



Falklands Conservation Wildlife Calendar

The Following dates are approximate and could vary as much as +/- 3 weeks. Exact dates may vary from year to year depending on the condition of the animals prior to return, timing may also vary between sites (for example Beachene Island is usually one week in advance of other breeding sites). You should also expect variation within the population of some species, with some individual animals returning earlier or later.

	Gentoo Penguin	Magellanic Penguin	Rockhopper Penguin	King Penguin 18 Month Breeding cycle	Black-browed Albatross	Elephant Seal	Sea Lion
Sept	Gentoo and Magellanic penguins begin to return to the Falkland Islands during Sept to begin building their nests				Males return late Sept	Males arrive early in the month. Females arriving approx. 1 week later	
Oct	Both species lay their eggs around the middle of the month		Males arrive early in the month. Females arrive approx. 1 week later	Large & small chicks present in the colony at the same time	Females return early Oct. Eggs are laid by mid-month	Pups are born late Sept & early Oct. Pups are suckled for 23 days. Females mate at end of lactation period & return to sea	
Nov	The eggs are incubated during this month		The eggs are laid at the beginning of Nov	1st Peak adult moult. Majority previous yrs chicks depart during Nov/Dec	Incubation lasts for 70 days		
Dec	Eggs hatch in early Dec	Eggs hatch in the middle of Dec	Eggs hatch early Dec & parents broodguard for approx. 25 days	2nd peak adult moult. Eggs are laid mid Nov – mid March	Eggs hatch late Dec & the chick is brood guarded for 25 days	Females depart. Pups stay ashore for 45 days. Males depart late Nov after 3 mths lost 40% of their body weight	Bulls establish their territories. Cows arrive late Dec / early Jan
Jan	Chicks start to creche early in Jan		Chicks begin to crèche	50 day incubation	Brood guard continues until mid Jan	Adults haul out late Jan / early Feb to moult for 25 days	Pupping late Dec -mid Jan. Females mate 2/3 days after pupping. After mating females forage, returning every few days to suckle pup.
Feb	Both parents forage to feed chick. Some chicks may fledge late in the month	Chick leaves burrow			Both adults feed the chick during Feb & March		Late Jan pups form pods. Bull territories break-up. Pups may suckle/ dependant for 12+ mths
Mar	Chicks fledge early March Adults begin their annual moult in late March	Chicks fledge mid March, parents begin their annual moult	Chicks fledge early March. Adults provision then return to colony to moult				After breeding there is no segregation & mixed groups haul out
April		Magellanics disperse along South American coast	Adults finish moulting in late April		Chicks fledge mid/late April at 122 days old		
May	Up to 50% of Gentoos remain in the Falkland Islands over the winter		Rockhoppers disperse northwards foraging along Patagonian Shelf	May – August chicks may only be fed 3x & can lose up to 50% of their weight	Juveniles disperse north to forage. Return to colony to breed at about 7 years of age		