



South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Office of the Commissioner
Government House,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

Getting Married on South Georgia

South Georgia is a very special location for a marriage to be celebrated. It is possible to have a civil marriage or a religious marriage service on South Georgia but there are some formalities that must be completed and you will need to plan ahead to not only comply with the legal time frame but also to allow enough time to make the practical arrangements for a marriage on what is a remote territory. We recommend that you contact the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands at least 3 months before the date that you want to get married.

All Marriages

A Special Licence is required for all marriages on South Georgia. The Commissioner for South Georgia and the South Sandwich islands issues these.

Civil Marriages

These are all solemnised on South Georgia by a Registrar appointed by the Commissioner for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. Marriage ceremonies must be conducted in the vicinity of Grytviken.

Religious Marriage Services

A religious service may be possible if celebrated by a Church Minister in conformity with the Marriage Ordinance. If this is desired then this should be indicated as soon as possible as a church Minister will need to accompany the couple to South Georgia as there is no resident Minister on South Georgia.

What you need to do

To obtain a Special Licence you will need to take the following steps:

- Complete the *Notice of Marriage* form. An electronic copy can be sent on request together with notes to help you complete the form correctly
- One of the couple getting married must sign the declaration on the *Notice of Marriage* form in the presence of either a magistrate, registrar, justice of the peace, a British Consular official or Notary Public who will witness the declaration.
- You will need to present the following documents at the same time:

- Passport of both people getting married
- Contact details
- Copy of a utility bill confirming the home address of both people getting married
- Send the original completed *Notice of Marriage* form to the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands for the attention of the Operations Director, at the address above together with copies of the above documents. (You are advised to send an electronic copy of the form and documents to us for us to check before you send the original by post. Email exo@gov.gs)
- If either person getting married has been married before then a copy of the decree/order of divorce must be provided to the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands at the same time as the *Notice of Marriage* form.
- Pay the fee for the issue of a Special Licence, which is currently £400. The Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands will send an invoice with payment instructions when it has completed preparation of the documentation.
- The form and copy documents must be received by the Government at least 28 days before the marriage and ideally much earlier

The Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands advises the use of a courier to deliver the form and copy documents. Currently DHL are the only courier company that we are aware of that delivers to the Falkland Islands.

What happens next

The *Notice of Marriage* will be displayed outside the office of the Registrar General in Stanley, Falkland Islands. It must be displayed between 3 months and 21 days before the date of the marriage.

If the Commissioner of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands approves the granting of the Special Licence, the Commissioner will issue the Special Licence for the marriage. The Special Licence is valid for 3 months from the date of issue.

The Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands will prepare the Marriage Certificates, which will be sent by ship to the Registrar

on South Georgia, together with the Special Licence in readiness for the arrival of the couple to be married.

The marriage ceremony can then take place and following the ceremony the couple will be given a copy of the Special Licence and 2 original copies of the Marriage Certificate. A copy of the Special Licence will be held by the Attorney General in Stanley and copies of the Marriage Certificate will be held by the Registrar on South Georgia and the Registrar General in Stanley.