

1. 1592: the only certain discovery of the archipelago was by the Englishman John Davis. Other claims, hypotheses and theories as to an earlier discovery remain unproven.
2. 1594: first claim to the islands was by Richard Hawkins, another Englishman.
3. 1690: an English captain was the first to land on the islands. Capt. Strong named the sound between the two main islands as Falklands Sound.
4. 1702: the first maps of the islands were published that used the name Falklands Isles.
5. 1764: France was the first to settle the eastern islands in 1764 (Capt. Bougainville). They set up a settlement at a place they called Port Louis. They did not take effective possession of the western islands. The French called the islands the Malouines.
6. 1765: Britain returned to the archipelago, landing in the western islands. Capt. Byron reclaimed the land. He named that harbour, Port Egmont.
7. 1766: Britain established itself in the archipelago. Capt. McBride finds the French and orders them to leave. Britain built a settlement called Jasons Town. Protected by a blockhouse. In France, following pressure from Spain, the St. Malo Company transferred its settlement at Port Louis. Its expenses were reimbursed. There was no cession of territory as Spain claimed a prior right, albeit denied by France.
8. 1767: Spain arrived at the eastern island which they called Soledad. The majority of the French left.
9. 1770: Britain and Spain encountered each other in the Falklands. Each demanded the other leaves. A Spanish fleet from Montevideo ejected the British from Port Egmont. London and Madrid argued, but France refused to support Spain in a war.
10. 1771: Spain backed down and recognised the British in the western islands. A British garrison returned to Jasons Town and the Spanish withdrew to Soledad. An uneasy truce became the status quo. Britain in the west, Spain in the east.
11. 1774: Britain withdrew its garrison. Left behind were the marks and signs of sovereignty (flags and a lead plate). Also the first whaling ships. This was the start of the British Southern Whale Fishery (1774-1853) based at Port Egmont.
12. 1776: Spain realised that the British garrison had left, but did not raise their flag over the western islands. The lead plate was stolen and sent to Buenos Aires.
13. 1777: orders issued by Spain called for the destruction of whalers' equipment at Port Egmont, but not the British fort or town. However, these orders were not carried out.
14. 1780: war between Spain and Britain. New orders from Spain called for the destruction of the town and fort at Port Egmont. This happened at a time when there were no British whaling ships present. Spain did not leave its own marks or signs of sovereignty. Nor did it raise its flag over the western islands. British whaling and sealing ships continued to base themselves at Port Egmont after the Spanish had departed. From 1780, Spain maintained a covert reconnaissance of Port Egmont. When British whalers/sealers were found among the eastern islands, the Spanish complained but did little else.
15. 1786: London raised the bounties on whale oil to encourage more ships to the Southern Whale Fishery.
16. 1789: following an incident between a whaling ship and a Spanish ship at Puerto Deseado on the South American coast, the British Board of Trade held an inquiry in London which confirmed that Britain's claims to the Falklands archipelago remained valid.
17. 1790: following another incident between British and Spanish ships on the north-west coast of north America (Nootka Sound) the two countries came close to war. Again, France refused to support Spain and a convention was agreed. This severely curtailed Spanish pretensions in the Americas, requiring sovereignty claims to be evidenced by effective possession. Its application to the Falklands is uncertain and much disputed. Had it applied, Spain's claims in the archipelago would have been restricted to a ten mile radius around Puerto Soledad.
18. 1801: France attempted to claim an establishment on the Falklands from the British, not their ally Spain.
19. 1806: for administrative purposes, Spain identified Soledad Island as a "ship sailing". Operated from Montevideo, not Buenos Aires.
20. 1810: Buenos Aires ejected its Spanish Viceroy but continued to recognise the authority of the Spanish King. Not an act of independence. The Viceroyalty moved its command to Montevideo.

21. 1811: the Viceroyalty of the Rio de la Plata at Montevideo ordered the evacuation of the Soledad garrison, with specific instructions to leave behind the marks and signs of its sovereignty over the island of Soledad only. In accordance with the 1771 status quo.
22. 1814: the Spanish Viceroy departs Montevideo for Spain. The end of direct Spanish colonial rule, but not of Spanish sovereignty.
23. 1816: a group of Viceroyalty provinces declared themselves independent of Spain. They call themselves the United Provinces (UP). This group did not include Paraguay or the Banda Oriental (Montevideo).
24. 1820: the UP became disunited and broke into faction. No United Provinces between 1820 and 1826. No President. No central government. On East Falkland Island, British whalers witnessed an American pirate make a claim on behalf of the UP (Jewett). He did not report this to Buenos Aires.
25. 1823: two citizens of Buenos Aires, Pacheco and Vernet (of Hamburg) formed a partnership to hunt wild cattle on East Falkland Island. They applied for a licence from the government, but then sub-contracted the task to an Englishman (Schofield).
26. 1824: the Schofield expedition was badly organised, badly managed and a complete failure. At that time, British envoy, Woodbine Parish arrived in Buenos Aires with instructions to discover what the United Provinces was. What territory it claimed. Whether the UP was worth British recognition. Seeing that the provinces were not united, he wrote to each province for details of their territory. No response mentioned the Falkland Islands. The reply from Buenos Aires was very detailed and was published in London in 1825.
27. 1825: despite doubts, political necessity forced Britain's Foreign Secretary George Canning to decide to recognise the UP. A decision based upon the information provided by the provinces. Recognition was, however, *de facto* and not *de jure* (as Canning assured Madrid following a complaint). A commercial treaty was signed between the United Provinces and Great Britain. It did not recognise territory.
28. 1826: the UP reunited. A government with a President is founded. Pacheco & Vernet resumed their attempt to hunt wild cattle on East Falkland Island. An expedition led by Luis Vernet successfully established a base at the old Puerto Soledad (Port Louis) garrison site. Before departing Buenos Aires, Vernet informed the British Consulate and received tacit permission.
29. 1828: the UP broke apart again. A dictatorial government took over Buenos Aires Province and the city but were opposed by other provincial forces led by General Rosas. Vernet tried to take advantage of the confused political situation to obtain power over the Falkland Islands. A provincial decree was granted but not gazetted. Of little use to Vernet, so he again sought the tacit permission of the British.
30. 1829: Rosas overthrew the government in Buenos Aires but not before the Lavalle government had issued a decree claiming the Falkland Islands. Gazetted brought it to the notice of Woodbine Parish. A second, but not gazetted, decree made Luis Vernet the Civil and Military Commander of the Falkland Islands. Woodbine Parish presented an official Protest to the Foreign Ministry of the now Argentine Confederation (no longer UP). This was acknowledged.
31. 1831: in an attempt to gain effective control in the Falkland Islands, but under instructions from Parish not to molest British ships, Vernet seized three American sealing ships. In December, 1831, the USS *Lexington* arrived in the Falklands to seek out the *pirates* that had seized the three US ships. Vernet had left before *Lexington* arrived, but his managers' were taken prisoner and transported to Rio de Janeiro in chains. Also, most of Vernet's settlers were removed. This left only 25 people still at Port Louis.
32. 1832: informed that Buenos Aires intended to send a garrison to East Falkland Island, Britain made a 2<sup>nd</sup> official Protest. Once again, acknowledged. Britain ordered a ship to the Falklands to see what was happening and impose British authority. Buenos Aires sent a garrison in defiance of the British protest. On its arrival, the garrison took over Port Louis but then mutinied, killed its commander and ran riot for a week. A British warship, *Clio*, arrived at Port Egmont and renewed the marks and signs of sovereignty.
33. 1833: *Clio*, arrived at Port Luis. Its commander, Onslow, required the Buenos Aires garrison to leave. They did so peacefully. Before he sailed away, Onslow handed control of the settlement to the settlers with instructions to raise the British flag every Sunday. Buenos Aires protested. Vernet sent his managers back to the Port Louis settlement in March, 1833 to rescue his business interests but failed to supply sufficient funds to pay the gauchos in silver for their work. In August, 1833, unpaid and frustrated, the gauchos rioted and killed Vernet's managers and his storekeeper.
34. 1834: the Port Louis murderers were arrested and sent to Britain. To keep order, a Naval lieutenant took up residency at Port Louis..