

PAYMENT DETAILS

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

GIFT AID

With Gift Aid on every £1 you give us we can claim an extra 25p back from HM Revenue & Customs. To qualify, what you pay in UK Income and/or Capital Gains Tax must at least equal the Gift Aid all your charities will reclaim in the tax year.

YES: I would like Falklands Conservation to treat all the donations I have made in the last four years, and all I will make until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DATA PROTECTION

We respect your privacy. Falklands Conservation will not make your name and address available to other organisations, and will treat your details as confidential. If however, you would be happy to receive information, about other aspects of our work from time to time, please tick the box .

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO: Falklands Conservation, The Gatehouse, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds, SG19 2DL, UK

Have you considered a Standing Order?

(UK BANK ACCOUNT HOLDERS ONLY)

This helps us keep our administration costs down. Either download the form from our website or set up your own using the following details: Falklands Conservation, Barclays Bank, King George Street, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1PX. Sort code: 20-99-40 / Account Number 90442542

You can also purchase securely online at www.falklandsconservation.com/our-shop

Falklands Conservation is a UK registered charity no. 1073859 and a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales no. 03661322.

Please use this form for both Penguin Adoption and Membership purchase, completing the relevant sections.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick this box if you would like to receive updates by email

PURCHASE INFORMATION

Penguin adoption for a year - £25 / \$40 \_\_\_\_\_\*

Membership fee payable \_\_\_\_\_\* (see overleaf for categories)

\*Please indicate £ sterling or US\$ Donation \_\_\_\_\_\*

Please make cheques payable to Falklands Conservation. Total \_\_\_\_\_\*

I wish to pay by Visa/Mastercard (please tick)

My card number is

Card number input boxes

Expiry date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's name \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's address (if different from applicant)

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

The Plants of Bertha's Beach



Dog orchid



Yellow violet



Falkland lavender



Pale maiden

Of the 80 different flowering plants recorded here five are unique (endemic) to the Falkland Islands. The silvery buttercup is found on coastal slopes among grasses and is in flower in November and December. Smooth ragwort grows in rocky places, often associated with tall fern. Coastal nassauvia is a very low-growing perennial producing masses of small creamy star-like flowers from December to February. Clubmoss cudweed is very easily overlooked, growing in tufted mats of tiny grey-white leaves often amongst grasses. The large creamy white flowers of the vanilla daisy are much more conspicuous from November through to January, and have a strong scent of vanilla. Native plants of interest include the yellow violet, dusty miller, fachine, Falkland lavender, and the white or dog orchid. In spring you might come across the pale maiden, national flower of the Falkland Islands. Dusen's moonwort fern is the site's most notable and rarest plant, found here on the coastal greens.

To prevent the spread of invasive species and diseases, you are asked to comply with a few simple measures when travelling around the islands: make sure all of your clothing, equipment and luggage is free from soil, animal faeces, seeds, insects and rodents, and scrub 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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Falklands Conservation is a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No 03661322 and registered charity No 1073859. Falklands Conservation is registered as an Overseas Company in the Falkland Islands.

Falkland Office: Jubilee Villas, Ross Road, Stanley FIQQ 1ZZ | UK Office: The Gatehouse, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL

Falklands Conservation works to conserve the wildlife of the Falkland Islands. To find out more about us and how you can support what we do, visit us at Jubilee Villas, Ross Road, Stanley or go to our website:

www.falklandsconservation.com

Information about other areas of outstanding wildlife and scenery, can be found in A Visitor's Guide to the Falkland Islands.



Find us on Facebook



@FI\_Conservation

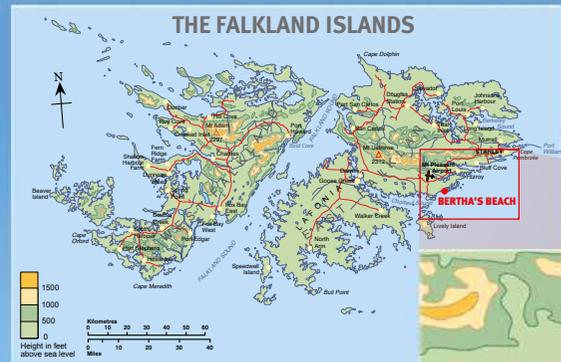
BERTHA'S BEACH

Internationally important for wetland wildlife

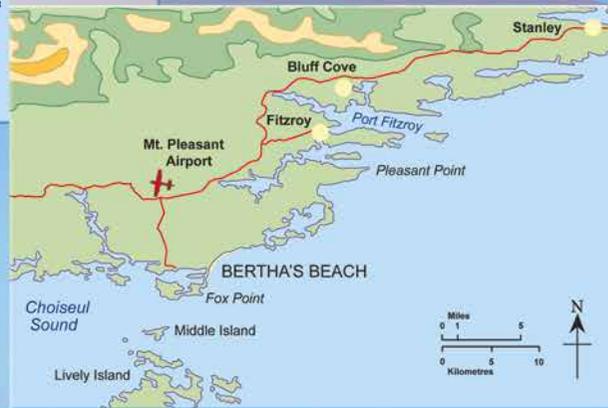


www.falklandsconservation.com

# BERTHA'S BEACH



The Falkland Islands archipelago lies 350km (280miles) 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.



Bertha's Beach lies on the east coast of East Falkland, stretching north-eastwards from Fox Point at the eastern entrance to Choiseul Sound to Elephant Point, which forms the southern entrance to Kelp Lagoon.

Bertha's Beach is only 10km (6 miles) from the Mount Pleasant Complex, making it a popular area to visit by the resident military and civilian personnel. Access is from the Mare Harbour road where a dirt track turns off to the left immediately beyond the fenced landfill. From here a rough track leads down to the beach, beyond a locked gate. Keys for this are available from 12 Facility Reception for personnel at MPA only. All other visitors should contact the landowner on tel: 32384.

COVER PHOTO: Gentoo penguin

## Waterfowl and Wetland Birds

Bertha's Beach contains very good wetland areas for a wide range of breeding water birds, in greater variety and numbers than many other similar areas in the Falklands.

The beach and its surrounding area of pools and greens are also of importance to migrating waders.

Both the black-necked swan and coscoroba swan can be found here.

These are shy birds and will fly or swim to the centre of a pond when approached within 0.5km (1/4 mile). The **black-necked swan** is a resident Falkland bird, but not common, and the Islands' largest freshwater breeding bird. The **coscoroba swan** is all white, with a loud trumpeting call from which its name is derived. It is rare, only recorded from a few Falkland sites but often seen at Bertha's Beach.

Waterfowl recorded here include both the endemic **Falkland flightless steamer duck** (known locally as the logger duck), and its close relative and less common **flying steamer duck** (locally named as the canvasback – a bird which, unlike the flightless steamer, is also found in southern South America). The latter is distinguished by its more slender build, less heavy bill, and longer wings.

Other waterfowl to be seen on the ponds include **Chiloë wigeon**, **silver teal**, **speckled teal**, and **silvery grebe**. It is a good place for keen birdwatchers to spot rare vagrants particularly in summer.



Black-necked swan



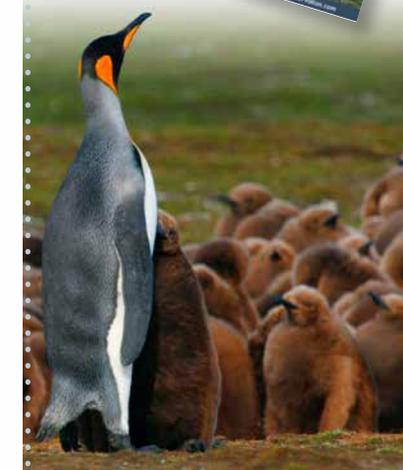
Silvery grebe



Chiloë wigeon



## PENGUIN ADOPTION FORM



- Adopt a king penguin at the remote colony of Volunteer Point in the Falkland Islands for £25/ US\$40 for 12 months.
- Help conservation efforts to protect the penguins of the Falklands.
- Receive a personalised adoption certificate, king penguin photo and penguin pin badge.
- Receive updates from Falklands Conservation.

**Yes, I would like to Adopt a Penguin!** (payment form overleaf)

You may wish to Adopt a Penguin as a gift or on behalf of someone else, if so just let us know the details.

**I would like the adoption pack to be sent to:**  
PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Penguin Name \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP



- Join Falklands Conservation and help to protect the spectacular wildlife of the Falkland Islands.
- Receive a joining pack and membership badge.
- Receive regular updates from the Islands and two magazines a year.

**I would like to become a member of Falklands Conservation** (payment form overleaf)

**Membership category** (please tick)

- Individual (UK, EU or FI) £30/\$50
- Individual (overseas) £50/\$80
- Household/family £50/\$80
- Gold £100/\$170
- Life (one-off payment) £1,000/\$1,700
- Student £15/\$20

To either adopt a penguin and/or become a member please complete both sides of this form

You can also purchase securely online at [www.falklandsconservation.com/our-shop](http://www.falklandsconservation.com/our-shop)

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# About Bertha's Beach

Bertha's Beach is part of Fitzroy Farm, a working sheep farm owned by Falkland Landholdings Ltd. It is named after the ship *Bertha*, an iron barque of 500 tons, which was wrecked here in 1892. Its cargo of cedar wood was washed ashore and some of these logs can still be seen today lying on the beach and greens. Legend has it that the ship was off course due to a magnetic anomaly that occurs around the aptly named Direction Island clearly visible offshore.

Bertha's Beach is one of the best wildlife sites in the Falkland Islands. Bertha's Beach is recognised as a wetland site of international importance under the Ramsar Convention and it qualifies as an Important Bird Area, a global standard set by BirdLife International.

The wide sandy beach is ideal habitat for **gentoo penguins**, **South American terns**, and the endemic **Falkland flightless steamer duck**. **Ruddy-headed geese** graze the coastal grasslands whilst the numerous ponds support **black-necked swans**, **coscoroba swans** on occasion, and many species of waterfowl.

Five endemic plants, found only in the Falkland Islands, grow here.

**Commerson's** and **Peale's dolphins** are frequently seen offshore or playing in the surf, whilst **fin whales** have also been recorded in the entrance to Choiseul Sound.



Visitors are asked to keep to the beach and not to cross the open moorland as this is a working farm. **Take special care in the lambing season, mid-October to the end of December.** Ewes on the greens behind the beach are susceptible to disturbance immediately after lambing, and may abandon lambs if startled. Dogs are not permitted at Bertha's Beach. **No motorbikes or quadbikes are allowed.**



**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.

TAKE CARE on steep slopes and slippery rocks.

LEAVE GATES as you find them.

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

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

**LAMBING SEASON**

The lambing season is from **October** to **December**. During this time visitors are asked to take extra care not to disturb ewes as they may abandon lambs if startled.

**BERTHA'S BEACH**

# The Gentoo Penguins

The scenic walk from the car park along the beach to the nearest gentoo penguin colony (800 breeding pairs) is approximately 3.2 km (2 miles). Gentoo penguins live at Bertha's Beach all year round, most remaining close to their breeding colonies. Traditional, well-used routes, often referred to as "penguin highways", are used to walk between the colony and the sea. Please don't block these routes and remember to always give penguins the right of way.

Counts conducted every five years have found the average Falkland gentoo penguin population to be around 132,000 pairs (2010 census). In some years numbers fall dramatically due to environmental factors (such as the 2002 algal bloom) but the gentoo seems to be a very resilient species and is able to recover fairly quickly from such setbacks.

The Falkland Islands population has remained relatively stable for the past 60 years although, because of declining numbers elsewhere, the gentoo penguin is classified as Near Threatened by BirdLife International. Numbers may have been reduced during the 18th to early 20th centuries by sealers who boiled hundreds of thousands of these birds to extract their oil (one penguin would yield one pint of oil). Gentoo eggs were previously the most popular of all penguin eggs for collection and eating. This tradition has now declined and is illegal except under special licence. In recent years, poisonous marine algal blooms caused by the warming of the ocean have led to high levels of mortality.

Gentooos live on a diet of small crustaceans, fish and squid. The birds usually leave on foraging trips in the early morning and return in the late afternoon of the same or following day. They may swim many miles out to sea in search of food and have been known to dive to a depth of 170m (550ft) in pursuit of prey.

Nests are rather informal affairs often incorporating a collection of small stones or twigs. Two large round white eggs are laid between late September and mid October and hatch in early December. Incubation takes about 39 days and the chicks are brooded on the nest for another month.

The young birds then congregate together into crèches, being fed daily by both parents. Some are ready to go to sea by the last week of January, with the last ones off by the end of March.

Gentoo penguins form long-lasting pairs and are often faithful to the same nest site for many years.



Gentoo penguin and chicks