



WHAT'S NEW IN 2020-2021 for Grantees and Technical Events

Coronavirus

The National Science Foundation is committed to keeping Antarctica free of COVID-19. Please be patient and flexible as plans for the 2020-2021 season are finalized.

- Commercial flight schedules are not back to normal yet. Expect longer, less direct routing, especially if you live in a remote area. Be prepared to fly from a major U.S. international airport.
- Masks are required on all flights.
- ASC will not issue tickets from an international AOD.
- Expect to quarantine in Christchurch or Punta Arenas for a minimum of 14 days, until your Ice flight or until the ship departs.
- New passports are taking much longer, so apply soonest.
- Passport renewals are taking longer too. If your passport expires within 3 months after your return, renew it NOW.
- The only redeployment option is FAA, First Available Air.

Major Airports

Reduced and cancelled domestic routings make it difficult for ASC Travel to find flights from smaller, regional airports, though every effort will be made to ticket you from your requested AOD. Expect to depart from a major U.S. international airport near your home.

Airline Mask Policy

Masks are required to board all flights. Any passenger that does not comply will be denied boarding.

Passengers are required to wear a mask for the duration of the flight except when eating or drinking.

Participants Living Abroad

All USAP participants currently living at an international AOD, must arrive and remain within the U.S. and quarantine in place according to local guidelines **prior to their scheduled departure date from their U.S. AOD for deployment to Antarctica**. All incurred air travel, ground transport and accommodation costs from their international AOD to a U.S. location is the responsibility of the traveler. ASC is responsible for arranging and paying for onward travel from the U.S. AOD to Christchurch, N.Z. or Punta Arenas, Chile.

This requirement applies to 2020-2021 only and is due to COVID-19. Please contact your Science Implementer if you have questions.



Passport Expiration

ASC's airline partners normally require a passport to be valid for 6 months after return. Passport renewals are taking much longer because of COVID-19, so for now they require only 3 months.

- If your passport is going to expire within 3 months of your return, renew it now.
- If your passport is going to expire within 6 months of your return, do not attempt to renew it.

Please note that this is an airline requirement, not an ASC requirement. The 3-month requirement is an exception for this season only.

Seating Assignments

Increasingly, airlines are restricting the number of seats that can be pre-assigned and for that reason, ASC Travel no longer has the ability to pre-select your seat when your ticket is purchased. More often than not, you'll need to wait until you check in to select a seat, especially on international flights.

Implied Consent to Apply for NZeTA/IVL

By submitting the Passport Details form in this packet (TL-FRM-0097), you are giving implied consent for ASC to apply for a New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) and an International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) on your behalf. (This was a new requirement last season, if you remember.) The passport form has been modified to reflect this.

This affects southbound travelers to McMurdo or the South Pole who travel through Christchurch. It does not affect travelers to Palmer Station or the vessels who travel via Chile. Self-tickers must obtain their own NZeTA/IVL. Foreign nationals who must obtain a visa to travel to New Zealand must still do so.

No Personal Travel

There will be no southbound or northbound personal travel this season because of COVID-19's severe impact on travel worldwide. Due to restrictions imposed by the governments of New Zealand and Chile, everyone will return home FAA.

FAA (First Available Air)

You go directly home and are booked on the first available flight to your AOD. If your flight off the Ice is delayed or the ship returns late to port, hotels and flights are rebooked at no cost to you. Baggage fees are reimbursable.

- No routing changes
- No date changes
- No layovers, domestic or international
- No residual value to the ticket

