



VISITING SOUTH GEORGIA

Operator Handbook • 2026–27



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Office of the Commissioner, Stanley, Falkland Islands.

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How to Use This Guide

This guide is structured to support you throughout the lifecycle of your visit:

Section	What it covers
Before You Visit	Planning, permits, requirements and expectations
During Your Visit	Arrival, operations and biosecurity
After Your Visit	Reporting and departure obligations

Operators and Expedition Leaders are responsible for ensuring all relevant personnel are familiar with its contents.

Key Requirements at a Glance

✓ Before Travel

- ✓ Register as an operator and register vessels
- ✓ Notify of visits at least 45 days in advance
- ✓ Apply for entry permits as early as possible (no later than 8 days before arrival)
- ✓ Ensure full biosecurity compliance
- ✓ Confirm contingency planning

✓ On Arrival

- ✓ Observe whale slow-down protocol on entering South Georgia waters
- ✓ Contact Government Officer at King Edward Point on VHF Channel 16
- ✓ Submit passenger manifest at least 72 hours before arrival
- ✓ Conduct first landing at Grytviken (unless dispensation granted)
- ✓ Complete biosecurity audit

✓ During Your Visit

- ✓ Land only at authorised sites
- ✓ Follow all wildlife and biosecurity rules
- ✓ Maintain self-sufficiency at all times

✓ After Your Visit

- ✓ Notify Government Officer of departure
- ✓ Submit Post Visit Report within 30 days
- ✓ Provide bird-strike information

PART 1 – BEFORE YOU VISIT

1.1 Contingency Planning

South Georgia lies approximately 1,400 km (870 miles) east of the Falkland Islands, making it one of the most isolated places on Earth. It is remote, environmentally sensitive, and operationally challenging.

Visitors must be prepared for:

- Extreme and rapidly changing weather
- A lack of search and rescue (SAR) capability
- No public medical services
- No independent evacuation options

Vessels must be fully self-sufficient, carry appropriate safety equipment - including onshore stranding kits and provide contingency planning details during the visit booking process.

Important: The granting of a visit notification or permit does not indicate any Government responsibility for providing support.

What contingency planning must cover

- Maritime incidents and SAR in the SGSSI Maritime Zone
- Safety plans for landings
- Medical response, including management of trauma injuries ashore and at sea
- Evacuation capability
- Environmental protection plans

IAATO has published guidelines to assist with emergency contingency planning, including the appropriate equipment to carry. It is strongly recommended that you always carry suitable equipment whether ashore or at sea.

1.2 Insurance and Certification Requirements

All visitors are required to hold valid insurance covering:

- Medical evacuation to the nearest country where adequate treatment can be provided, including transport and in-transit care costs
- In the event of death, repatriation of the deceased's remains to their country of ordinary residence

Vessels must also hold valid wreck removal and sanitation certificates.

IAATO members are not required to submit proof of insurance documentation; however, non-IAATO members may be asked to provide copies upon request.

There is no independent transport from South Georgia to the Falkland Islands or to South America. Operators must ensure that clients are aware of the limitations of medical facilities and evacuation options.

1.3 Itinerary Planning

Key rules for itinerary planning:

First landings of the season must take place at Grytviken, unless prior dispensation has been granted by GSGSSI. Dispensation will generally only be considered for IAATO member vessels.

New vessels and new operators will not be granted dispensation and must call at Grytviken first in order to embark an observer.

All Expedition Leaders are required to attend a briefing at Grytviken regardless of dispensation status. This may take up to two hours and must be scheduled with Government Officers in advance.

Vessels, including yachts, may be required to embark a GSGSSI observer during their visit to monitor at least one landing operation outside Grytviken.

At least one visit to Grytviken is mandatory during every visit to South Georgia.

Under the Entry Control Ordinance 2022 (ECO), Masters may only permit disembarkation at authorised visitor landing sites (see Annex 1). Disembarkation at unauthorised locations is a criminal offence.

Landing anywhere in the South Sandwich Islands is strictly prohibited.

IAATO members should book visits to landing sites using the IAATO scheduler tool. Non-IAATO members must provide a provisional itinerary to GSGSSI during the application process.

Please note: Any changes to planned dates for visiting Grytviken must be sent to Government Officers for agreement before any changes to the ship scheduler are made.

1.4 Vessel Registration and Visit Notification

The process for registering vessels and submitting visit notifications has been updated for the 2026–27 season. Information requirements have been significantly reduced to lessen the administrative burden on operators and to enable faster confirmation of visits. The booking process and all operator-specific information are now centralised at: <https://qsgssivisits.powerappsportals.com/>

1.4.1 Registering as an Operator or Owner

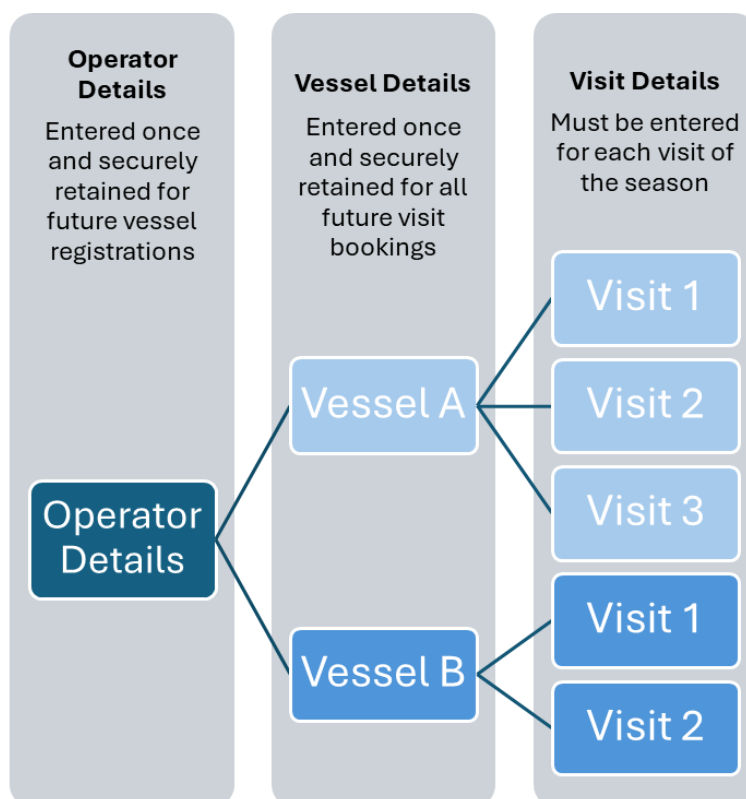
All operators and owners must register their details once at the start of each season. This ensures accurate records are maintained and supports the smooth running of subsequent processes, including vessel and visit bookings and invoicing. Operator and owner details are securely retained to avoid the need to re-enter them when registering multiple vessels.

1.4.2 Registering Vessels

All vessels must be registered once each season before an application to visit is made. Vessel details will be linked to an operator or owner record and retained to avoid re-entry for multiple visits.

1.4.3 Booking Visits

Once a vessel is registered, visits can be booked. The booking must include the intended dates of entry into and departure from South Georgia waters, and the intended date of the visit to Grytviken. Confirmation will be issued by email immediately upon successful submission.



Structure of the application process at <https://qsqssivisits.powerappsportals.com/>

Booking deadline

Visit bookings must be made at least 45 days in advance of the intended date of entry.

The Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands reserve the right to refuse entry at its discretion.

1.5 Permit Requirements

All visitors to South Georgia must hold a valid Visit or Work Permit for the duration of their stay, unless they qualify for an exemption (deemed permission). Applications for both permit types must be submitted and paid for as far in advance as is practical, and no later than 8 days prior to the intended arrival date. Every permit holder must have read, understood and agreed to be bound by the general conditions for the use of the permit (General Conditions).

1.5.1 Visitor Permits

Visitor permits can be obtained at <https://eta.entry.gov.gs/> at a cost of £250 per person and are valid for 40 days.

- The start date for visitor permits should be set for the day of embarkation, to provide flexibility if itineraries change.
- A late fee of £50 will be charged for applications not completed with payment received at least 8 days prior to arrival.
- Visitor permits will not be issued for applications made within 3 days of the intended arrival date.

Visitor permits can be obtained individually or in bulk for large groups. Operators and travel agents may purchase them on behalf of passengers. A single corporate email address can be used for bulk applications to assist with managing permit details.

1.5.2 Work Permits

Work permits can be obtained at <https://eta.entry.gov.gs/>. There is no charge for work permits and they remain valid for 8 months.

Operators are advised to obtain work permits for existing staff and crew at the start of each season, and to obtain additional permits as new staff are recruited.

1.5.3 Deemed Permission

Section 9 of the Entry Control Ordinance 2022 sets out those persons considered to have “deemed” permission to enter the Territories, who therefore do not require an Entry Permit. Members of a ship’s crew who qualify include any crew member required by the Master to disembark:

- for the purposes of re-provisioning, off-loading or loading cargo, or repair or maintenance to the vessel; or
- to escort passengers who have permission to enter the Territories.

Important: Deemed permission prohibits landing for any reason other than those stated above. It is therefore strongly recommended that all crew members who intend to disembark in South Georgia obtain work permits, to allow disembarkation for rest and leisure purposes.

1.5.4 Expedition Leaders

Each visit to South Georgia must have a nominated Expedition Leader (EL). The EL must:

- have read and understood the information contained in this document;
- be responsible for ensuring that all crew and passengers are fully briefed and adhere to the conditions of the visit and the Code of Conduct Whilst Ashore; and
- provide a certificate evidencing successful completion of the South Georgia element of the IAATO Expedition Leader assessment. Non-IAATO members must contact the visitor manager for an alternative assessment.

1.6 Activities

Under GSGSSI legislation, activities that have the potential to cause environmental harm or impact are prohibited, unless carried out under a Regulated Activity Permit (RAP).

1.6.1 Regulated Activity Permits (RAPs)

The RAP process enables otherwise-prohibited activities to be carried out under controlled circumstances, allowing the Government to provide oversight and work with proponents to mitigate risks to the environment.

A RAP is likely to be required if planned activities involve any of the following:

- Collecting samples of any kind
- Handling, disturbing or approaching wildlife (for example for filming or monitoring)
- Installing equipment
- Using drones
- Camping overnight
- Carrying out construction, maintenance or environmental management work

This list is not exhaustive. A tiered RAP application system is in place, based on the complexity of the project, to ensure environmental assessments are proportionate to the potential impacts of proposed activities.

Details of the application process and RAP categories are published each year at <https://gov.gs/regulated-activity-permit/>.

The key pieces of legislation which prohibit certain activities without a RAP are:

- [Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance \(2011\)](#)
- [Specially Protected Areas Order \(2022\)](#)
- [Specially Protected Area Regulations \(2023\)](#)
- [Marine Protected Areas Order \(2013\)](#)

1.6.2 Terrestrial Activities

Sustainable tourism plays a key role within the South Georgia Terrestrial Protected Area. When activities are carried out in accordance with established wildlife interaction guidelines and visitor site management plans at approved landing sites, routine recreational activities generally do not require a RAP. If there is any uncertainty, clarification should be sought in advance.

1.6.3 Marine Activities

IAATO members may conduct non-intrusive marine activities — such as Zodiac cruising, kayaking and scuba diving (providing no disturbance occurs) — without additional permits. IAATO members may also operate Human and Remotely Operated Vehicles (HOVs/ROVs), but must provide notification of these activities and adhere to IAATO guidelines.

Non-IAATO members must obtain written permission prior to conducting these activities and may be subject to restrictions. Notification of HOV/ROV use can be submitted at <https://gov.gs/hov-rov-notification/>.

1.7 Administration Fees and Charges

All fees and charges are payable in Pound Sterling. South Georgia is cashless - payment is by major debit or credit card only. Charges for vessel visits are normally invoiced to the vessel operator. Yacht visitors may elect to be invoiced or to pay by card to the Government Officer at King Edward Point upon arrival.

Customs Fees

Customs fees and charges apply to all vessels and yachts. These fees come into effect on 1 July 2026.

Service	Fee
Customs Entry Declaration	£38.00
Customs Exit Clearance	£38.00
Single officer visit (entry and exit combined)	£38.00
Customs officer time (standard hours: Mon–Fri 08:00–16:30 SGT / GMT-2), per hour (minimum 2 hours)	£29.00 / hour (£58.00 minimum)
Customs officer time (outside standard hours), per hour (minimum 2 hours)	£45.00 / hour (£90.00 minimum)

Harbour Fees – Cumberland East Bay

Harbour fees differ depending on whether you are classified as a yacht or a vessel. Fees are charged on a daily basis for periods spent in Cumberland Bay. The first 24-hour period is charged at the full rate shown; subsequent 24-hour periods are charged at half the rate.

Yachts (load line length up to 24 metres): £57.00 per 24-hour period.

Vessels (load line length greater than 24 metres):

Net Tonnage	12 or fewer passengers	More than 12 passengers
Less than 1,000	£400	£800
1,000 or more but less than 2,000	£600	£1,200
2,000 or more but less than 7,000	£850	£1,700
7,000 or more but less than 15,000	£1,380	£2,760
15,000 or more	£2,280	£4,560

Net Tonnage (NT) is measured in accordance with the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships (London, 1969).

These fees come into effect on 1 July 2026.

Entry Permit Fees

Permit Type	Fee	Validity
Visitor Permit	£250 per person	40 days
Late application fee (Permits submitted, but not paid for less than 8 days before arrival)	£50 additional	—
Work Permit	No charge	months

Rodent Monitoring Stations

Rodent monitoring stations (bait boxes) can be purchased from the GSGSSI office in Stanley prior to departure for South Georgia. Vessels not calling at the Falkland Islands prior to arrival must make their own arrangements to source suitable bait boxes acceptable to GSGSSI.

Other Vessel Charges

Additional charges apply for specific administrative services. These are available on request from Government Officers and via the GSGSSI website at:

<https://gov.gs/information-documents-visit-application-form/>

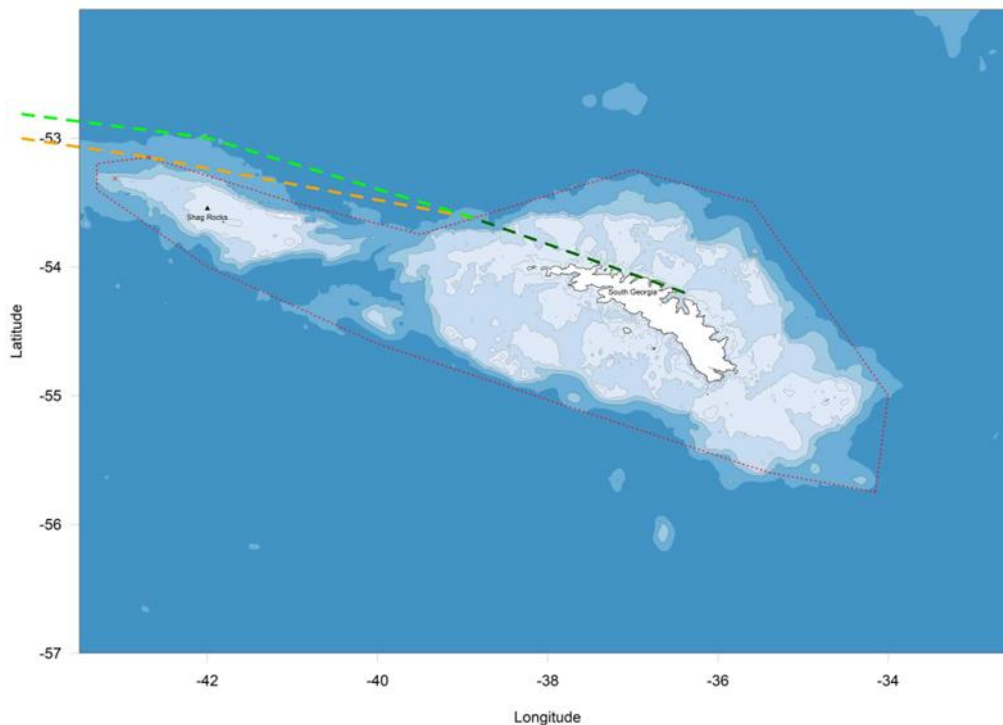
Failure to pay fees may result in entry being refused or future visits being restricted.

PART 2 – DURING YOUR VISIT

2.1 Arrival Procedures

Whale Slow-Down Protocol

A 10-knot speed limit zone is in place in South Georgia waters to reduce the risk of whale strikes. This has been extended fractionally in the north-west in the area north of Shag rocks (see map below) due to increase whale densities. The slow-down is routinely monitored by GSGSSI. Should the need arise to exceed the speed due to safety concerns, please inform our government officers at the earliest opportunity. We also advise that the maximum speed within the territorial waters of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands outside the whale slow down area should not exceed 10knts.



Before Arrival: Passenger Manifest

A passenger manifest must be submitted to Government Officers at least 72 hours before arrival. This must include all passenger permit numbers.

Information on completing the manifest information can be found here:

<https://qsgssivisits.powerappsportals.com/Manifest-Guide/>

Completed manifests can be submitted here: [Entry Permit System](#)

Entering the Maritime Zone

On entry into the SGSSI Maritime Zone, Masters must:

- Contact the government officer at King Edward Point on VHF Channel 16
- Declare that the vessel is rodent-free (based on inspection of rodent monitoring stations)
- Provide arrival details

We strongly advise that all vessels not covered by the AIS requirements of SOLAS V/19 engage their AIS (if carried) whenever they are in the South Georgia Maritime Zone.

Arrival at South Georgia

Government officers will board vessels on arrival at Grytviken. A biosecurity audit will be conducted before any landings take place. All visitors must view the official GSGSSI briefing film prior to arrival.

2.2 Biosecurity

South Georgia is free from many invasive species that threaten its ecosystems. Helping us maintain this status is one of the most important things that visitors can do to protect this unique environment. All visitors share responsibility for biosecurity compliance.

Why It Matters

South Georgia has benefitted from major habitat restoration work, including the successful eradication of invasive rats, mice and reindeer. Work continues to manage the spread of invasive plants and to prevent the spread of disease to wildlife. A biosecurity failure could undo years of conservation effort.

Before Departure from Your Home Port

- Clean all clothing and equipment thoroughly
- Remove all seeds, soil and organic material
- Use new or thoroughly cleaned gear wherever possible
- Ensure fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, eggs and unpasteurised dairy products are not packed for use ashore

Before Each Landing

- Inspect all clothing, footwear and bags
- Vacuum pockets and seams
- Wash all external surfaces of footwear and dip in an approved biocide (e.g. Virkon or BioGuard)
- Ensure no loose cargo is landed — all cargo must be inspected, boxed and sealed

Boot washing is obligatory for all persons prior to arrival in South Georgia, between sites and when leaving. Clothing inspections and boot washing must be overseen by a competent member of staff appointed by the Permit Holder. Government Officers will inspect boot-washing facilities and procedures and will check visitors before disembarkation.

Between Sites

- Repeat all cleaning procedures between every landing
- Avoid transferring material between locations
- Check clothing and equipment for invertebrates, seeds and organic material
- Boot washing facilities must be cleaned and refilled for each new landing or whenever personnel move between regions

Going Ashore: Additional Rules

- All boats and tenders must be thoroughly inspected for rodents, invertebrates and organic material before embarking passengers, and again when departing shore
- No loose cargo should be landed (e.g. items in open bags or nets)
- Any permitted foodstuffs brought ashore must be in robust, fully sealed boxes made of plastic, metal or wood
- As far as possible, bags should not be left open and unattended ashore

Additional Measures for High-Risk Activities

Activities involving prolonged time ashore - such as science or media projects, overnight mountaineering trips or extended expeditions - present an increased biosecurity risk. Additional measures apply:

- Tents must be dry brushed inside and out to remove soil, seeds and invertebrates; tent pegs must be scraped clean and dipped in approved biocide
- Field clothing must be thoroughly cleaned before being used in different areas of South Georgia
- Scientific equipment must be cleaned in accordance with manufacturer instructions and, where it has been in contact with wildlife or soil, must include a suitable biocide

For particularly high-risk projects, a bespoke biosecurity plan will be required, identified through the permit application process.

Prohibited Items Ashore

The following must not be taken ashore:

Fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, eggs and unpasteurised dairy products

Unsealed or loose cargo

Any contaminated clothing or equipment

Rodent Prevention

All vessels must carry rodent monitoring stations (bait boxes) deployed according to the instructions in Annex 3. Stations must be in place at least 24 hours before entering the Maritime Zone and must remain on board throughout the visit.

- Check all bait stations and report immediately if bait has been gnawed or damaged
- Check for other signs of rodents (chewed food packaging, droppings in the galley or waste storage area, etc.)
- If rodents are discovered, the vessel will be required to leave the Maritime Zone for remedial action; re-entry will not be permitted until GSGSSI is satisfied the infestation has been cleared

Biosecurity Audits

The biosecurity audit has been rationalised for the 2026-27 season.

The Biosecurity Audit is a check undertaken by Government Officers, on all vessels in respect of their compliance with biosecurity procedures, or more specifically the effectiveness of the procedures in place to reduce biosecurity risk.

All vessels visiting South Georgia will be subject to a comprehensive biosecurity audit on their first visit of the season. Those vessels that achieve a successful comprehensive audit will be given 'Trusted Vessel' status and will qualify for a reduced audit for subsequent visits until or unless an audit is failed.

Pax Count	Pax for Comprehensive Audit Checks	Failure (No. of Pax)	Pax for 'Trusted Vessel' Checks	Failure (No. of Pax)
1–12	100%	>1	5	>1
13–30	10	>1	5	>1
31–60	14	>1	7	>1
61–120	18	>1	9	>1
121–200	24	>2	12	>1
201–300	30	>2	15	>2
300+	36	>3	16	>2

The comprehensive passenger inspection regime is designed to achieve approximately 50–80% detection confidence using an assumption of a non-compliance incidence of between 3–5%, while maintaining proportionate inspection effort at higher passenger volumes.

Prior to the shore team disembarking to conduct their initial shore assessment, government officers will check the biosecurity status of shore stranding kits and the clothing, boots and equipment of 3-5 expedition staff. This activity does not form a part of the passenger audit but does contribute to an overall assessment of operator biosecurity practices and preparedness.

Passenger selection for inspection is random unless otherwise directed by inspectors based on observed risk indicators. All selected passengers are required to present their personal clothing, footwear and equipment intended for shore use. Items are assessed for cleanliness, biological material and compliance with biosecurity requirements.

Inspection outcomes are recorded at the passenger level. Where non-compliance is identified, a passenger is recorded as non-compliant regardless of the number or type of biosecurity issues detected. This approach reflects that multiple issues identified on a single individual are not statistically independent and therefore are treated as a single inspection outcome.

Where issues are identified, corrective actions may include cleaning, reinspection, education of passengers, or increased inspection effort on the current or subsequent visits. Inspection levels may be adjusted at any time if biosecurity risk is assessed to have increased.

If a vessel loses 'Trusted vessel' status, it will be required to complete a comprehensive audit on its next trip. Vessels would also lose any dispensation to land at non-designated visitor sites until such time as the Trusted Vessel status was obtained.

Audit results will be shared with the Operator and IAATO (if applicable).

2.3 Shore and Harbour Facilities

South Georgia has very limited facilities for visitors. There is no onshore accommodation, no public internet and no public telephone access.

Grytviken

Grytviken is the focal point for visitor facilities on South Georgia. Following a major Government project to remove hazardous materials and make the site safe, the following are accessible to visitors:

- South Georgia Museum
- Post Office
- Church and Cemetery (including the burial place of Sir Ernest Shackleton)
- Main Stores Heritage Visitor Experience
- Public toilets (when the museum complex is open)

Jetties

Subject to biosecurity controls, visiting yachts (up to 24 m LOA) and tenders may seek permission to use the Tijuca jetty at Grytviken. Private and commercial ships may not come alongside. Use of the KEP wharf is not permitted.

Water

Fresh water is available to yachts at the Tijuca jetty at Grytviken.

2.4 Management and Safety of Visitors

The management of visitors ashore is the responsibility of the Expedition Leader and Master, in line with all GSGSSI policies and guidelines.

Management of Landings

Landings may only be made at authorised sites (see Annex 1). If in doubt, contact Government Officers. Expedition Leaders must abide by all relevant GSGSSI policies and guidelines, the Code of Conduct Whilst Ashore, the Wildlife Protection Guidelines and the general conditions of the permit to enter the Territories.

IAATO vessel Masters and Expedition Leaders must also ensure staff, crew and visitors adhere to IAATO guidelines and bylaws.

No overnight stays ashore are permitted, except by authorised expeditions. All shore parties should maintain radio contact with the vessel and carry appropriate medical and emergency equipment.

Extreme care must be exercised in proximity to seals, especially in breeding colonies. Fur seals can be extremely aggressive from November to January.

Failure to comply with GSGSSI requirements could result in the permission to operate being immediately revoked, suspended or altered, and may preclude future visits or place restrictions on them.

General Conditions for Visits

Please ensure that you:

- have suitably assessed the risks and hazards
- are suitably equipped and supported to be entirely self-sufficient
- have familiarised yourself with relevant wildlife guidance and adhere to applicable legislation, including the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance and the Prohibited Areas Order
- will not deposit, abandon or leave any litter or waste of any kind on or in South Georgia, including its marine environment

Prohibited Areas

It is strictly forbidden to approach within 200 metres of the former whaling stations at Leith, Stromness, Husvik and Prince Olav Harbour, including approach from the sea. The use of old jetties at these stations is prohibited. The buildings and jetties are in a highly dangerous state of disrepair with a high risk of exposure to airborne asbestos and flying debris.

The Prohibited Areas Ordinance (2010) makes it an offence to enter these areas without permission. See Annex 2 for maps and further detail, and refer to the legislation available at <https://www.gov.gs>.

Unexploded Ordnance

Unexploded ordnance from the 1982 conflict and subsequent military exercises may be found on South Georgia. If any suspect item is discovered:

Unexploded ordnance procedure

DO NOT TOUCH

Note its position - a GPS plot is ideal

Make a note of its size, shape, colour, markings, condition and quantity

Take a photograph if possible

Inform the government officer as soon as possible

2.5 Code of Conduct Whilst Ashore

This code of conduct must be followed by all visitors. It is the Expedition Leader's responsibility to ensure it is adhered to.

- Follow all instructions from staff; do not stray from the group
- Be prepared for severe and changeable weather. Ensure clothing and equipment are of sufficient quality to withstand sub-Antarctic conditions.
- Do not walk on glaciers or snowfields without proper equipment and experience; surface conditions are constantly changing, particularly during glacial retreat.
- Avoid walking on fragile vegetation. Footprints on moss banks may remain for many years. Moss beds and stream or lake margins are particularly fragile.
- Do not collect anything - this includes shells, stones, plants, skulls, bones, teeth and eggs. Removal of any item without an export permit from GSGSSI is an offence under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance (2011).
- Be careful when photographing or filming. Never disturb plants or animals for a better shot. Do not use flash photography. Observe all wildlife distances.
- Always give wildlife the right of way.
- Do not bring firearms into South Georgia.
- Do not remove, disturb or destroy any historical artefacts.
- Do not paint, engrave or write graffiti on rocks or buildings; do not deface or vandalise field huts or other structures.
- Avoid marked sites where scientific experiments are being conducted; do not disturb scientific equipment.
- Do not smoke. Do not light campfires.
- Take all waste back to the vessel.

2.6 Wildlife Protection Guidelines

Everyone visiting South Georgia shares responsibility for minimising their personal impact on the environment. Not following the guidelines set out below could constitute an offence under the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance (2011, as amended). IAATO staff must also ensure IAATO codes of conduct are adhered to.

Minimum Approach Distances

Wildlife	Minimum distance
All wildlife (general)	5 metres
Nesting birds	10 metres
Giant petrels	50 metres
Displaying albatross	25 metres

Behaviour Ashore

- Do not disturb marine mammals, birds or other wildlife, whether at sea or on land
- Stay on the edge of animal groups, approaching slowly and quietly
- Back off immediately if animals show any sign of disturbance. If animals are responding to your presence, you are too close.
- Make every effort to avoid disturbing territorial seals or seals in breeding colonies
- Do not feed any wildlife
- Do not pick or remove any plants or flowers
- Be alert whilst ashore, particularly in tussock grass. Take care to avoid stumbling upon fur seals or nesting birds, or damaging seabird burrows.

- Do not touch animals. This may cause substantial stress, jeopardise the bond between parent and offspring, and may provoke an aggressive response.
- Expedition Staff are to ensure there is minimal disturbance when navigating a safe route at the beach landing site to the visitor site.

Drones and UAVs

The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), including drones and quadcopters, for recreational purposes is not permitted. UAVs may only be operated if a Regulated Activity Permit has been granted by GSGSSI in advance, for approved use in support of science or media activity.

Bird Strikes

Accurate and complete data on bird strikes must be collected and reported. This information is not used to penalise the reporting vessel; it helps GSGSSI better understand the issue and develop appropriate mitigation measures.

All bird strikes must be recorded and reported (including birds released unharmed) using the form provided, emailed to government officers each time a strike occurs. Failure to report bird strikes is an infringement of your Visit Permit.

The Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance (2011) is available at <https://www.gov.gs>. Failure to comply with Wildlife Protection Guidelines or Biosecurity Protocols may result in prosecution.

PART 3 – AFTER YOUR VISIT

3.1 Departure

All vessels must notify the Government Officer at King Edward Point of their departure from South Georgia maritime zone..

3.2 Post Visit Report

A Post Visit Report (PVR) must be completed by the Expedition Leader or tour organiser and returned to GSGSSI within 30 days of departing South Georgia.

Non-IAATO vessels

Please complete the Post Visit Report template provided in Excel spreadsheet format. All sheets must be completed and emailed to admin@gov.gs.

IAATO member vessels

Once the IAATO Post Visit Report has been entered on the IAATO website, Expedition Leaders must convert it to the GSGSSI Post Visit Report format:

- Complete the IAATO PVR and upload to the IAATO database
- Use the IAATO tool to download the relevant South Georgia data
- Input the data into the GSGSSI PVR format

Email the completed GSGSSI PVR to admin@gov.gs.

Information on converting the IAATO PVR to the GSGSSI format has been issued by IAATO. Please contact Government Officers if you require further guidance.

Annex 1: List of Authorised Visitor Sites

This list details the visitor landing sites on South Georgia authorised by the Principal Immigration Officer (PIO). The authorisation of a site does not remove the responsibility of those undertaking landings to ensure they can be carried out safely, and that those disembarked can be safely returned to the vessel.

IAATO members should use the ship scheduler to detail their itinerary. Non-IAATO members must provide a detailed itinerary, including any secondary or alternative sites and any intended extended walks.

Important: Any changes to planned dates for visiting Grytviken must be agreed with Government Officers before any changes to the ship scheduler are made.

At sites where no landings are permitted and activities are limited to inshore small-boat or Zodiac cruising; visits must still be listed on the itinerary (stating “No Landing”).

Site name guidance

General area names such as Cooper Bay, Bay of Isles, King Haakon Bay, Royal Bay, Fortuna Bay and Possession Bay each contain more than one landing site. You must use the specific landing site name rather than the general area name.

Bay of Isles: Prion Island, Salisbury Plain, Rosita Harbour

Possession Bay: Possession Bay Brighton Beach, Possession Bay Brown Pt, Prince Olav Harbour

King Haakon Bay: Peggotty Bluff, Cape Rosa

Fortuna Bay: Whistle Cove, Anchorage Bay, Shackleton Walk

Royal Bay: Moltke Harbour, Little Moltke Harbour, Koppen Point, Royal Bay kings, Royal Bay macaronis

Cooper Bay: Cooper Bay Centre Cove, Cooper Bay Albatross Cove, Cooper Bay macaronis, Cooper Bay Main Beach, Cooper Bay chinstraps (NOTE: Cooper Bay chinstraps is currently closed)

Note also that Drygalski Fjord does not include Larsen Harbour (neither of which are landing sites).

Visits to Cape Rosa are restricted and subject to the conditions of the respective Site Visitor Management Plans.

(*) Sites appropriate for Category 2 vessel landings (more than 200 passengers on board).

- Sites marked (**) are not bookable on the IAATO Ship Scheduler; a nearby, bookable site should be booked instead. You may still visit these sites.

Appendix 5: List of Main (Bookable) Visitor Sites of South Georgia Island

Landing sites

*Category 2 landings permitted

?

Cape Rosa - KIN01	Nordenskjöld Glacier - NOR01
Cobblers Cove - COB01	Ocean Harbour - OCE01
Cooper Bay Macaronis - COO03	Peggotty Bluff - KIN02
Elsehul Inner Bay - ELS01	Possession Bay Brighton Beach - POS01
Fortuna Bay Whistle Cove Kings - FOR02*	Prince Olav Harbour - POH01
Godthul - GOD01	Right Whale Bay - RIG01
Godthul Walk - GOD02	Rookery Point Walk - ROO01
Gold Harbour - GOL01	Rosita Harbour - ROS01
Grytviken - GRY01*	Moltke Harbour – ROY02*
Hercules Bay Macaronis - HER01	Royal Bay Kings - ROY04
Husvik - HUS01	Salisbury Plain - SAL01*
Jason Harbour - JAS01	Sandebugten Walk - GOD03
Leith Harbour - LEI02	Shackleton Walk (Fortuna/Stromness) - FOR03
Leith Harbour Walk - LEI01	St. Andrews Bay - STA01*
Maiviken - MAI01	Stromness - STR01*
Moltke Harbour - ROY02	

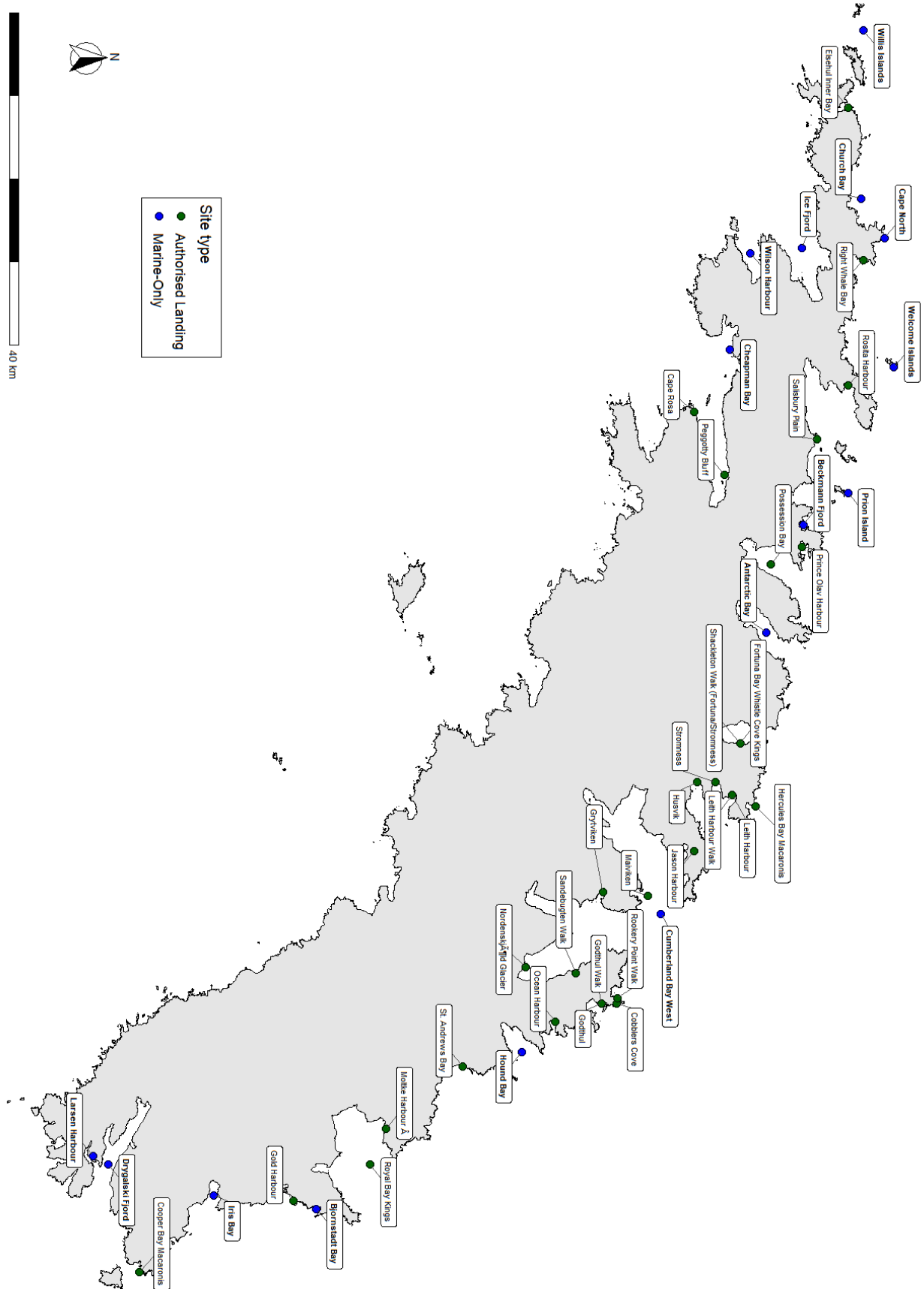
Marine Only sites (watercraft permitted but no landings) have been coloured **blue**.

**Newly added sites for the 2026-27 season

?

Antarctic Bay - ANB01**
Beckmann Fjord - BKF01**
Bjornstadt Bay - BJB01**
Cape North - CPN01**
Cheapman Bay - CPB01**
Church Bay - CHU01**
Cumberland Bay West - CBW01**
Drygalski Fjord - DRG01
Hound Bay - HOB01**
Ice Fjord - ICF01**
Iris Bay - IRB01**
Larsen Harbour - LAR01
Prion Island - PRI01
Welcome Islands - WEL01
Willis Islands – WIL01
Wilson Harbour - WLH01**

This list does not include place names of additional anchorages and landing sites used by specially permitted expeditions, or geographic areas where mountaineering and scientific research activities may occur. These sites must be listed on the application form and Post Visit Report using place names from British Admiralty Marine Charts and/or the BAS 2017 map.



Annex 2: Prohibited (Whaling Station) Areas

In accordance with the Prohibited Areas Ordinance (2010) and the Prohibited Areas Order (2013), Prohibited Areas have been declared around the whaling stations at Husvik, Stromness, Leith and Prince Olav Harbours. This is necessary to protect persons from danger to their health and safety, and to protect the heritage of these areas.

It is an offence to enter these areas without the permission of the Commissioner.

The prohibited areas include the areas of sea and the jetties shown on the plans.

Specifically prohibited within these areas:

- All jetties at all four stations
- Both cemeteries and the football pitch at Leith Harbour
- Stromness cemetery
- The coastal walk into Stromness from Husvik

Boundaries are partially marked with signposts around the main approach routes. Visitors must ensure they remain outside the areas marked on the plans.

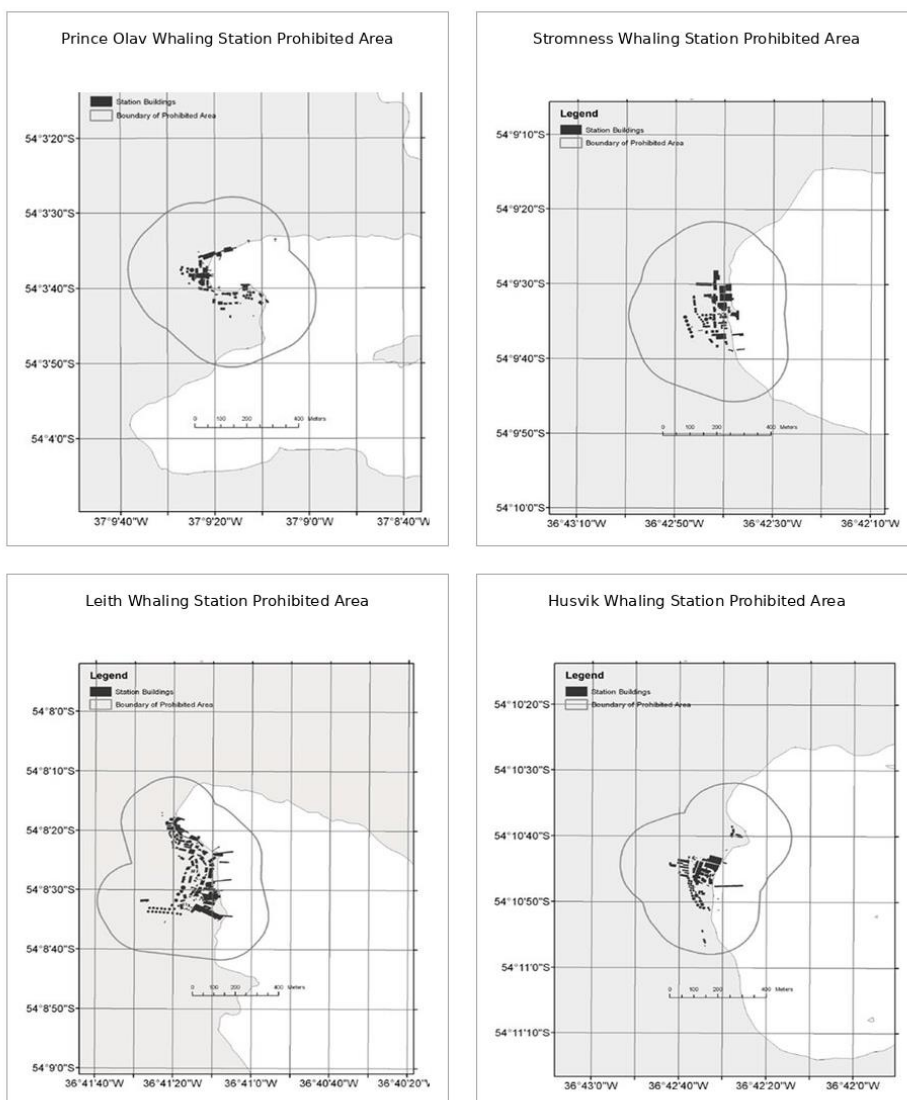
Reference legislation — the Prohibited Areas Ordinance 2010 and the Prohibited Areas Order 2010 — is available from the Government Officer at King Edward Point and may be downloaded at <https://www.gov.gs>.

Stromness: Special Conditions

At Stromness, the northern boundary limit of the exclusion zone is less than 200 metres, subject to the following conditions:

- Visitors are only permitted to land at the demarcated northern boundary of the safety exclusion zone at the approved Stromness landing site in the absence of wind from the south-west (from the direction of the station buildings).
- The approved landing site is only to be used for landing and embarking; visitors must otherwise comply with the usual 200-metre exclusion zone.

All other landings must take place at the mouth of the stream, or further to the north of the approved site.



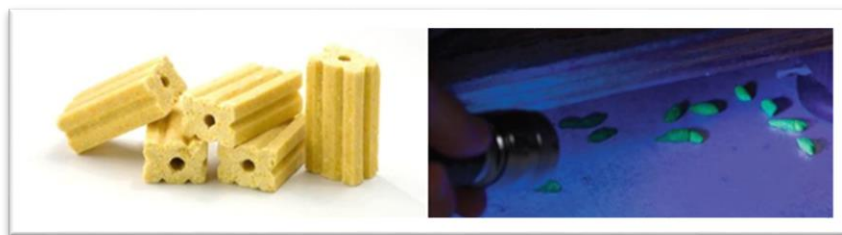
Annex 3: Rodent Monitoring on Vessels

GSGSSI uses a non-toxic bait formulation for rodent monitoring. Non-toxic bait is highly palatable to rats and mice and avoids the risks associated with toxic bait, including non-target mortality, bait shyness and environmental contamination.

Important

Non-toxic bait will only indicate the presence of rodents — it cannot be used to deal with an infestation. If signs of rodents are found, additional measures will be agreed with GSGSSI.

The non-toxic bait is yellow and contains an ingredient that fluoresces under ultraviolet light, making it easier to detect crumbs of bait, stained rodent faeces and urine.

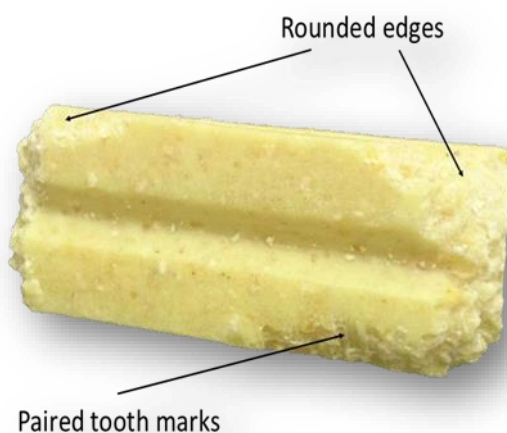


What to Do

- Procure rodent bait boxes that conform to the descriptions in this Annex
- Deploy bait boxes as soon as possible and at least 24 hours prior to entering the SGSSI Maritime Zone
- Bait boxes must remain on board throughout the visit and should remain in place for vessels that will return to South Georgia during the season
- On entry to the Maritime Zone, check all bait stations and report immediately if the bait has been nibbled or damaged
- Check for other signs of rodents, including chewed food packaging or droppings in the galley or waste storage area

What to Look For

Check the bait block for chew marks — it should have fairly crisp edges. Rounded edges may indicate nibbling. Look for paired grooves or tooth marks. Also look for rodent faeces (rat faeces are larger than mouse faeces) and chewed food, packaging or wood nearby.



Locations for Rodent Monitoring Stations

Stations should be placed in quiet, sheltered areas and fixed to prevent movement in heavy seas. Do not place stations on deck where they will be drenched by breaking seas.

Location	Type
1. Foc’sle (mooring line locker or Bosun’s locker)	Rodent entry/exit point
2. Aft mooring deck	Rodent entry/exit point
3. Zodiac storage or shelter deck	Rodent entry/exit point
4. Cargo receiving areas	Rodent entry/exit point

5. Dry food and provision stores	Rodent harbourage
6. Waste storage areas	Rodent harbourage





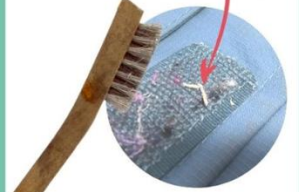
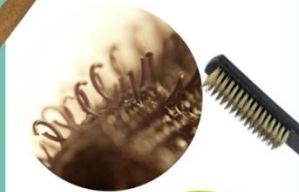




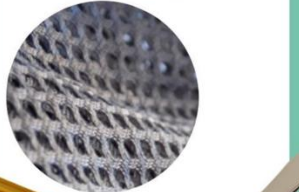




Vessels over 24 metres LOA: Place monitoring stations in each of the areas listed above where they exist, up to a maximum of 6 stations. Some vessels will not have all of these distinct areas and will require fewer bait boxes.

Yachts under 24 metres LOA: Place 1 monitoring station inside the vessel in a suitable area, and 1 on a sheltered area of deck while at anchor or alongside.

Sourcing Bait Boxes

- Bait boxes can be collected from the GSGSSI offices in Stanley, Falkland Islands, prior to departure for South Georgia
- If the vessel will not call at the Falkland Islands before arriving at South Georgia, the vessel is responsible for sourcing suitable alternative monitoring stations acceptable to GSGSSI
- If sourcing your own bait boxes, use solid non-toxic bait blocks, for example Detex with Lumitrack. Toxic solid wax bait blocks are only acceptable where non-toxic bait cannot be procured and will be exchanged upon first visit to Grytviken or Stanley.
- Loose bait such as pellets or grains is not suitable, as it will not readily show signs of disturbance by rodents

Minimising the risk of rodents boarding a vessel is essential. This includes the use of well-fitting rodent guards on mooring lines at gateway ports prior to arrival in SGSSI. Rodent guards should not blow off in strong wind or allow rodents to pass over or around them.

<p>VELCRO</p> 	<p>BOOTS</p> 	<p>MESH</p> 	<p>BAGS & POCKETS</p> 
<p>The tiny hooks in Velcro trap seeds and dirt. A stiff scrubbing brush is ideal for cleaning.</p>	<p>Boot soles trap dirt. A screwdriver or bent paperclip helps remove stubborn dirt, a scrubbing brush will remove the rest.</p>	<p>A bent paperclip or a pair of tweezers will help you pick out the seeds and organic material which gets trapped in the mesh of backpacks.</p>	<p>A vacuum cleaner is the easiest way to clean pockets, backpacks and other hard to reach places.</p>
  	  	  	  

Biosecurity Checklist

5 STEPS TO PROTECT



1.) CHECK

Check your boots, outdoor clothing and equipment before and after every landing.

2.) CLEAN

Clean to remove seeds, soil, insects & dirt.



3.) DIP

Use the disinfectant boot dips before and after every landing.

4.) DRY

After dipping, let the disinfectant dry on.



5.) CHECK AGAIN

Just to be sure, check again before going ashore..



www.gov.gs/biosecurity



SOIL & FAECES



DISEASES & MICROORGANISMS



SEEDS & SPORES



INVERTEBRATES & VERTEBRATES



1.) CHECK

Check your boots, outdoor clothing and equipment before and after every landing. Pay special attention to boot treads, velcro, mesh, bags & pockets.

- BOOTS
- WALKING TROUSERS
- JACKETS
- BACKPACKS
- WALKING POLES
- TRIPODS
- CAMERA BAGS
- EQUIPMENT



2.) CLEAN

Clean to remove seeds, soil, insects & dirt. Tweezers, scrubbing brushes and a vacuum cleaner will help - see over.



3.) DIP

The disinfectant boot dip won't kill seeds or insects, but it will help remove microorganisms and diseases which may harm wildlife.



4.) DRY

Disinfectant dips work much more effectively when they dry on. That's why it's important to do the checks before AND AFTER, every landing.



5.) CHECK AGAIN

Use the buddy system to help you make one final check before you leave the vessel.



THANK YOU!

By undertaking thorough biosecurity, you have played your part in protecting the environment.