



Guidance for your application to visit Beauchene Island

FIG Environment Department



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Contents

1.	General information	3
2.	Purpose of this Guide	3
	Important Policy Notes	3
3.	Before you Apply	4
	3.1 Eligibility	4
	3.2 Contact the Environment Department	4
	Contact information	4
4.	Overview of the Application Process	4
5.	Completing the Application Form	5
	5.1 About the Applicant	5
	5.2 Details of the proposed visit	5
	5.3 Experience	5
	5.4 Reason for visit	5
6.	How Your Application Will Be Assessed	5
7.	Preparing the Visit Plan	6
	7.1 Logistics	6
	7.2 Biosecurity requirements	6
	7.3 Waste Management	6
	7.4 Fire Risk	6
	7.5 Countryside Code	6

1. General information

Beauchene Island is found 80 km south of the tip of East Falkland and 50 km from Sea Lion Island (52° 54' S and 59° 09' W). It is the most remote island in the Falkland Islands, and also remains its most pristine island. The Island has never been grazed and there are no introduced plants or animals.

Beauchene Island was declared a Wildlife Reserve on the 30 December 1964, and in accordance with the Conservation of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance 1999 the reserve was re-designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR) in 1999. Beauchene Island is owned and managed by the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) with the Environment Department responsible for its management.

Anyone wishing to visit Beauchene must obtain a valid permit through the FIG Environment Department from the Environment Committee. Environment Committees are held four times a year and are typically held in March, June, September and December.

2. Purpose of this Guide

Beauchene Island is one of the Falkland Islands most protected sites.

This guide supports applicants seeking permission to visit Beauchene Island. It explains:

- Whether the purpose of your visit is eligible
- How to complete the application form
- What standards your proposal must meet
- What to include in your visit plan

Important Policy Notes

- Access to Beauchene Island is extremely limited. FIG policy allows for scientific purposes only in ***exceptional circumstances***.
- Commercial filming, media production, and tourism visits are not permitted. Applications for these purposes will not be approved.
- All decisions to approve, defer, or reject an application are made by the Environment Committee.
- The Environment Department processes applications but does not make the final decision.

3. Before you Apply

3.1 Eligibility

- Applications are only considered when:
- The purpose of the visit is scientific research
- The work cannot be carried out elsewhere
- The visit poses minimal environmental and biosecurity risk
- The benefit to FIG's environmental management of the island is clear

3.2 Contact the Environment Department

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their proposal with the Environment Department before submitting an application form.

Contact information

Environment Department
Stanley, Falkland Islands
Tel: +500 28449
Email: environment@sec.gov.fk

4. Overview of the Application Process

1. Download the application form from:
<https://www.gov.fk/environment/licenses-permits/>
2. Submit the completed form to the Environment Department
3. Submit any research permit applications at the same time, if required.
4. FIG acknowledges receipt and begins processing. Applications may take up to 3 months to process.
5. The Environment Committee reviews the application and decides whether it is:
 - Approved in principle
 - Deferred (more information required)
 - Not approved
6. If approved in principle, you must submit a detailed visit plan.
7. The visit plan is reviewed by the Environment Department
8. A visitor permit is issued with conditions.

5. Completing the Application Form

5.1 About the Applicant

Provide:

- Full Name
- Contact details
- Address
- Professional affiliation

This must be completed by the lead applicant/expedition leader

5.2 Details of the proposed visit

You must specify:

- Group size (adults and children separately)
- Intended dates or date range
- Number of days and nights on the island
- Whether repeat visits are required
- Vessel and skipper details (must be confirmed before a permit is issued)

5.3 Experience

You must outline:

- Any previous visits to Beauchene
- Experience on similar remote offshore islands
- Details of previous landings (duration, activities, biosecurity measures)
- Contact details for group members who have previously visited Beauchene

5.4 Reason for visit

You must clearly explain:

- Primary purpose (must be scientific research or conservation activity)
- Secondary purpose (if any)
- Research licence status
- How your visit benefits Beauchene Island
- Expected outputs (reports, data, publications)
- Risks and impacts
- How risks will be monitored and mitigated
- Why the work cannot be done elsewhere

6. How Your Application Will Be Assessed

The Environment Committee evaluates applications based on:

- Scientific, conservation or management value
- Alignment with national biodiversity priorities
- Whether the work fills a knowledge gap
- Whether the work can be done elsewhere
- Risk to wildlife, habitats and biosecurity
- Your experience and ability to manage risks
- Recommendation from Environment Department

Each application is assessed on a case-by-case basis

7. Preparing the Visit Plan

If your application is approved in principle by the Environment Committee, you must submit a Visit Plan detailing logistics and risk mitigation before your permit is issued.

7.1 Logistics

The plan must include:

- Landing strategy (access beaches may be occupied by marine mammals)
- Movement routes that avoid burrows and nests
- Emergency plan and communication equipment
- Shelter arrangements
- Compliance with permit conditions and the Countryside Code

7.2 Biosecurity requirements

Beauchene has no known invasive species, and strict measures apply:

- All equipment, baggage and clothing must be checked for seeds, soil, animal matter, and rodent signs
- Boots, gear and equipment must be disinfected with a biocide such as Virkon
- Follow all protocols as set out in the Avian Influenza Falkland Islands Guidance
- Food must be stored in airtight transparent containers
- All food waste must be removed from the island

7.3 Waste Management

- All rubbish must be removed from the island
- Only biodegradable toilet paper may be left
- Toileting must occur where there is access to the sea

7.4 Fire Risk

Beauchene is a peat island with high fire risk:

- No smoking
- No open fires
- Only small camp cookers may be used, in safe rocky areas
- No mains-powered electrical equipment

7.5 Countryside Code

Your visit must demonstrate full compliance with relevant sections of the Falkland Islands Countryside Code.