

NEW ISLAND

A remote wildlife sanctuary with an intriguing history and stunning landscapes



Partnership for
nature and people



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NEW ISLAND



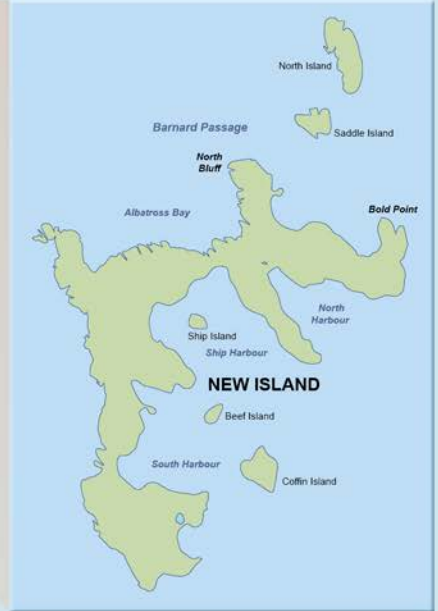
The **New Island Group** is located in the far south-west of the Falkland Islands and consists of New Island as well as eight smaller islands.

New Island Conservation Trust (NICT) were the careful custodians of New Island from 1995 to 2020 when NICT and, local wildlife conservation charity, Falklands Conservation merged. This brought the ownership and management of the entire New Island Group under the care of Falklands Conservation. New Island utilises income from environmentally conscious tourism combined with donations from individuals and foundations to support ongoing restoration activities and scientific research on the island. New Island is a haven for wildlife, with the variety and density of bird life leading to it being classified as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), Important Bird Area (IBA FK011), with the southern half of the island a National Nature Reserve.

Most visitors arrive by cruise ship to experience the incredible black-browed albatross and southern rockhopper penguin rookeries. For those wishing to stay in the self-catering accommodation, limited flight access is provided by the Falkland Islands Government Air Service (FIGAS). However, flights are extremely weather dependent and weight restricted.

Resident wardens manage the day-to-day running of New Island, assisting visitors and researchers during their stay.

The Falkland Islands archipelago lies 350 km (280 miles) to the east of the South American continent. It consists of two large islands, East and West Falkland, and more than 750 small islands and islets.



Further Information

Self-Catering Accommodation:
New Island Wardens, +500 42317
newisland@conservation.org.fk



About New Island

New Island's stunning scenery is matched by an extraordinary range of wildlife. More than four million seabirds inhabit New Island and neighbouring islands. The island is home to over forty bird species, including the world's largest population of slender-billed prions. Significant global populations of black-browed albatross, striated caracara and southern rockhopper penguins breed here.

Due to rich inshore waters marine mammals flourish at New Island with breeding groups of fur seals, sea lions and Peale's dolphins. Landsend Bluff's accessibility enables visitors to see an important breeding location for South American fur seals. Also keep your eyes open for endemic plants including Lady's Slipper, Clubmoss Cudweed, Vanilla Daisy, Coastal Nassauvia, Woolly Ragwort and Smooth Ragwort.

New Island has a fascinating history with the abundance of wildlife and sheltered harbours attracting early sealing and whaling operations. From as early as 1774 New Island was visited by North American whaling vessels from New England hence its name "New". New Island, like many locations in the Falklands, suffered from the depredations of these early mariners, with the colonies of penguins, albatross and other wildlife on the island being a valuable source of oil and food.

Captain Charles H. Barnard, an American from Nantucket, and four crew members were stranded on New Island in June 1813 and eventually rescued in November 1814. Barnard describes his experience in the book "Marooned", first published in 1829. Barnard and his men constructed a rough stone shelter at the head of Settlement Harbour where the Captain Barnard Museum now stands.

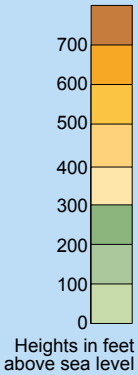
At South Harbour the remains of the only Falklands land-based whaling station can be seen. In 1908 a lease for the whaling station was granted to Salvesen & Co. of Leith, Scotland, employing around eighty men. However, whale catches were comparatively small and in 1916 the station closed, moving to the more lucrative whaling grounds in South Georgia.

A Crown lease was issued for New Island in 1860 bringing sheep and cattle farming, which continued unabated for the following hundred years. In 1972 the land was sold to Roddy Napier and Ian Strange MBE, subsequently dividing ownership in 1978. Ian's long-term commitment to developing New Island as a wildlife reserve focusing on scientific research and eco-tourism led to the setup of NICT and enabled NICT to unite the island as a conservation site in 2006.

The wreck of the *Protector*, near New Island settlement

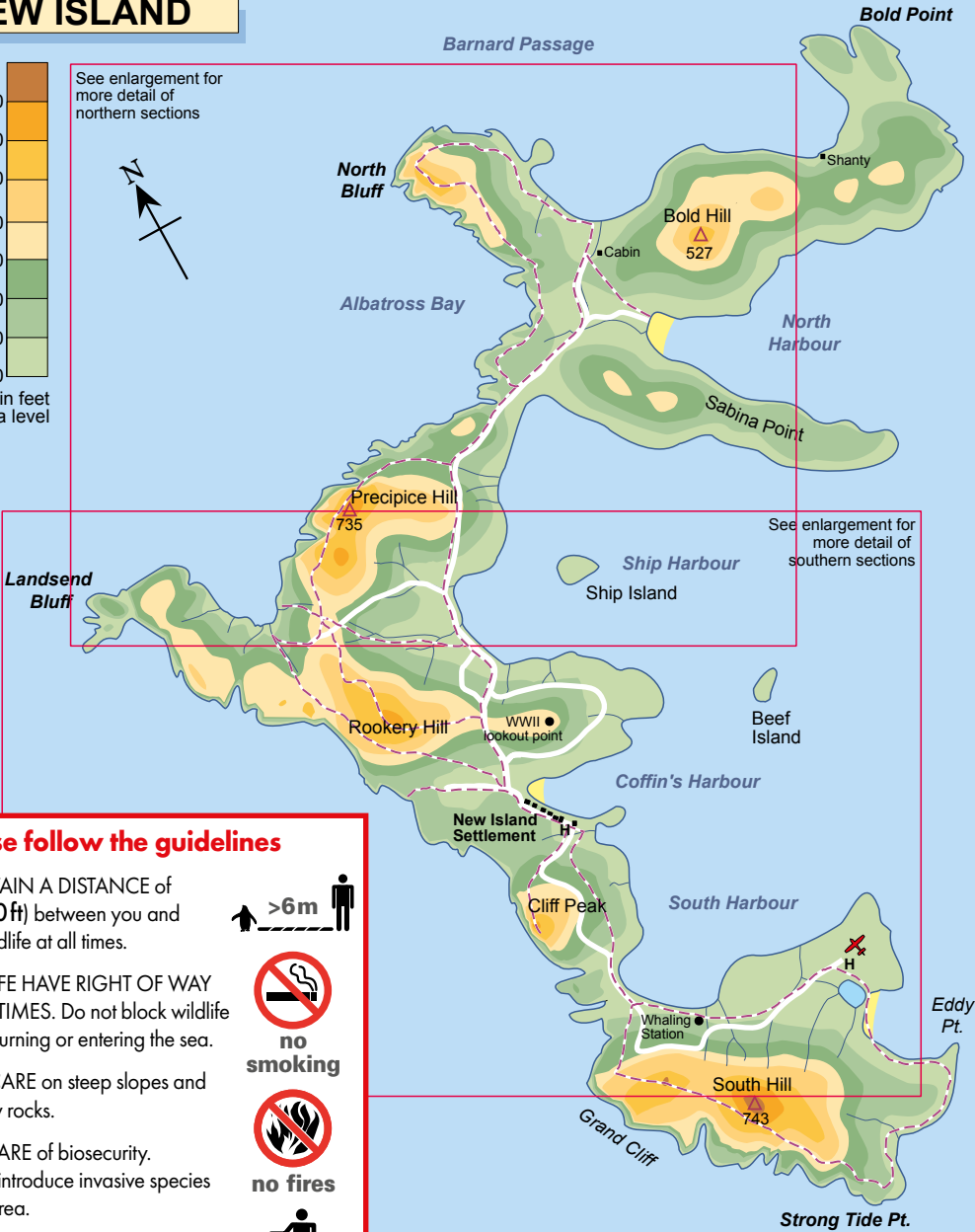


NEW ISLAND



See enlargement for more detail of northern sections

See enlargement for more detail of southern sections



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.



no smoking

TAKE CARE on steep slopes and slippery rocks.



no fires

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

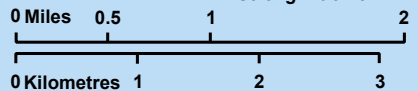


do not litter

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



no flash



NEW ISLAND WILDLIFE



New Island North

Ship Hbr. South to fur seals

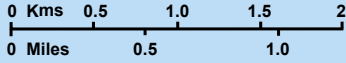
1 mile (1.6 kms)

Ship Hbr. North to gentoo penguins

1 mile (1.6 kms)

North Hbr. to North Bluff

1.5 miles (2.4 kms)



Albatross Bay

North Bluff

Albatrosses can be found all along these cliffs

Magellanic penguins

Cabin

Remains of sealers' hut and penguin boiling pots

Bold Hill
527

North Harbour

Sabina Point

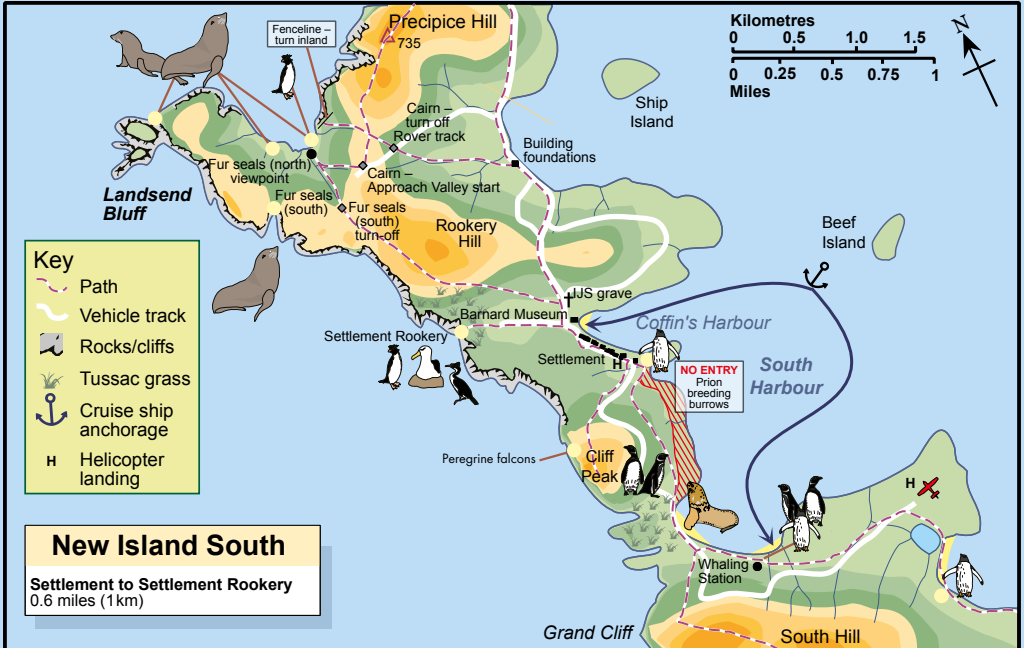
Ship Harbour

Southern Giant Petrels

Ship Island

Fenceline - turn inland

Precipice Hill
735



Scientific Research

An exceptional habitat for wildlife and biodiversity, New Island is also a significant conservation and scientific research site in the Falkland Islands. As part of the commitment to maintaining New Island as a wildlife reserve, it has been developed as an important site for the study of wildlife and the natural environment since the 1970s. The Geoffrey C Hughes Field Station is used as a base for teams of local and international researchers, assisted by the provision of subsidised accommodation and infrastructure.

Ongoing long-term research has focused on environmental and other factors influencing the population dynamics of black-browed albatross, southern rockhopper penguin and slender-billed prion. Concurrent research projects have been undertaken on other species, such as gentoo penguin, white-chinned petrel, Falkland skua, imperial cormorant, upland goose and striated caracara.

Research on terrestrial habitats and species includes comprehensive surveys, mapping of the island's main habitats and an occurrence catalogue of their associated vascular plants, along with some preliminary work on liverworts, mosses, lichens and invertebrates.

Projects currently being undertaken or planned for the future by Falklands Conservation and others include:

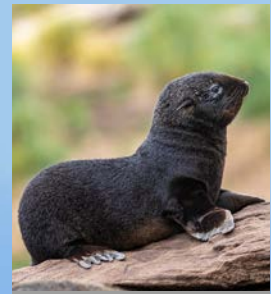
- Monitoring status of black-browed albatross, southern rockhopper penguin and slender-billed prion populations
- Research on the biodiverse plant and invertebrate communities
- Research on other species for which New Island holds regionally important populations, including striated caracara, dolphin gull and Falkland skua
- Long-term ecological restoration of New Island's natural environment.



New Island has some of the most accessible albatross colonies in the Falklands



Peale's Dolphins can be seen close to the islands



New Island is an important fur seal breeding site

The stunning New Island cliffs



Key Biodiversity Areas

Both New Island Group and its surrounding inshore waters are recognised as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). KBAs are sites that contribute significantly to the conservation of global biodiversity and are recognised as holding exceptional population numbers and/or species diversity. Falklands Conservation's partner BirdLife International has analysed that 20% of all birds occur in less than 1% of the world's land area, with the majority of threatened birds having small geographical ranges. By focusing limited resources and actions within these relatively small but disproportionately important KBAs the conservation impact is maximised.

The New Island Group terrestrial KBA, also designated as an Important Bird Area, recognises the value of a number of restricted-range species, including all three Falkland Island endemic bird species – Cobb's wren, tussacbird and Falkland steamer duck; a number of sub-species including ruddy-headed goose and black-throated finch; and regionally limited species, such as the striated caracara. New Island is also recognised as a KBA for the significant overall number of combined breeding seabirds. This includes white-chinned petrel, imperial cormorant and Magellanic penguin along with other seabirds breeding on New Island whose foraging areas include them in the inshore marine KBA namely: black-browed albatross, gentoo penguin, the endemic Falkland steamer duck, brown skua, dolphin gull, southern rockhopper penguin and the slender-billed prion.



There are over 2 million pairs of slender-billed prions on New Island.



Southern rockhopper penguin

Gentoo penguins leap from the water.



New Island Group



The New Island Group is made up of New Island, Landsend Bluff, North, Saddle, Ship, Cliff Knob, Beef, Coffin Islands and Seal Rocks. The outer lying islands off New Island are rarely visited, even by researchers, and are considerable conservation assets that support high profile species including: the endemic Cobb's wren, which can only thrive in locations where there are no mice or rats; relatively pristine native habitats such as impenetrable tussac areas and ranges of bluegrass; and native plants including wild celery and Antarctic bedstraw. The largest known population of the globally Endangered (EN) Falkland's rockcress is located on North Island. These outer lying islands have important breeding seabird populations and many are breeding sites for sea lions and fur seals.

Falklands Conservation works to monitor the New Island group and to ensure their recovery from past grazing and historic introduction of non-native species. Biosecurity measures are critical to avoid new biological introductions. Rats and mice can swim surprising distances, and seeds and plants caught on the wind or ocean currents can take root quickly in new environments.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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To join Falklands Conservation, adopt a penguin, leave a legacy or find out more about our work go to:

www.falklandsconservation.com



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Falklands Conservation

Falklands Conservation is the largest membership-based conservation charity in the Islands, since 1979. We work on behalf of our members and in partnership with the local and international community to conserve the natural environment of the Falklands through community outreach, practical conservation research & delivery, and influencing decision-making.

Our Aims & Ambitions

Vision: *To achieve a well-functioning natural environment managed by those living closest to it*

Being a Force for Nature	Restoring Nature	Ensuring Space for Nature	Encouraging Sustainable Use of Nature
As an environmentally-led organisation, we aim to ensure that we embody the vision we want to achieve	Restoring and strengthening damaged habitats to increase resilience to a changing climate, both on our own land and working with other landowners	Working with the community to find solutions to the threats facing the incredible Falklands environment	Ensuring onshore and offshore industry and development work in partnership with the Falkland community's environmental aims



see overleaf for ways you can support us

How you can support us

Adopt an Albatross!

The Falkland Islands are home to many beautiful seabirds including the incredibly distinctive black-browed albatross.

You can support our conservation efforts to protect these birds by adopting your very own albatross from the spectacular nature reserve of New Island!

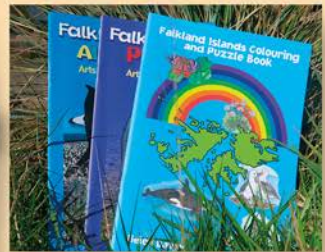
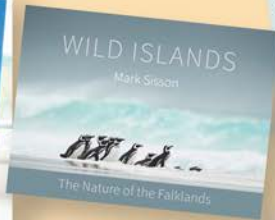
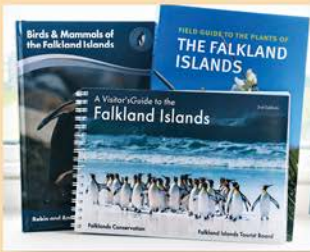


Membership

Join Falklands Conservation to help us deliver a variety of exciting conservation projects across the islands, and receive regular updates on our work.

Shop with Us

From pin badges to craft books we sell many wildlife-themed items in our store and online, perfect for your next gift.



Donate

By donating or leaving a legacy to Falklands Conservation you can directly support our research, operations and hands-on work. For more information, visit our website.

Visit www.falklandsconservation.com to support us today!

Or pop into our store in Stanley, Falkland Islands.

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