

USAP DEPLOYMENT INFORMATION

for Grantees and Technical Events

- Please check regularly for USAP emails. Check spam folders too.
- Passports must be valid for three months *after* your return (for this season only), undamaged beyond normal wear and tear, with a blank page for each country to be visited. Please take the time to check it now. Airline carriers will not allow you to board, and some countries will not allow entry, if these requirements are not met.
- Don't wait to apply for or renew your passport. ASC Travel needs the new passport details a minimum of two weeks before travel commences; your deployment depends on it.
- Check the expiration of your ATM and credit cards, too. Palmer Station is cashless.
- If you do not possess a U.S. passport, check entry requirements with the consulate of the countries to be transited/visited. Allow plenty of time; you must obtain the necessary visas and provide a copy to ASC Travel in advance of the 21 day ticketing deadline. It is YOUR responsibility to obtain the necessary visas. **Failure to do so could delay or even prevent your deployment.**
- Please fill out the forms in this packet and return them within eight weeks, or ASAP if your deployment date is sooner than that. (All candidates please, including alternates.) Do not wait until you physically qualify. You must submit travel paperwork and successfully physically qualify before tickets can be purchased; the goal is to ticket 21 days in advance. Do not return forms via email; fax and U.S. Mail are more secure.
- ASC Travel books your tickets based on the information you provide on the *Trip Details* form in this packet. Be sure ASC has your current contact info! There will be no opportunity to review your itinerary and changes might not be possible, so please be accurate. 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.

- Expect to depart from a major U.S. international airport and return to the same airport.
- Once you submit your paperwork, you cannot change your Airport of Departure (AOD).
- Keep copies of everything in case anything is lost in transit.
- Ice dates are determined by your PI and changes must be coordinated through your ASC Science Implementer. Be prepared to travel on weekends and maybe holidays. ASC Travel is unable to change your Ice dates, so please do not ask them.
- All travel arrangements are made in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) and in the best interest of the U.S. Government.
- 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. But regardless of what the airline website states ...
- **ASC allows two normal-size 50lb/23kg checked bags on commercial flights to New Zealand and Chile.** If you travel within these allowances and are still charged baggage fees, you may expense them with receipts. However, charges for oversize bags, that is, any bag larger than 62 inches (158 cm) overall (length + width + height), are not reimbursable.
- On the flight between Christchurch and McMurdo, the baggage allowance is 85lb/38.5kg for all participants, strictly enforced. Any extra must be pre-approved.

Save room for about 10lbs of extra Extreme Cold Weather gear. The number of bags is not limited but the maximum weight for a single piece is 70lb/32kg. 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.



- For cargo, that is, items not carried as personal baggage, shipping by sea is the preferred method of transport. Make every effort to allow sufficient time for shipment by sea to the Ice. Work with your ASC Science Implementer.
- Increasingly, airlines are restricting the number of seats that can be pre-assigned and for that reason, ASC Travel does not have the ability to pre-select your seat when your ticket is purchased. 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.
- Travel documents are emailed after you return the forms in this packet, about a month before deployment. These include a 12-month visa letter for New Zealand or a USAP participation letter for Chile, but *not* your ticket which is emailed separately.
- Tickets are e-tickets. Your final itinerary is emailed 14-21 days before deployment; you'll want to print it and bring it with you. Please check your email (including spam folders) frequently as deployment approaches.
- ASC normally issues one-way tickets. Return tickets are purchased upon redeployment.
- Once you're ticketed, further details about your time in New Zealand or Chile (hotel, ECW, etc.) will be emailed from the Christchurch or Punta Arenas Travel office. Your hotel room is reserved by ASC but not paid for; you are responsible for settling the bill at checkout.
- In Christchurch, shuttles between the airport, hotel and Antarctic Centre are pre-arranged with Super Shuttle but not pre-paid. Payment (about \$NZ12 per trip) is on board with \$NZ or credit card; cash is preferred. Please contact the Christchurch Travel office if you wish to make other arrangements.
- For other information about life on the Ice, consult the online [USAP Participant Guide](#). For example:
 - Bring (extra) sunglasses.
 - Bed linens are provided but not towels.
 - No skyiping, no drones without approval from NSF.
- If there are changes to your medical or dental health after you physically qualify, you *must* notify 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.

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