CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION

PASSPORTs
Regardless of nationality, your passport must be valid for three months after your return. (The requirement is normally six months but this year is an exception for COVID.)

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.

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
U.S. citizens have always needed a visa to enter New Zealand. In the past, ASC sent a 12-month visa letter to everyone and the visa was granted upon arrival in Auckland.

The process has changed.

If you need to apply for the visa yourself, ASC will let you know, but take no action for now.

And if your visa expires while you’re on the Ice, the Christchurch Travel Office will coordinate with New Zealand Immigration to extend it 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
Prohibited and restricted items: https://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.

Websites
**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, the MCV must be obtained before you arrive in Australia and the application can take up to 30 days. ASC Travel can assist.

**Websites**


**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/](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 with little notice due to COVID.*