ANTARCTICA
LIVINGSTON ISLAND
SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS

Scale 1: 100 000

Lambert Conformal Conic Projection
Standard Parallels 63°20' S and 76°40' S ● Datum WGS84

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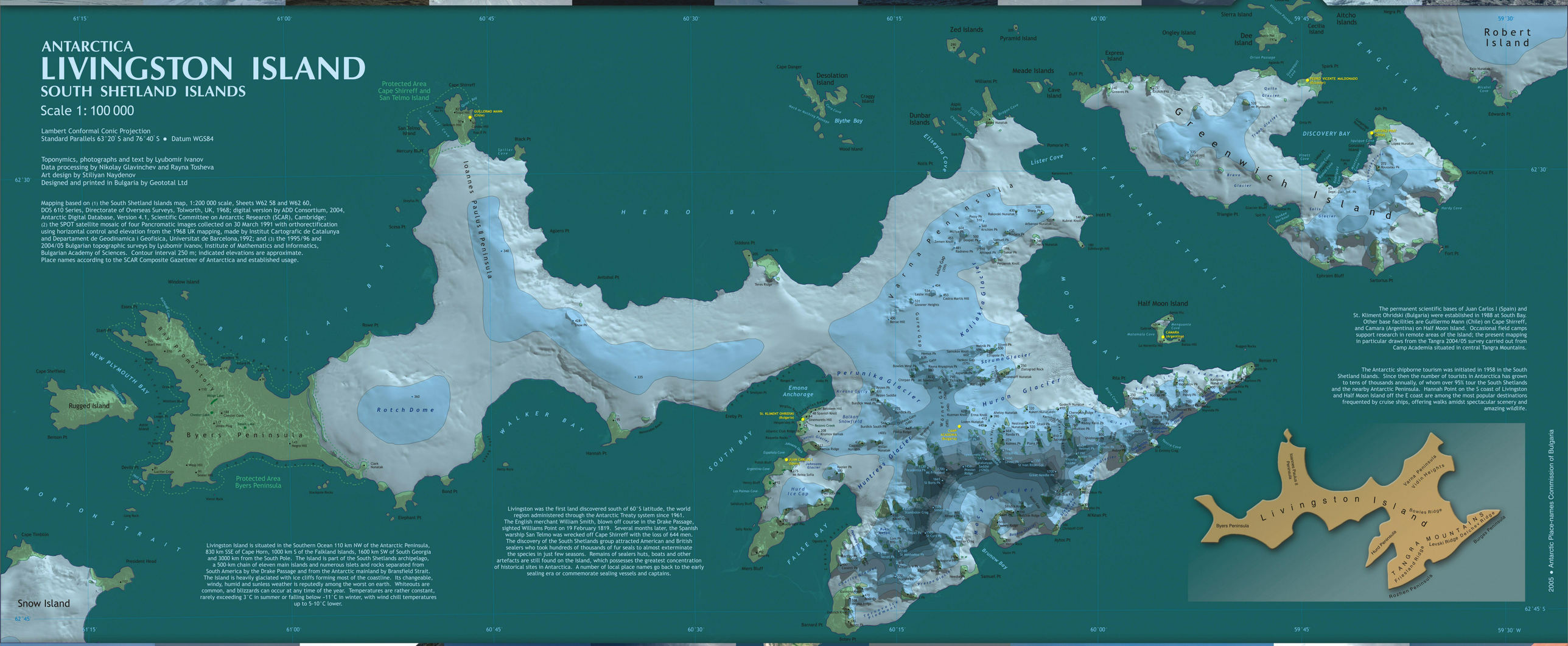
Designed and printed in Bulgaria by Geototal Ltd

Mapping based on (1) the South Shetland Islands map, 1:200 000 scale, Sheets W62 58 and W62 60, DOS 610 Series, Directorate of Overseas Surveys, Tolworth, UK, 1968; digital version by ADD Consortium, 2004, Antarctic Digital Database, Version 4.1, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), Cambridge; (2) the SPOT satellite mosaic of four Pancromatic images collected on 30 March 1991 with orthorectification using horizontal control and elevation from the 1968 UK mapping, made by Institut Cartografic de Catalunya and Departament de Geodinamica i Geofisica, Universitat de Barcelona,1992; and (3) the 1995/96 and 2004/05 Bulgarian topographic surveys by Lyubomir Ivanov, Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Contour interval 250 m; indicated elevations are approximate. Place names according to the SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica and established usage.



Livingston Island is situated in the Southern Ocean 110 km NW of the Antarctic Peninsula, 830 km SSE of Cape Horn, 1000 km S of the Falkland Islands, 1600 km SW of South Georgia and 3000 km from the South Pole. The Island is part of the South Shetlands archipelago, a 500-km chain of eleven main islands and numerous islets and rocks separated from South America by the Drake Passage and from the Antarctic mainland by Bransfield Strait. The Island is heavily glaciated with ice cliffs forming most of the coastline. Its changeable, windy, humid and sunless weather is reputedly among the worst on earth. Whiteouts are common, and blizzards can occur at any time of the year. Temperatures are rather constant, rarely exceeding 3°C in summer or falling below –11°C in winter, with wind chill temperatures up to 5-10°C lower.

Livingston was the first land discovered south of 60°S latitude, the world region administered through the Antarctic Treaty system since 1961. The English merchant William Smith, blown off course in the Drake Passage, sighted Williams Point on 19 February 1819. Several months later, the Spanish warship San Telmo was wrecked off Cape Shirreff with the loss of 644 men. The discovery of the South Shetlands group attracted American and British sealers who took hundreds of thousands of fur seals to almost exterminate the species in just few seasons. Remains of sealers huts, boats and other artefacts are still found on the Island, which possesses the greatest concentration of historical sites in Antarctica. A number of local place names go back to the early sealing era or commemorate sealing vessels and captains.

The permanent scientific bases of Juan Carlos I (Spain) and St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria) were established in 1988 at South Bay. Other base facilities are Guillermo Mann (Chile) on Cape Shirreff, and Camara (Argentina) on Half Moon Island. Occasional field camps support research in remote areas of the Island; the present mapping in particular draws from the Tangra 2004/05 survey carried out from Camp Academia situated in central Tangra Mountains.

The Antarctic shipborne tourism was initiated in 1958 in the South Shetland Islands. Since then the number of tourists in Antarctica has grown to tens of thousands annually, of whom over 95% tour the South Shetlands and the nearby Antarctic Peninsula. Hannah Point on the S coast of Livingston and Half Moon Island off the E coast are among the most popular destinations frequented by cruise ships, offering walks amidst spectacular scenery and amazing wildlife.

2005 ● Antarctic Place-names Commission of Bulgaria