

Customs and Immigration

PASSPORTS

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

VISAS – U.S. CITIZENS

U.S. citizens are granted visas at the port of entry for New Zealand and Chile. It is not necessary to obtain a visa before travel commences.

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 applied for 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.
- For Chile, request a multiple-entry tourist visa. As far as Customs and Immigration is concerned, you will be entering and departing Chile twice.
- 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."

U.S. citizens require an Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) to enter New Zealand. ASC will obtain these on your behalf if 1) you are a citizen of the United States or one of the 60 countries that do not require a visa to New Zealand, and 2) you have a valid passport in your possession and have submitted the passport details to ASC Travel a minimum of six weeks before travel commences. If you are not a US citizen and need a visa to enter NZ, the NZeTA is included with your visa. New Zealand and Australian citizens are exempt from the NZeTA.

If you are deployed longer than 12 months, the Christchurch Travel Office will coordinate with New Zealand Immigration to extend your visa until after your redeployment date.

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

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



NZeTA: www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/visas/visa/nzeta

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

Prohibited and restricted items: www.customs.govt.nz/personal/prohibited-and-restricted-items

CHILE

U.S. citizens with a valid passport can enter Chile for up to 90 days on a tourist visa, reset at each port of entry.

There are likely to be other entry requirements. ASC will coordinate with each traveler as needed.

WEBSITES

Visas (unofficial but in English): <http://chile.travisa.com/Common/TVSVisaInstructions.aspx?countryid=cl>

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 longer than eight hours requires an electronic visitor's visa (ETA subclass 601). Passengers with ETAs are allowed to leave the terminal. When/if you are routed through Australia, ASC Travel will send you instructions to apply for an ETA; there is a small fee which is reimbursable. Participants from ETA-ineligible countries should apply for a visitor's visa at least eight weeks before deployment.

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, the MCV must be obtained before you arrive in Australia and the application can take up to five days.

WEBSITES

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

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

Electronic Visitor's Visa (ETA subclass 601): <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601>

Maritime visas (MCV subclass 988): <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/maritime-crew-988>

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

Prohibited and restricted items: <https://www.abf.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/can-you-bring-it-in>

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 this page is subject to change.](#)

