#### PAYMENT DETAILS

#### **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.

Sianed

#### 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  $\square$ 

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

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS 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 er
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.	
I wish to pay by Visa/Mastercard (please tick) My card number is	
Expiry date	

Cardholder's name

Signature

Cardholder's address (if different from applicant)

Postcode

#### 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 at Volunteer Point

Many visitors come to see the penguins at Volunteer Point each year. Falklands Conservation is helping to ensure that here and at other sites throughout the Islands they all enjoy their visit without causing the wildlife undue disturbance or harm.

Measures initiated by Falklands Conservation at Volunteer Point include a car parking area roped off to limit vehicle use and a ring of white rocks arranged around the king penguin colony to mark the recommended distance from which to observe the birds.

In addition, information boards have been provided describing the life and behaviour of king penguins. Monitoring research work is undertaken every year to gain a better understanding of penguin habits, populations and ecology.

By making a donation or sponsoring one of the king penguins at Volunteer Point, you will be directly helping to protect the colonies and continue this important work.



Adopt a king penguin and help us protect these birds in the Falkland Islands YOU WILL RECEIVE: • Personalised certificate • Newsletters from Falklands Conservation • King penguin photo Leaflet about the colony
King penguin pin badge
Falklands wildlife magazine Available from www.falklandsconservation.com. selected retailers or our office in Stanley

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**

Photos: Ruedi Abbühl, D Gray, Alan R Henry, Kevin Schafer, Christian Simpson, Richard White/JNCC and Nick Woods. Maps by Jeremy Smith and Robert Still.

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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

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



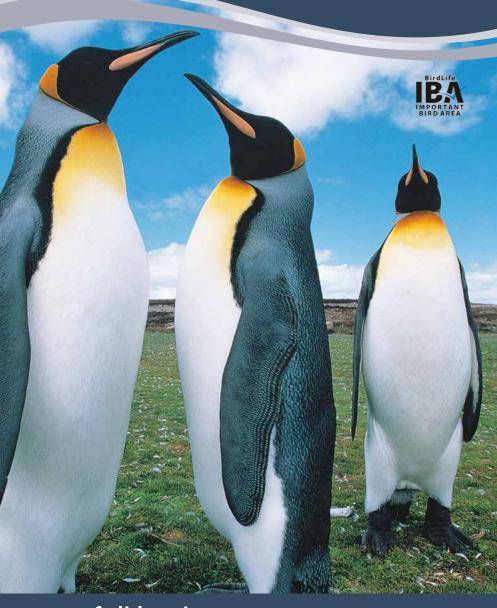




## **VOLUNTEER POINT**

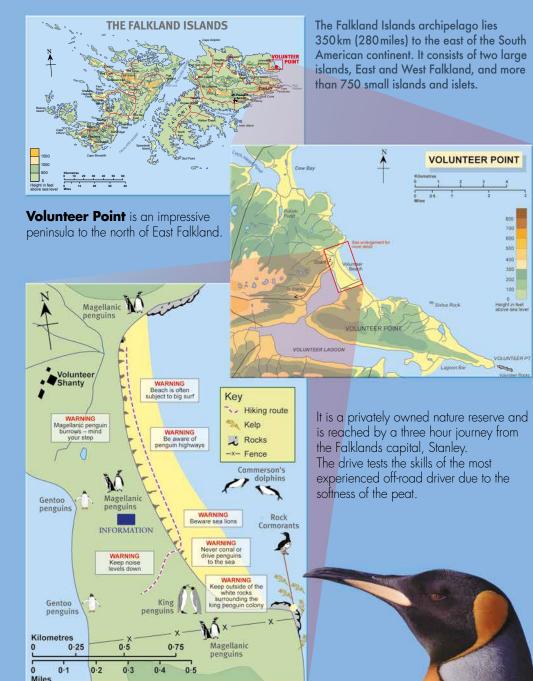
The largest king penguin colony in the Falkland Islands





## www.falklandsconservation.com

# **VOLUNTEER POINT**



The Wildlife of Volunteer Point

The rocks forming the Volunteer Point headland are hard augrtz-sandstones. They are among the oldest of the Falklands' sedimentary rocks, which started their existence as sand beds deposited in shallower water at the margin of a large sea.

Plants to be found here include **sea** cabbage along the beach, carpets of **cushion-bog**, the daisy-flowered shrubby fachine and tasty teaberries.

VOLUNTEER POINT

500

200

Height in feet above sea leve

Over 40 bird species have been recorded in this area including **South** American tern, rock cormorant, dolphin and kelp gulls, Magellanic and blackish oystercatchers and kelp, upland and ruddy-headed geese.

Frequently seen lying in wait along the shoreline are southern sea lions, that will turn a penguin literally inside out with a savage shake. In the summer months, when birds are frequently coming and going from the shallows several can be seen each day patrolling offshore













#### **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 £100/\$170 £1,000/\$1,700 Life (one-off payment) **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

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

## **About Volunteer Point**

Named after the ship *Volunteer* which called at the Islands in 1815, Volunteer Point is part of Johnson's Harbour Farm. The farm, one of the largest surviving in private ownership in the Falklands (21,853 ha, 52,000 acres) with 10,000 sheep, was established by George Patterson Smith in 1870 and stayed in the Smith family until June 2011. It remains in local ownership.

Volunteer Beach is a 3.2 km (2 mile) long white sandy beach, bordered by high grassy banks leading down to rolling greens. These provide the ideal habitats for three breeding species of penguin:

#### gentoo, Magellanic and king.

Other important wildlife areas are the Lagoon Bar and Volunteer Point itself where **fur seals** can be found on the rocks just offshore, but these sites are difficult to reach.

Volunteer Point qualifies as an Important Bird Area (FK21), a global standard set by BirdLife International.

This booklet describes the area around Volunteer Beach, home of the king penguin.

#### Please follow the guidelines

DO NOT DISTURB King penguins, especially when they are incubating eggs (**Nov-Jan**) as disturbance may cause their only egg to be lost.

MAINTAIN A DISTANCE of **6 m (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

>6m

TAKE CARE on steep slopes and slippery rocks.

LEAVE GATES as you find them. **no fires** 

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.





no flash

#### 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.

## The King Penguin Colony

The Volunteer Point colony is the largest breeding group of king penguins within the Falkland Islands, where they are at the northerly limit of their global range.

King penguins have bred here since man's first recorded visit to the Falkland Islands

In 1769 Thomas Pennant, who brought the first specimen away from the Falklands, called it the 'Patagonian Pinguin'.

Early records suggest that numbers were never very high at Volunteer Point, and by 1870 they had been almost exterminated from the Islands, killed for their oil and beautiful feathers.

However, the former owner observed kings returning in ones and twos at Cow Bay from 1947. Numbers expanded

and pairs began to breed again at Volunteer Point. By 1971 there were about 30 incubating adults and nine chicks present.

Today there are estimated to be about 1,500 breeding adults at the colony and 600–700 chicks are raised each year.

King penguins are increasing throughout their entire range.

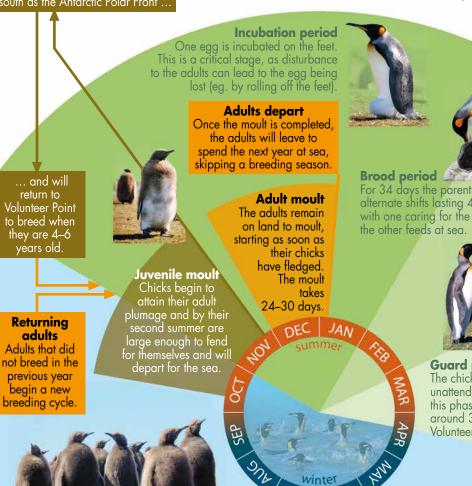
They have a circumpolar distribution and also breed at South Georgia, the Crozet Islands and Kerguelen, Heard and Macquarie Islands.

The world population is estimated at two million. It is thought that the Falkland king penguin population expansion may be due to overcrowding further south at South Georgia.



### **Raising a King Penguin Chick**

**Juveniles** depart They will stay at sea for the **next 3 years**, foraging as far south as the Antarctic Polar Front ...



#### Winter

At Volunteer Point the chicks stay on land in crèches whilst the adults embark on extended foraging trips, as far south as Antarctica, returning only infrequently to feed the chick. During this time the chick has to fast and will lose up to half its body weight, relying on the fat reserves it has built up during the summer for survival.

The breeding cycle of a king penguin takes longer than one year, meaning that a pair can only re'ar two chick's in any three year períod.



For 34 days the parents take alternate shifts lasting 4-9 days, with one caring for the chick while



**Guard** period The chick is never left unattended durina this phase, which lasts around 35 days at Volunteer Point.



Throughout the winter the adults feed at the Antarctic Polar Front on dense shoals of lantern fish

## **Other Penguins**

Over 1,000 pairs of **gentoo penguins** are resident at Volunteer Point. The Falklands are one of the most important sites in the world for this species.

The gentoo population in the Falkland Islands is around 132,000 breeding pairs (2010 census). In some years the gentoo population can crash very suddenly, due to environmental factors. However, the species is very resilient, and numbers have quickly recovered once again.

Breeding commences in October, and the eggs hatch 39 days after being laid. Sea trips for feeding (mostly squid, lobster krill and small fish) take over two days whilst incubating, but less than half this time when feeding young birds. This reflects the constant need of the young for food and the added pressure on the adults to provide this. Young birds fledge about 83 days after hatching, in early February.

**Magellanic penguins** are widespread along the entire Falklands coastline, but are only present in the Islands from September to April.



Lobster krill – penguin food

They migrate considerable distances to warmer waters for the winter months. These birds nest in deep burrows, up to 2 m (6 ft) deep.

The birds lay their eggs from mid-October with the average incubation period of 39 days.

There are concerns that Magellanic penguins have declined in numbers in recent years (though accurate figures are very difficult to obtain).

Studies by Falklands Conservation here suggested that a shortage of food when adults are feeding chicks has led to a low survival rate for chicks.

