

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS



500.000
sheep in
antartica's
shadow





WHERE ARE THE FALKLAND ISLANDS?

The Falkland Islands are an archipelago in the South Atlantic Ocean on the Patagonian Shelf. It has an area of 12.200 km with 2 main islands, East Falkland and West Falkland and 776 smaller islands.

The Falklander do have full British citizenship.

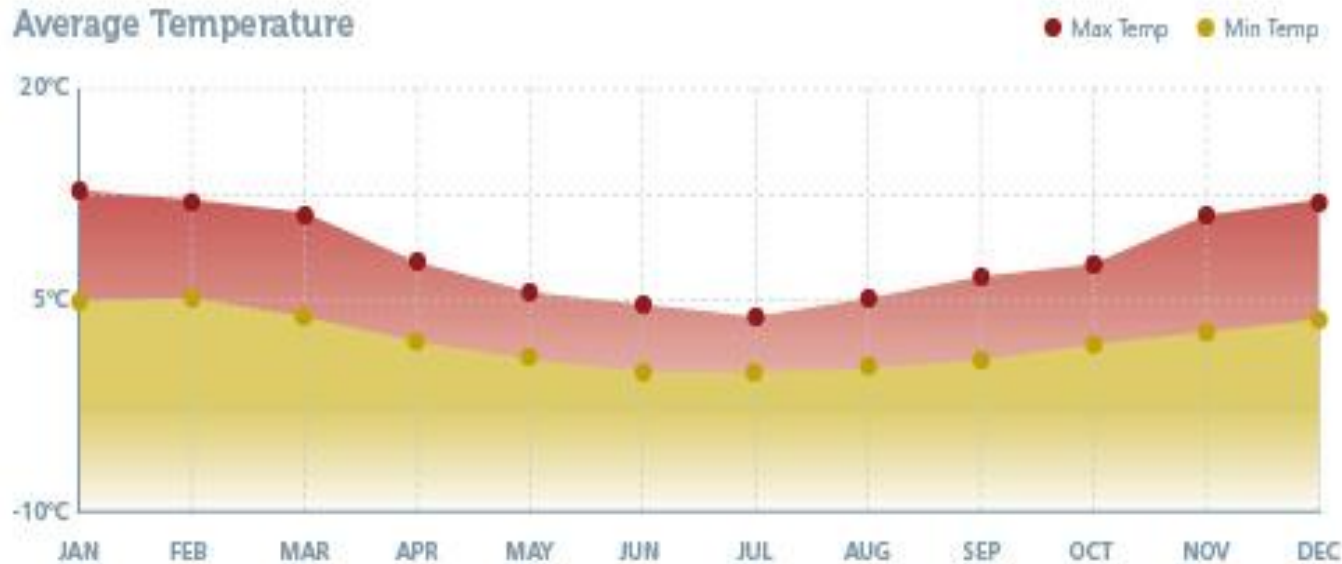


THE FALKLANDS IN DETAIL

Has an area of 4,700 square miles with 2 main islands, East Falkland and West Falkland and 776 smaller islands. Around 3 000 residents, but five hundred thousands of sheep's live there.

Antarctica & Falklands / Mount Pleasant

Average Temperature



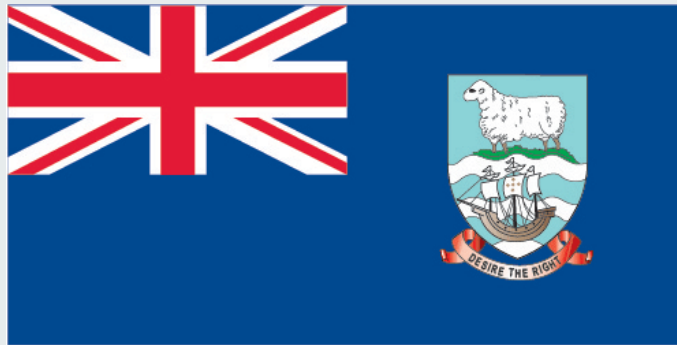
Average Rainfall



CLIMATE OF THE FALKLANDS

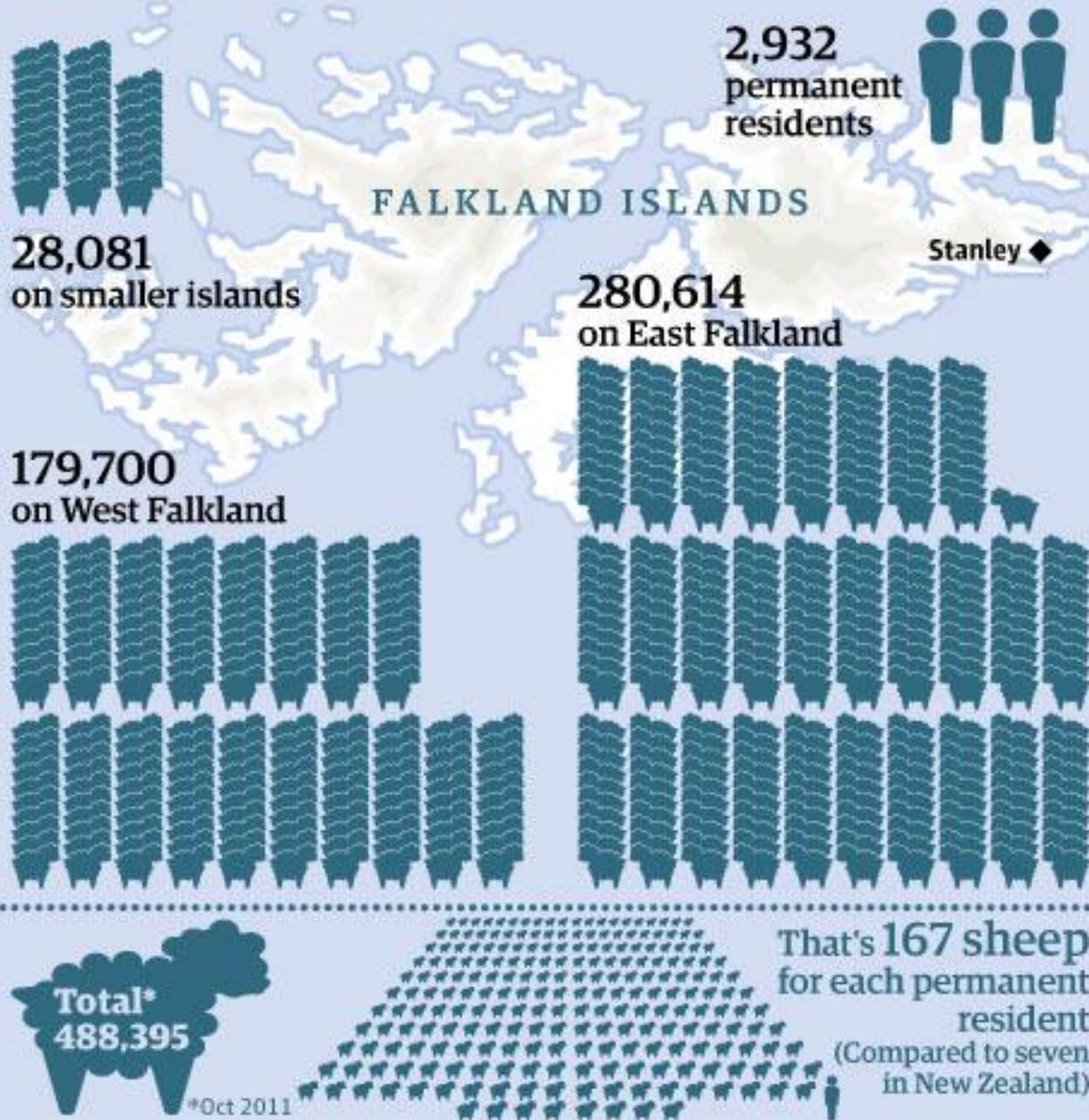
The climate is rough and even the summers are cool and vegetation does grow meager. Average temperature is 5°.

BACKGROUND HISTORY OF THE FALKLANDS



Although first sighted by an English navigator in 1592, the first landing (English) did not occur until almost a century later in 1690, and the first settlement (French) was not established until 1764. The colony was turned over to Spain two years later and the islands have since then been the subject of a territorial dispute, first between Britain and Spain, then between Britain and Argentina. The UK asserted its claim to the islands by establishing a naval garrison there in 1833. Argentina invaded the islands on 2 April 1982. The British responded with an expeditionary force that landed seven weeks later and after fierce fighting forced an Argentine surrender on 14 June 1982. With hostilities ended and Argentine forces withdrawn, UK administration resumed. In response to renewed calls from Argentina for Britain to relinquish control of the islands, a referendum was held in March 2013, which resulted in 99.8% of the population voting to remain a part of the UK.

How many sheep?



HOW MANY SHEEP DO LIVE ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS?

HISTORY OF THE WOOL ENVIROMENT



- Since there are no industries on the islands air- or environmental pollution is known. The sheep are kept outside all year long.
- This environment of the Falkland Islands is ideal for sheep farming and its wool, being famous for its soft and fine character.
- Unseasonable snow, hail, very short pasture growing season and strong winds all have to be contended with. It is pushing farming towards the limit.
- The environment, while harsh at times for both people as well as livestock, also provides natural protection from the range of bacteria and organisms that cause wool damage, wool discoloration and predisposes animals to fly strike. As a result wool produced from Falkland Islands sheep has outstanding whiteness and softness.
- Falkland Wool is of exceptional purity and free from chemical residues. The islands have a complete absence of sheep lice and sheep ked (allows animals freedom from dipping and jetting) and an overall disease status that would be envied by most countries if they knew about it. No mulesing!

HISTORY OF THE WOOL THE BREEDS

- In the middle of the last century Corriedale sheeps were introduced to the Falklands and today the production of wool is one of the major economic branches. The Corriedale is the oldest of all the crossbred breeds, a Merino-Lincoln cross developed in 1914. The wool is almost guaranteed to be chemical free because of the harsh climate the breed is raised in.
- The Falkland Islands have a very long sheep farming history. For almost 150 years sheep have been grazed on the wide-open native white grass camps and rich coastal valleys and "greens". Stocking rates are quite low compared to many other places, with approximately one sheep being run on two hectares of land.
- The vast majority of sheep in the Falklands are of Corriedale ancestry, however over the last 10 to 12 years there has been a dramatic shift to the finer Polwarth types and Multi-Purpose-Merinos.



CHARACTARISTIC OF THE WOOL

- The wool ranging is from 18 to 30 microns. Fleece from a mature ewe will weigh 10 to 17 lb (4.5 to 7.7 kg) with a staple length of 3.5 to 6.0 inch (8.9 to 15.2 cm). After scouring, a yield of 60 to 70% of the raw fleece weight is common.
- It is some of the whitest and finest wool in the world.
- The fleece is showing good bulkiness and silky soft handle.
- Wool preparation and wool classing is taken very seriously: World-Best practice standards are adopted with a mix of professional wool classers and "owner classers" controlling the operation.



OUTPUT



- The fine Merino clip today is between 20 to 25t.
- Around 90% of it gets purchased by our company.

WHAT MAKES FALKLAND WOOL SO SPECIAL?



Marie-Paul Delignieres of Dunbar Farm and Michael dal Grande discuss the quality of fleece.

Falklands Wool

What makes Falkland wool extraordinary—and truly, it is some of the whitest and finest wool in the world—is a combination of factors, not all of them desirable or controllable. There is a delicate dance between environment and genetics to achieve the desired results and the music is still playing.

Just as some tomatoes are good for salads and others are good for stewing, some wools are good for carpets and others are good for clothing. Falkland wool is on the fine end of the spectrum: about 20 microns for a hogget (yearling) fleece, preferably a bit less. But not too much less, or the fiber becomes weak. And not too much more, or it will lose its softness and appeal to the touch.

In addition to finding the ideal diameter, commercially processed wool can't be too short (less than about 3.5 inches) or too long, or it will interfere with the spinning process. And even if the length and width are good, there's still the matter of grease. Too much grease (lanolin) is impossible to clean completely without using caustic agents that destroy the integrity of the fibers.

If Goldilocks had been charged with finding the perfect fleece, she would still be out there looking.

THANKS FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

