



South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Office of the Commissioner
Government House
Stanley
Falkland Islands

June 2019

INFORMATION FOR YACHTS VISITING SOUTH GEORGIA

2019/20 Summer Season

This is to be read and understood in addition to the *Visit Permit Terms and Conditions*, and the *Visiting South Georgia* document.

ENTERING AND LEAVING THE SOUTH GEORGIA MARITIME ZONE: Please notify the Government Officer when you enter and when you leave our maritime zone (200nm point from land).

We do not require you to keep us informed of your position or activity whilst undertaking your visit. We do, however ask that give us some warning if you are coming back in to Grytviken/KEP during your visit.

ARRIVAL AT GRYTVIKEN/KING EDWARD POINT (KEP): Please give as much warning as possible of visits to Grytviken/KEP. On first arrival, everyone must stay on the vessel (apart from when tying up lines) until the Government Officer has visited to help you clear customs and conduct briefings.

GRYTVIKEN JETTIES: 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.

KING EDWARD POINT (KEP) JETTY: This is not for public use. It is exposed to the prevailing westerly winds. The Government Officer may invite you to come to the KEP jetty for customs clearance. Note that from January 2020, the wharf will be subject to redevelopment, and access will not be possible.

JETTIES 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.

WATER: 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.

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).

PERMITTED VISITOR LANDING SITES: You may only visit the 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.

BIOSECURITY (refer to the *Biosecurity Handbook*): In recent years several large habitat restoration projects have sought to eradicate rodents, reindeer and invasive weeds from South Georgia. It is now more important than ever that stringent biosecurity measures are in place to prevent non-native species entering the Territory.

Please help us prevent the introduction, and spread, of disease, alien plants, insects and animals by observing the biosecurity measures. Boot scrubbing and disinfecting between sites, care in keeping clothing and bags clear of seeds, and care with fresh food are important in keeping South Georgia special.

RODENTS: Rats and mice have recently been eradicated from the entire island. This was an extremely expensive, once-only project. It is critical that everyone takes the utmost care to prevent rodents getting on board vessels and tenders. 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.

VISITING KING EDWARD POINT: If you wish to see someone at KEP, do not just turn up without first calling the Govt. Officers on VHF CH10. If you wish to see the Govt. Officers at KEP, or seek emergency medical or other help, please call in advance to arrange a convenient time.

See the Visitor Site Guide for Grytviken for more information.

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 from GSGSSI.

VISITING PRION ISLAND: The Government Officer will advise whether you may visit the wandering albatross breeding site on Prion Island which is closed from 20 November to 7 January.

- **Timing:** Only two five-hour visits per day are allowed by larger ships, and the Govt. Officers coordinate time-slot bookings. Yachts with 12 passengers or fewer may visit at any time but should liaise with cruise ships in the area.

CAMPING: Camping, or any other overnight stays ashore, are not permitted unless you have specifically applied to do so and have a regulated activity permit for the activity.

HIKING: Bear in mind that weather can change very quickly, and equip yourselves accordingly for visits ashore.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

You must complete and return a *Post Visit Report* at the end of your visit. See the document *COMPLETING YOUR POST VISIT REPORT 2019-20* 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.

Thank you and enjoy your visit.



Ross James

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