

# USAP DEPLOYMENT INFORMATION

## for ASC Employees

### Passports

- Passports must be valid for three months *after* your return, undamaged beyond normal wear and tear, with a blank page for each country to be visited.
- Airlines will not allow you to board, and some countries will not allow entry, if these requirements are not met. Please take the time to check it now.
- Don't wait to apply for or renew your passport. ASC Travel needs the new passport details four weeks before travel commences.

### Forms in this Packet

- Do not wait until you after you physically qualify to return the forms in this packet. Fill them out and return them ASAP. (All candidates please, including alternates.)
- Do *not* return forms via email. Fax and U.S. Mail are more secure.
- Be sure ASC has your current contact info! ASC uses the email and mailing address you give us on your travel forms. Let ASC Travel know if your situation changes. Also ...
- The name on your ticket *must* match your passport and if it does not, the airlines will stop you at check-in. "Name exactly as it appears on passport" means exactly that.
- Keep copies of your travel forms in case anything is lost in transit.

### Travel

- Expect to depart from a major U.S. international airport and return to the same airport.
  - The Airport of Departure (AOD) is the major U.S. international airport closest to your home address. If you wish to depart from another city, you'll be returned to that same location.
  - Once you submit your paperwork, you cannot change your AOD.
  - You must submit your HR and travel paperwork and be physically qualified before tickets can be purchased. Late submittal might jeopardize your deployment or even your employment. The goal is to ticket 21 days before your flight.
  - Be prepared to travel on weekends and maybe holidays.
- All travel arrangements are made in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) and in the best interest of the U.S. Government. Contract employees are not allowed pre-deployment personal travel en route to Antarctica.
- Please do not ask ASC Travel to consider special routing or layovers, which can be considered misuse of government funds.
- Increasingly, airlines are restricting the number of seats that can be pre-assigned.
  - ASC Travel does not have the ability to pre-select your seat.
  - More often than not, you'll need to wait until check-in to select a seat.
- Do not pay money or use frequent flier miles to change or upgrade your ticket, or any part of your ticket. If you do ...
  - ASC loses control of the ticket and ASC Travel is unable to assist with travel issues en route or during redeployment, and ...
  - All changes en route and at redeployment become your financial responsibility, with no reimbursement.
- Tickets are e-tickets. The only e-ticket you will receive is from your U.S. AOD to San Francisco or other cohort city, emailed from antarcticagents@tlcorporate.com. Return tickets are purchased upon redeployment.
- Comprehensive itineraries, with information about your travel to and time in the cohort city, are emailed from ASC Travel about a week before your departure.



- Further details about your time in New Zealand or Chile (quarantine, ECW, etc.) are emailed from the Christchurch or Punta Arenas Travel Office.

## **Baggage**

- Review airline baggage policies before departure for prohibited items and baggage dimension/weight, especially if traveling on more than one airline.
- Be prepared to pay baggage fees at check-in and if/when you change carriers.
- ASC allows two normal-size 50lb/23kg checked bags on domestic flights to your cohort city and on charter flights to New Zealand and Chile.
  - If you travel within these allowances and are still charged baggage fees, you may expense them, with receipts.
  - Charges for oversize bags, that is, any bag larger than 62 inches (158 cm) overall (length + width + height), are not reimbursable.
- For the Ice flight between Christchurch and McMurdo, the baggage allowance is 85lbs/38.5kgs for all participants, strictly enforced. (South Pole winterovers are allowed 100lbs to the Ice.)
  - That's 100 pounds to New Zealand but 85 pounds on the Ice flight.
  - Save room for about 10 pounds of extra Extreme Cold Weather gear.
  - The number of bags is not limited but the maximum weight for a single piece is 70lbs/32kgs.
  - Hand-carry is limited to 15 pounds that must fit into a standard airline sizing box.
- On board the vessels, there are no weight restrictions but space is limited.

## **Ice Dates**

- Your Ice dates are determined by your job and your supervisor. ASC Travel is unable to change your Ice dates so please do not ask them.
- Please direct job-specific questions to your Hiring Manager.

## **Life on the Ice**

- For other information about life on the Ice, consult the online [USAP Participant Guide](#). For example:
  - Power adapters are required for electronic devices at New Zealand and Chilean hotels.
  - Bring (extra) sunglasses.
  - Bed linens are provided but not towels.
  - No skyping, no drones without approval.
  - Bring your own long underwear.

## **Miscellaneous**

- Check the expiration of your ATM and credit cards, too. Palmer Station is cashless.
- TDY (temporary duty) in Christchurch must be pre-approved.
- If there are changes to your medical or dental health after you physically qualify, you *must* notify [medical@usap.gov](mailto:medical@usap.gov) before you deploy.
- All wintering females of child-bearing age are screened for pregnancy one to two weeks before station close. Pregnancy is a “Not Physically Qualified” condition for Antarctic deployment.
- Redeployments are processed on the Ice and are coordinated with your supervisor or MPC.
- Please check your email (including SPAM folders) frequently as deployment approaches.

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