



Procedures for tourist or non-governmental expeditions requesting a visit to a British Antarctic Survey research station

The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) welcome visits to its Antarctic facilities by tour operators who are full IAATO members. To assist such operators the BAS has developed the following Procedures to help manage such visits :

1. The BAS will consider requests for visits to its Signy, Rothera, and exceptionally Halley research stations.
2. The Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) research station at King Edward Point (KEP) South Georgia is managed by the BAS but all requests for visits to South Georgia, including the station at KEP must be routed through the GSGSSI.
3. To help maintain best practice within the Antarctic tourism industry, the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) uses the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) as its main contact point with commercial tour companies. In so doing the BAS will only accept requests for tour ship visits from full members of IAATO. These bids must be coordinated by IAATO and submitted en-bloc to the Operations Manager, BAS Cambridge, UK by the end of June each year.

Signy	Up to a maximum of four visits per season. (To avoid interference with scientific investigations, tour operators are requested not to land tourists at Signy Island, other than at the Station itself.)
Rothera	Up to a maximum of two visits per season.
Halley	Visits will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

It is not possible for tourist or non-governmental expeditions to visit the BAS research station at Bird Island, which is a protected area.

Requests for visits should include the following information:

- Requested dates for visit(s) to BAS research stations;
 - Number of visitors, including staff;
 - Contact name and address of tour operator of expedition organiser (including telephone, e-mail address, fax and telex numbers).
 - Specific objectives of visit to each station;
4. Other Non-governmental expeditions must apply independently to the Operations Manager, BAS Cambridge.
 5. If proposed dates for visits cannot be met or clash with planned operations then BAS may offer alternative dates. The BAS has produced site specific guidelines for visits to BAS stations [http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/about_antarctica/tourism/index.php].
 6. Once a provisional date is agreed the organiser is requested to provide the following additional information:
 - Name of the expedition leader;
 - Name of the Captain of the ship;
 - Name, port and country of registration of the ship;
 - The latest edition of the cruise itinerary;
 - Contact details at sea (including Inmarsat telephone, fax and telex numbers, e- mail address, as well as HF radio call frequency).



7. Final arrangements to visit must be made with the station by HF radio or satellite communication (Inmarsat) 48 hours in advance of the expected time of arrival. The final decision has to be at the discretion of the Base Commander or Station Leader who is free to decline because of weather conditions or possible disruption of base activities.

Please note: Unscheduled visits are not accepted.

8. Visitors will normally be briefed either onboard ship or immediately on arrival at the station by the Base Commander. Visitors will then be shown around in small groups (maximum of 30 people at any one time). Station tours last approximately 30-45 minutes per group. The tour company is expected to ensure that parties are under the supervision of experienced guides/lecturers.

9. It is expected that all tour expeditions and non-governmental expeditions are self-sufficient, have proper medical support and carry adequate insurance cover.

10. The BAS asks that historic sites, emergency refuge huts, fuel dumps and food stores belonging to BAS should be respected and not be interfered with. BAS does not permit tourist or non-governmental expeditions to overnight or stay at its historic huts or refuges, except if prior permission has been given by the BAS Operations Manager. If, in an emergency, materials or supplies are used, BAS must be informed as soon as possible and arrangement made for their replacement.

11. Post Office facilities will usually be available on Station plus, in addition, the Stations may provide the opportunity for visitors to purchase a range of BAS merchandise (e.g. postcards, cloth patches, pin badges, T shirts). All revenue from sales goes into providing recreational material (e.g. musical instruments or sports equipment) for the base.

12. The BAS contact point for visit requests is:-

The Operations Manager
British Antarctic Survey
High Cross
Madingley Road
Cambridge CB3 0ET

Phone: # 44 (0) 1223 221400

44 (0) 1223 221248 Direct Dial

Fax: # 44 (0) 1223 362616

E-mail: medi@bas.ac.uk

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