, briefly occupied the islands by force in April 1982. These actions lead to the Falklands War and the islands were quickly retaken by the United Kingdom on June 14, 1982. The battle cost 258 Britons and 3 Falkland Islanders their lives.

In 1995, Argentina agreed to no longer seek settlement by force while the UK continues to reject Argentine requests for sovereignty talks. Despite the discovery of oil and natural gas reserves in the waters, both countries agreed to oversee the licensing of the oil companies. In 2001, Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister, was the first leader to visit the area since the War. Nestor Kirchner, Argentina's President, spoke about the islands being part of Argentina. Even today, the islanders are aligned with the United Kingdom. In 1983, they were granted full British citizenship.

Besides the territorial disputes, the Island served as a battleground for the British forces in 1914. The Naval squadron defeated the German fleet at the Battle of the Falkland Islands and gained control of the South Atlantic. In 1939, after the Battle of the River Plate, the British forces returned to the island for repairs.

Christian History –

The first colonial chaplain, J.L.Moody, came to the capital of Stanley in 1845. However, the Anglican Church (coming from England with many of the settlers) did not greatly increase until 1877 to 1907 under the leadership of L.E. Brandon. The first Anglican Church was erected in 1892. The first missionaries from the South American Missionary Society arrived in 1854. The first Catholic Church was established in 1857 while the first Presbyterian minister came in 1872.

The Anglican Church first diocese was founded in 1869 with a cathedral in Stanley. Because of changes in the church, the island diocese came under control of the diocese in charge of Chile, Bolivia, and Peru. During the next few decades, different countries came under control of that diocese. In the 1960s, Paraguay and Northern Argentina were separated from this group. Finally in 1977, it became its own diocese while allowing the archbishop of Canterbury to be the ultimate head of the church.

The Tabernacle United Free Church came in 1899. The Roman Catholic Church erected their building in 1885.

Religions –

Christians are around 95% of the people while other is 3% and non-religious is 2%.

Overall, there are seven missionaries from 2 agencies from the United Kingdom.

Non-Christian

Around 7 people on the island claim to be Baha'i.

45 people claim to be non-religious.

Christian cults and sects

There are 5 Jehovah's Witnesses among them.

Catholics/Orthodox Churches

There is one Catholic diocese and parish among them with around 236 members. As late as 2001, there were 580 members. The church first came to the island in 1885. Michael Bernard McPartland, S.M.A., is the current Prefect. Their church is called St. Mary's Catholic Church and is opposite the post office in Stanley. James Peck, a local artist, painted a pictorial history of the church on the Islands. Currently, the church offers three masses during the week.

<http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/diocese/dfalk.html>

<http://www.falklandislands.com/services/worship.asp?print>

Protestant/Evangelicals/Pentecostals

The *Tabernacle United Free Church* has 5 congregations with 120 active members listed. One of their local congregations is in Stanley. It was established in 1899. The church is named Metropolitan Tabernacle after C.H. Spurgeon's church in England. Currently, Ken Newton is the senior elder. Besides two services on Sunday, they have home groups every Tuesday evenings.

<http://www.falklandislands.com/services/worship.asp?print>

Baptists make up a small group on the island. The first minister arrived in 1888. Exact number of members is unavailable at this time.

The Church of England (Anglican) has 18 congregations with around 175 members. The Christ Church Cathedral is the Parish Church for the Falklands Islands. Because of the Whalebone Arch next to it, it is one of the city's most recognized landmarks. It was consecrated in 1892. In 1992, the Archbishop of Canterbury traveled to the islands to celebrate the centenary celebration.

<http://www.horizon.co.fk/cathedral/>

People Groups –

British (2,967)

They are also known as Falkland Islanders. These people live throughout the islands and converse in English because of their British descent. While they prefer the name Islanders, outsiders regularly call them Kelpers because of the amount of kelp on the island. In Argentina,

this term describes a second class citizen because of their legal status prior to 1983. Most work as farmers raising sheep. Protestant Christianity (mainly Anglican) is their dominant religion while evangelicals are 22.7% of the people. Of those 22.7%, 4.4% claim to be Charismatic. There is a reproducing church movement among them. They have access to the Bible, Jesus Film, God Story Video, audio recordings, broadcasting, and web broadcasting in their language.

http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/encyclopedia/F/Fa/Falkland_Islands.htm

Japanese (20)

These people are immigrants from Japan. Japanese is their only language. Mahayana Buddhism is their dominant religion while evangelicals make up less than 2% of the people. There are no churches, but a few believers. They have access to the Bible, Jesus Film, God Story Video, audio recordings, broadcasting, and web broadcasting in their language.

Latin American White (30)

These people live throughout the islands, but are native Argentines or are considered British Hispanics. Protestant Christianity is their dominant religion while evangelicals make up less than 2% of the people. There has been no active church planting in the last two years. They have access to the Bible, Jesus Film, God Story Video, audio recordings, broadcasting, and web broadcasting in their language.

Norwegian (10)

These people are expatriates from Norway that work as professionals. Norwegian, Nynorsk is their primary language. Most are Protestant Christians. They have gospel recordings in their language.

Missiological Implications –

Because of the lack of Protestant denominations, there are few witnessing Christians living on the island. Besides reaching the island, the Christians can reach the oilmen and fishermen that come from all over the world to work. A growing number of non-religious could erode the zeal of the Christian population.

Links –

Due to the small size of the country, interesting links such as the local news are available at:

www.falklandnews.com

www.falklands.com

www.falklands.gov.fk

<http://www.falkland-malvinas.com/index.asp>

Citations:

www.falklands.info

www.falklands.gov.fk

http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761578569/Falkland_Islands.html

<http://www.nationmaster.com/country/fk>

www.peoplegroups.org

www.joshuaproject.net

www.adherents.com

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/fk.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falkland_Islands

<http://www.citypopulation.de/Falklands.html>

Johnstone, Patrick and Jason Mandryk Operation World Harrisonburg, VA: R.R.

Donnelley & Sons, 2001.

World Christian Encyclopedia ed. by Barrett, Kurian, and Johnson, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2,

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.