

DARWIN

Centrally located historical settlement



www.falklandsconservation.com

DARWIN



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.

Darwin Settlement is situated on the isthmus between South East Falkland (known as Lafonia) and the North of East Falkland. It is approximately 96 km (60 miles) from Stanley.

Approximately 40 minutes from Mount Pleasant Airport, Darwin House is the nearest tourist accommodation and an ideal place to start or finish your visit to the Falkland Islands. Goose Green airstrip roughly 2 km away is conveniently placed for local flights to and from other settlements, as is the ferry that links New Haven and Port Howard on West Falkland, 30 minutes drive from Darwin.

Visitor Accommodation

Darwin House was built in the mid 1970's and has 6 bedrooms with the versatility to make rooms into either twin or double occupancy. Fully furnished the house includes a bar and a conservatory with excellent views of the Choiseul Sound, Wickham Heights and Mount Usborne (705 m), the highest mountain in the Falklands.

Guests can enjoy fabulous farmhouse style cooking and relax with 'smoko' (tea/coffee and a selection of cakes) in the sitting room or conservatory.

Opening Hours

Open all year, high season Oct to Feb.

Non-Residents welcome for lunch and dinner. Bookings are advised.

Drop in for tea, coffee and freshly made cakes/biscuits.

For a relaxing away day or for corporate events, Darwin House is available for non-residential full or half day hire.

Contact

Anton and Dolly,
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Darwin House



About Darwin

The area now known as Darwin was originally called Rincon del Toros by Gauchos who were most likely stationed in the Port Louis area. The name would have signified the herds of wild cattle grazing there. In 1833 and 1834 HMS *Beagle* made voyages in and around the Falklands with the naturalist Charles Darwin on board. He made several forays in Camp and was reputed to have stayed the night in the vicinity of what is now Darwin settlement hence the site received its name.



View from the Lodge across to Mt Usborne.

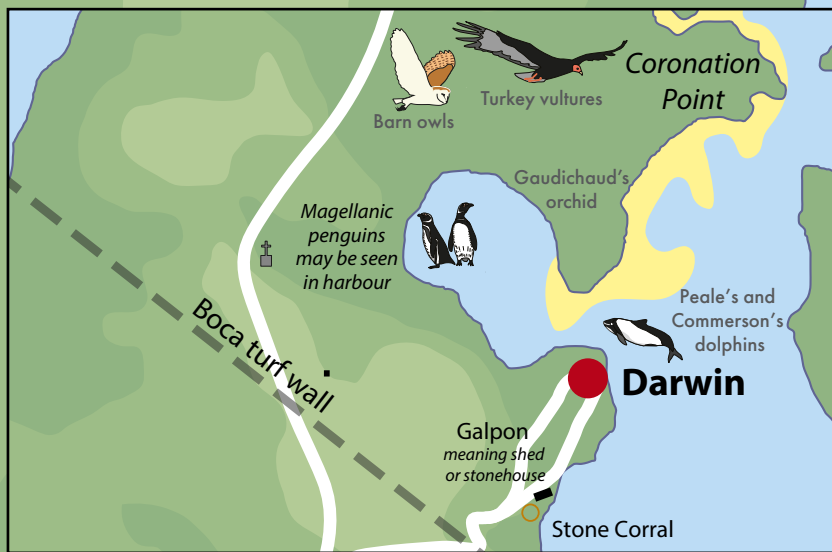
The settlement was initially a centre for cattle ranching and later more specifically for sheep farming. At the height of development, it was the largest centre of population outside Stanley with over 200 workers. The community included shepherds and farm hands, as well as a master craftsman, a doctor, school master and a parson. Today the estate is not a farm but remnants of these times can still be seen with the original gaucho stone corral built in 1874 and the Galpon, a stone shed built in 1894, beside it. The idyllic surroundings are a haven for flora and fauna.

By 1920 the site became too small for the thriving settlement and over the next 2 years all the farm buildings, church and most of the houses were transferred by sled to Goose Green, 2 km away.

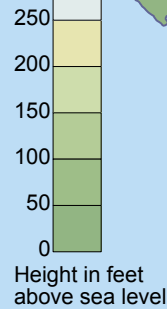
Today Goose Green is the largest sheep farm on East Falkland with over 100,000 hectares of grazing land providing pasture for approximately 80,000 sheep. It is possible to see the farm in action between the months of November and February when the sheep are gathered and then sheared. In 1982 Goose Green became a household name after the first and longest battle in the conflict between Britain and Argentina. In 2018 the area was cleared of the mines that were put down during the conflict.



Darwin settlement from the air with Goose Green at the top of the picture



DARWIN & THE SURROUNDING AREA



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.



no fires



do not litter

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.



Fuegian saxifrage

Fuegian Saxifrage – very rare plant last recorded in 1909–1911 'in the vicinity of Darwin area'

Bodie Creek Bridge

World's most southerly suspension bridge



Galpon and Stone Corral



Bodie Creek Bridge

History and military

- 1849 Boca Turf Wall is erected. Original divide between sheep and cattle farms
- 1852 Darwin Cemetery was established.
- 1856 First building at Darwin erected.
- 1857 The Manse – the Parson's house was erected in Darwin. The house was demolished in 1970's, the foundations of the Manse are mostly grassed over but can still be seen.
- 1873 A church was erected at Darwin. The church was of iron construction and designed to accommodate a school. It was later moved to Goose Green where it doubled as a social centre and dance hall. In the 1982 conflict with Argentina, the church hall was used to imprison 114 locals.
- 1874 The Stone Corral was built in Darwin for horse taming and cattle work. In 1982 the corral suffered some damage. The Historic Buildings committee effected repairs in 1998.
- 1890 Stone causeway and connecting bridge built to connect Darwin with the wool shed on the opposite bluff.
- 1890 New Manager's house built. The house was built to incorporate the old Manse. Darwin house was demolished in 1979 and the materials used elsewhere.
- 1894 The stone Galpon was built.
- 1926 Bodie Creek Bridge built
- 1950s A 40 bed boarding school was built at Fish Creek. The school was burnt down during the 1982 battle for Goose Green.
- 1982 Colonel 'H' Jones, the commanding officer of the parachute regiment was killed whilst attacking an Argentine position to the west of Darwin. A cairn marks where he fell, as seen in the main photograph.

The 'Garland'

Built in Liverpool in 1862, 3-masted steel barque.

On March 3rd 1900, while on a voyage from Hamburg to Talcahuano, she put into Stanley with damage caused to her bottom plates by broken jars of acid. After a survey she was condemned and later towed to Darwin to be used as a coal hulk. During this time the figurehead parted from the stem and remained in the mud until 1966, when it was discovered and is now on display at the Historic dockyard Museum in Stanley.

Battlefield Tours: contact Darwin House on 31313.

A tour helps you understand the battle for Goose Green as British Paratroopers made their way from San Carlos towards Darwin and Goose Green. There are stops at the British and Argentine Cemeteries, Darwin ridge, Boca Hill, the shearing sheds and community centre at Goose Green.

Of particular interest to many are the memorial and grave of Lt Col H Jones who was the highest ranking British Army officer killed in the conflict and was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery.



Wildlife in the Darwin area

In the area surrounding Darwin it is possible to see a variety of flora and fauna. Here is a list of some birds and plants to look for during your stay.

Birds

- ☐ Magellanic penguin
- ☐ White-tufted grebe
- ☐ Rock shag
- ☐ Black-crowned night-heron
- ☐ Upland goose
- ☐ Ruddy-headed goose
- ☐ Falkland steamer duck
- ☐ Crested duck
- ☐ Turkey vulture
- ☐ Southern caracara
- ☐ Variable hawk
- ☐ Peregrine falcon
- ☐ Magellanic oystercatcher
- ☐ Blackish oystercatcher
- ☐ Two-banded plover
- ☐ White-rumped sandpiper
- ☐ South American tern
- ☐ Barn owl
- ☐ Austral thrush

Plants

- ☐ Fuegian saxifrage
- ☐ Gaudichaud's orchid
- ☐ Gorse (invasive)
- ☐ Orange hawkweed (invasive)
- ☐ Scurvy grass
- ☐ Vanilla daisy
- ☐ Yellow pale maiden



Yellow pale maiden



Magellanic Oystercatcher



Ruddy-headed Goose



Falkland steamer ducks

Protecting wildlife from invasive species



Gorse is very useful for hedging and stock shelter, especially around settlements. Stock eat the young shoots. Where native fachine and tussac grass have been grazed out, gorse may provide alternative nesting sites for birds. Hedges that are managed need to be regularly trimmed to keep them under control.

However, away from settlements gorse is a problem. Bushes spread slowly and may eventually dominate large areas and smothering vegetation, altering soil structure and nutrient levels and changing the habitat structure. These changes can have a long-term impact, persisting for decades after the gorse has been removed. Gorse currently threatens native and endemic plants at eight Important Plant Areas.

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.

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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

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



FALKLANDS CONSERVATION

*Partnering with the local and international community to
conserve the Falkland Islands' natural environment.*

Falklands Conservation rely on donations and public support to carry out our work in the Falkland Islands. If you would like to join those already supporting our work, please consider becoming a member or adopting a penguin via our website

www.falklandsconservation.com

Or contact **ukadmin@conservation.org.fk** for more options.

For regular updates on our work, follow us online



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