



McMurdo Sound and the Ross Island Dependency

We understand that if sea ice conditions permit you are planning on visiting McMurdo Station.

Because McMurdo Station is a large and dynamic scientific and logistics work camp there are a few parameters we need to address with visiting ships to ensure a pleasant experience for both your passengers and our station operations.

Communications from your ship should be made at approximately 72 hours out from the station. At this time dialogue will begin to determine your visitation intentions and schedule. We will also ask for your passenger numbers, nationalities and the transportation methods available to access land.

The station operates on New Zealand Time Zone of GMT+13. When you are attempting to make contact with the Station Cruise Ship Coordinators please work within this time zone. Our Cruise Ship Coordinators will be available to speak with you from 7:00am – 9:00pm. Outside of these hours a message will be taken by our Communications center and forwarded to the Coordinators. The Coordinators can also be reached via email at mcm.CruiseCoord@usap.gov

The primary operating hours of McMurdo Station are Monday – Saturday 7:30am – 5:30pm. It is only during these times that we will be able to receive visitors from your ship. We also request that you make every effort to be in the area to begin tours in the morning hours. We will not be able to provide tours starting after 1:30 in the afternoon as the services and personnel required to host a ship will not be made available beyond 5:30pm.

On the day of the tour we request that your Expedition Leader comes ashore for a morning briefing in the Chalet with our Cruise Ship Coordinators, the NSF Representative, and Scott Base personnel to work on the day's schedule and logistics.

Once passengers begin coming on shore we will break them into groups of 10-15 and assign 2 volunteer tour guides to each group.

- 1. Both stations** – McMurdo and Scott Base request that you let your visitors know they are to remain in their 10-15 person groups throughout the course of the tour day to better facilitate movement of people through town facilities and over to the neighboring base.
- 2.** It is important for the guests to know that they also need to keep to the designated tour sites, as visitation to other areas may cause disruption to the work centers and their functions, in addition some work centers present industrial hazards that visitors would be unaware of upon entering.

Activities McMurdo Station will provide are as follows:

- 1. Town Tour** - To be conducted at the following sites only
 - a. Crary Science and Engineering Lab Facility
 - b. Deck of Chalet (main administrative building for the USAP) for photo ops of Treaty Flags and Admiral Byrd bust
 - c. Station Store
 - d. Coffee House for cache stamps and hot beverages
 - e. Chapel for photo ops and meet the chaplains
 - f. Mac Center – primary communications, flight ops and weather center (NOTE: Operational needs may supersede access to this site)
 - g. Gymnasium for mustering and transport to Scott Base
- 2. Scott's Hut Tour**
 - a. Trained Historic Hut Guides from McMurdo will provide tours at this location
- 3. Observation Hill Hike** – This will only be conducted after completion of the town tour and Scott Hut visit.
 - a. Before coming ashore, please identify your Ob Hill climbers, and have them come ashore in the first wave of visitors to ensure they have ample time to complete all of their tour activities in time to join up with the later groups in returning to the ship.

Once the groups return to the Gymnasium, a shuttle service provided by Antarctic New Zealand - Scott Base personnel will begin transporting ship passengers over to Scott Base.

Upon completion of the Scott Base tour your guests can begin to return to the ship.

Please know that any waste generated by visitors should be taken back to the ship – Box lunch refuse etc...

We are preparing for your visit, and hope that the above information provides you with a better understanding of the services we will provide should your ship be able to access our facility.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.
Dawn Needham and Todd Franson
McMurdo Station Cruise Ship Coordinators MCM.
CruiseCoord@usap.gov