





History continued

the British people in 1771, another war, this time over some barren rocks in the South Atlantic, another war costly in men and material that had by the slimmest of diplomatic margins, just been averted.

History credits England's Elizabethan era navigator and explorer John Davis with having discovered the Falkland Islands in 1592. The islands, however, had already been on many maps for nearly a century making it far more likely that Ferdinand Magellan or Amerigo Vespucci had charted them first. But it was English Captain John Strong in 1690 that made the first recorded landfall, claiming the islands for Britain and naming them in honor of the Commissioner of the Royal Admiralty, Antony Cary, 5th Viscount of Falkland, Scotland. It would take over 3/4 of a century before the first English settlement was established. Over the next 200 years the islands were alternately abandoned and resettled and claimed by France, Spain, Argentina and England. The United Kingdom took firm control in 1833.

The British built Stanley and its Royal Navy base in 1843. The port proved to be invaluable for England's South Atlantic Navy and a welcomed refuge for international merchant ships

that were attempting to or had just succeeded in sailing around South America's dangerous and deadly Cape Horn.

In June, 1982 the military junta that ruled Argentina made a grave miscalculation of British resolve when they ordered their troops to invade and reclaim the Falklands from the United Kingdom. England, led by Prime Minister Margret Thatcher, called on their Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Nepalese Gurkhas to retake the islands. Fighting was fierce and both sides lost many precious lives on land and sea and in the air. England proved victorious. The Argentine military junta fell and was replaced by a democracy. But Argentina has not relinquished its claim to these islands they call Las Islas Malvinas. Dr. Johnson wrote of the Falklands over 200 years ago; "Claims that have remained doubtful for ages cannot be settled in a day." Today the United Kingdom and the people of the Falkland Islands have no doubts whatsoever.

#### POINTS OF INTEREST

**1 The Christ Church Cathedral** was completed in 1892. This Anglican Church claims to be the southern most church in the world. Representing the fact that Stanley was once

an important whaling center, there is a large and distinctive arch in front of the church that is made from Blue Whale jaw bones.

**2 The Liberation Monument** is dedicated to the memory of the members of England's Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines that lost their lives in the 1982 war to free the island and its people from Argentine military occupation.

**3 Government House** is designated as a national historic site, a "listed building" of the United Kingdom. This handsome stone building has been the residence of the island's governors since its construction in 1845.

**4 The 1914 Battle of the Falklands Memorial** is dedicated to the men of Britain's Royal Navy who defeated a fleet from the Imperial German Navy in the waters east of the islands thereby saving the Falklands from occupation. The date, December 8, is still celebrated annually in Stanley.

**5 The Falkland Islands Museum** is located in Stanley's Britannia House. The museum is home to an extremely interesting display of artifacts, documents, photographs, models and maritime instruments that tell the story of Stanley's amazing seafaring history.

**6 The Nutt Cartmell Cottage** is located on Pioneer Road. This cottage is one of the original homes that were built in Stanley in the mid 1800s. The authentic and everyday furnishings, household items and photographs give visitors a feel for what life has been like in Stanley over the past century and a-half.

#### Beyond Port Stanley

**Bluff Cove and Sparrow Cove** are home to impressive and interesting penguin colonies. Falkland Islanders are justly proud of and go to great lengths to care for these protected birds.

**SHORE EXCURSIONS** To make the most of your visit to Port Stanley and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure, Shore Excursion TV Channel or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only the items you need and secure any valuables onboard.

**LOCAL CUSTOMS** Bargaining: Prices are generally fixed.

Tipping: A 10% tip is customary at restaurants and pubs. It is usually added to the bill. A 10% tip for taxis is common.

Local Cuisine: Most produce available on the island is grown in local green houses using hydroponics. Cuisine on the island is primarily and understandably English. Tea, mutton, lamb and fish and chips are common fare.

Drink Specialties: English beer (bottled or canned, not on tap) is the most common adult beverage.

**SHOPPING FACILITIES** The Falklands are famous for the quality of wool produced. It is understandable that the locally made sweaters and knitwear are of a very high quality and available at a very reasonable price. Sweaters and jumpers made from authentic Falkland wool are primarily available on John Street at the Wool Center. A few other shops offer garments made with Falkland wool. Be sure to check the label if you want the real thing. Falkland Island stamps and jewelry made out of Falkland pebbles (a type of agate) are also very popular with guests visiting the island.

**LOCAL CURRENCY** The Falkland Pound is the island's currency. It is tied to the British Pound Sterling which also circulates on the island. U.S. dollars and euros are also widely accepted. Many establishments accept Visa and MasterCard.

**POST OFFICE** The Post Office is located in Stanley's Town Hall which is on Ross Road approximately 300 yards to the west of the Jetty Visitor Centre.

**TRANSPORTATION** Limited taxi service is available in Stanley.

**TOURIST INFORMATION** The Falkland Islands Tourist Information Office in Stanley is located in the Jetty Visitor Center, which is adjacent to the pier.