



South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Office of the Commissioner
Government House
Stanley
Falkland Islands

June 2023

Dear Permit Holder,

We're anticipating another busy season, and have made some changes to hopefully streamline your visits.

The dropbox file has been updated for 23/24 and contains a wealth of resources – from the essential (but mundane!) reporting forms to the more interesting films, guides, resources and information. Please take your time to review the documents carefully. I have pulled out some of the new items for the 2023/24 visitor season below.

Stanley Bio-security Searches: For the 23/24 season we will be moving to a risk based structure for bio-security dog searches in Stanley. Expedition vessels are proving lower risk for rodents than other vessel types, so our sniffer dog team will be changing the way the search your vessels. On your first call to Stanley, a search will be arranged as normal and will only require a search every 4th visit after that.

Bio-security Audit: A tiered system of passenger audits will be introduced in the 2023/24 season. The first visit of the season will be a 'comprehensive' passenger audit which follows the current protocols for determination of sample size. Providing vessels get above 95% in a comprehensive audit, for subsequent visits, they can have a 'basic' audit. If an audit (basic or comprehensive) is failed, for the next visit to South Georgia a comprehensive audit is undertaken.

Closed Sites: Prion Island will remain closed this season due to pending boardwalk repairs. Cooper Bay Chinstraps is closed; however, the other Cooper Bay sites will remain open. The track to KEP is open this season (however buildings are still off limits).

90 day application timeline: All application types are now subject to a 90 day submission period. A sliding scale of late charges have been introduced (please see page 8 of the *Visiting South Georgia Handbook* for details). Note: late charges will take effect August 1 2023 (so applications submitted less than 90 days in advance up until August 1st will not be charged).

Looking forward to another busy season. As always, if you have any questions do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

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2022-23 Visit Permit Holder Drive contents:

01 Read Me First

- Welcome Letter (this)
- GSGSSI Permit Holder Briefing
- Visiting South Georgia

02 Information and Biosecurity Documents & Declarations

- Visit Permit Holder Landing Declarations
- Biosecurity Checklist
- Biosecurity Handbook (an updated version to follow in September 2023)
- Visitor Biosecurity Self Audit Declaration
- Rodent Monitoring Station Protocol
- HOV-ROV policy
- Information for Yachts

03 Visitor Briefing Films

- South Georgia – A Visitor's Guide
- Subtitles Folder
 - Track 1 – English Subtitles
 - Track 2 – Spanish Subtitles
 - Track 3 – German Subtitles
 - Track 4 – French Subtitles
 - Track 5 – Mandarin Subtitles

04 Visitor Site Guides & Extended Walks

- Grytviken
- Cape Rosa
- Cooper Bay (macaroni colony)
- Fortuna (Whistle Cove)
- Godthul
- Godthul to Sandebugten Extended walk
- Gold Harbour & Extended Walk
- Maiviken Extended Walk
- Ocean Harbour Extended Walk
- Prion Island (restricted site)
- Rookery Point Extended Walk
- Salisbury Plain
- Shackleton Walk
- St Andrews Bay
- Stromness to Leith Extended Walk
- gpx files for Extended Walks

05 Bird Strike and Post Visit Reports

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- Bird Strike Report form (note this is not currently in the folder as it will be updated September 2023 and circulated)
- Completing Bird Strike Report form notes
- Post-Visit Report form
- Completing Post-Visit Report notes
- Dive Record & Report (HOV-ROV)
- Happy Whale

06 Grytviken Arrival Information

- Grytviken Visitor Map
- Grytviken Site Guide