



# CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION

## PASSPORTS

Regardless of nationality, your passport must be valid for six months *after* your return.

## VISAs – U.S.Citizens

If you are a U.S. citizen you do not need a visa for New Zealand or while transiting through Australia.

## VISAs – non U.S.Citizens

If you do not possess a U.S. passport, the U.S. Antarctic Program does not, and cannot, provide advice about obtaining visas. Check entry requirements with the consulate of the countries to be transited/visited. Any necessary visas should be obtained *at least eight weeks before deployment*. **Failure to do so could delay or even prevent your deployment.**

For Australia and New Zealand, request a visitor's visa.

If you need a letter identifying you as a USAP participant in order to obtain a visa, please contact ASC Travel.



## New Zealand

All participants receive a letter that identifies them as a USAP participant, to whom New Zealand grants an extended visitor visa valid for 12 months. The 12 months start the day you arrive in New Zealand and Ice time is included in your New Zealand “trip.”

### High Value Goods

If you plan on carrying any single item worth more than US \$1000, excluding personal items such as laptops and cameras, please indicate that on the *Trip Details* form in this packet.

### Tobacco Products

You are entitled to bring the following quantities of tobacco into New Zealand duty-free. Anything more is subject to Customs duty and goods and services tax (GST). These restrictions do not apply to electronic cigarettes.

- 50 cigarettes, or
- 50 grams of cigars or loose tobacco, or
- A mixture of all three weighing not more than 50 grams.

### Websites

New Zealand Customs home page: [www.customs.govt.nz](http://www.customs.govt.nz)

Visas: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas>

Duties and allowances: <https://www.customs.govt.nz/personal/duty-and-gst/whats-my-duty-estimator>

Prohibited and restricted items: <http://www.customs.govt.nz/features/prohibited/imports/Pages/default.aspx>

### Post-Deployment Travel

If you plan on traveling in New Zealand after your deployment, you must not let your visitor visa expire.

Electronic visa extensions are available for up to three months by emailing [INZCHCExpress@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:INZCHCExpress@mbie.govt.nz) before you leave the Ice. Visas can also be extended in person at any NZ Immigration office, for a fee.

If you're deployed longer than 12 months, you'll need to email [INZCHCExpress@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:INZCHCExpress@mbie.govt.nz) and obtain a three-month extension *before* you leave the Ice.

When you stay in New Zealand as a tourist, the U.S. Antarctic Program is no longer your sponsor, and you are responsible for observing Immigration and Customs regulations.





## Australia

U.S. citizens transiting through Sydney do not need a visa, however, you must stay inside the transfer area of the international terminal. “Transiting” is defined as changing flights/traveling through the airport for less than eight hours. Leaving the terminal is a violation of Australian law.

A scheduled layover in Sydney longer than eight hours requires an electronic visitor’s visa (ETA subclass 601). Passengers with ETAs *are* allowed to leave the terminal. If ASC Travel purchases your ticket and your passport is ETA-eligible, an ETA will be purchased about a week before your deployment and attached electronically to your passport. Participants from ETA-ineligible countries should apply for a visitor’s visa at least eight weeks before deployment. If you are self-ticketing, you’ll need to purchase the visa yourself.

When unscheduled flight delays create a layover longer than eight hours, the airline generates an ETA for you before you land. If you are delayed through your own fault, be prepared to purchase the ETA yourself.

Sea travel also requires a Maritime Crew Visa (MCV subclass 988). If you’re boarding a ship in Hobart, the MCV must be obtained before you arrive in Australia, and the application can take up to 30 days. ASC Travel can assist.

### Websites

Australian Home Affairs home page: <http://www.customs.gov.au/>

Visas: <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa>

Electronic Visitor’s Visa (ETA subclass 601): <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/601->

Maritime visas (MCV subclass 988): <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/988->

Duties and allowances: <https://www.abf.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/duty-free>



## United States

### ESTA

IF you do **not** possess a U.S. passport, **and**:

- IF your travel originates in a foreign country (excluding Canada), **and**
- IF you are transiting through the U.S. en route to Antarctica,

you must register with ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/> before you leave home. This is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and applies even if you are only in the U.S. to connect to another flight.

From the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website:

“If a traveler is only planning to transit through the United States en route to another country, when he or she completes the ESTA application, the traveler should enter the words "In Transit" and his or her final destination in the address lines under the heading ‘Address While In The United States.’”

*Information on these pages are subject to change.*

