



South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Office of the Commissioner
Government House
Stanley
Falkland Islands

INFORMATION

YACHTS VISITING SOUTH GEORGIA

Entering and leaving the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Maritime Zone

- Please notify the Government Officer (GO) when you enter and when you leave the maritime zone (200nm point from land). There is no need to inform us of your position or activity whilst undertaking your visit except when visiting Cumberland East Bay.

Arrival at Cumberland East Bay (Grytviken / King Edward Point (KEP))

- Provide as much warning as possible of any visits to Grytviken / KEP.
- On first arrival, everyone must stay on the vessel (apart from when tying up lines) until the GO has completed their inspections and cleared you through customs and immigration.
- Only two five-hour visits per day are allowed for vessels with more than 12 passengers. The GOs coordinate bookings. Yachts with 12 passengers or fewer may visit at any time but should liaise with cruise ships in the area.

Grytviken Jetty

- You may only use the Tijuca jetty at Grytviken if access is available. Government operational requirements have priority so access may be limited. Otherwise you will have to stay at anchor.
- We may ask you to move to allow access to Cruise Ship tenders.
- **Water** is available free-of-charge at the Tijuca Jetty at Grytviken. (Water from streams elsewhere is generally potable, but watch out for animals upstream)

KEP Wharf

- This is not for public use. It is exposed to the prevailing westerly winds. However, the Government Officer may invite you to come to the KEP jetty for customs clearance.

Other jetties and wharfs around South Georgia

- The jetties at the disused whaling stations at Leith, Stromness, Husvik, and Prince Olav Harbour are within the Whaling Station Prohibited Areas, so their use is strictly forbidden.

Biosecurity (refer to the *Biosecurity Handbook*)

The Government has very stringent biosecurity measures in place to prevent non-native species entering or re-entering the Territory or being moved between locations around South Georgia.

Please help us prevent the introduction, and spread, of disease, alien plants, insects and animals by observing all the biosecurity measures. Boot scrubbing and disinfecting between sites, care in keeping clothing and bags clear of seeds, and no fresh food ashore are important in keeping South Georgia special.

See the **Biosecurity Handbook** for protocols and procedures you must follow before and during your visit. This is probably the single most important thing you can do to help protect wildlife.

Conduct during your visit

- **Waste:** You must retain all waste on board for proper disposal at your next port of call. However, you may dispose of macerated food waste, apart from uncooked poultry products, at sea (not in the bays).
- **Hiking:** Bear in mind that weather can change very quickly, and equip yourselves accordingly for visits ashore
- **Camping:** Camping, or any other overnight stays ashore, are not permitted unless you have specifically applied to do so and hold a valid Regulated Activity Permit
- **Visitor Landing Sites:** You may only land at approved visitor landing sites. There are Visit Site Guides for some of the more popular sites, explaining points of interest, sensitive areas, and areas to avoid.
- **Visiting KEP:** For the 2020/21 season, KEP will remain closed to visitors and access will be prohibited as part of our covid-19 safety measures.
- **Conduct when ashore:** Everybody must adhere to the Code of Conduct Whilst Ashore
 - **Wildlife:** Treat wildlife with respect. If it changes its behaviour because of your presence, you are too close. You must observe the Wildlife Protection Guidelines.
 - **Souvenirs:** All natural and man-made artefacts on South Georgia are protected by law. Take no souvenirs – this includes whalebone, reindeer antlers, harpoon heads, plants, or animal remains. Collecting, handling etc. plants and animals requires a permit.

See the Visitor Site Guide for Grytviken for more information.

Post Visit Report (PVR)

You must complete and return a *Post Visit Report* at the end of your visit. See the document *Completing your post visit report* for help with this.

The form is mainly designed for Cruise Ship operations, so some sections may seem a little strange when applied to yachts. Please fill in as much as you can.

Of course we are always interested in hearing how your visit is going, or of anything unusual.

For news for this season please see the letter to permit holders.

Thank you and enjoy your visit.



Ross James

Visitor Management & Biosecurity Officer
Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands