

2024–2025 IAATO Operational Dos and Don'ts

The document is a quick sheet of important reminders and key takeaways for the season. For more detailed information please review the 2024–25 IAATO Operational Instructions as well as other topics in the Field Operations Manual (FOM).

DO	DON'T
Do ensure you have an up-to-date copy of the Field Operations Manual (FOM) before your season. Either sync your copy of the FOM Sync App or download it through the IAATO Website. Do remember to sync throughout the season	Don't forget to read the IAATO Vessel Code of Conduct (FOM Section 01)
Do make sure all activities are authorized or permitted before carrying them out	Don't forget it is your responsibility to be familiar with all permits/authorizations and operational procedures/guidelines for anyone onboard (i.e. scientists/media/etc.)
Do maintain a minimal safe distance from wildlife (5m/15ft)	Don't approach wildlife closer than minimal safe distances (5m/15ft)
Do follow Biosecurity protocols for people and equipment, including camping equipment (FOM Section 07 Biosecurity Operational Procedures)	Don't kneel/crouch, sit or lay on the ground or snow, use stools or chairs, or leave tripods unattended in wildlife areas
Do make every effort to keep the minimal distances from wildlife	Don't encourage wildlife to crawl on you
Do give wildlife the right-of-way	Don't stay still if wildlife approaches, move away slowly if it is safe to do so
Do be aware of areas where animals exit or enter water or colonies	Don't place equipment near animals
Do maintain quiet when in the presence of wildlife	Don't use selfie sticks to get closer to wildlife
Do keep camera equipment and cleaners securely packed	Don't make noises in attempt to gain wildlife attention
Do keep your camera flash off to respect wildlife	Don't leave camera materials behind including tripods/GoPros/timelapse set ups
Do secure loose items to ensure they cannot blow away	Don't take food ashore unless there is an emergency food or appropriate permit/authorization is in place
Do ensure thorough biosecurity cleaning before arriving in Antarctica and between distinct regions (e.g. Falklands (Malvinas), South Georgia etc.)	Don't interact with National Antarctic Program Stations for tourism visits, even if asked by base personnel. Logistical assistance or special projects may be permitted
Do review Coastal Crevasse Awareness Recommendation (FOM Section 07 Activity Operational Procedures), and report any unreported crevassed areas to IAATO	Don't go into known crevassed terrain without proper assessment, equipment and an experienced guide
Do communicate to the fleet about waterway transits and weather through the Broadcast centre in the Live Ship Scheduler (IAATO Live Ship Scheduler Guide found in FOM Section 08 & 12)	Don't use RPAS in coastal areas for recreational use. RPAS flights for navigational, safety or scientific purpose are allowed with a permit from a Competent Authority and agreement from the Operator
Do be alert and vigilant when operating around ice in any form. Icebergs can be unpredictable and dangerous (IAATO Operational Procedures for Selected Vessels in the Vicinity of Ice, FOM Section 08, 09, & 12)	Don't go into ice caves, under arches, or stand on bergy bits or growlers. Sea ice walks should be adequately assessed by competent guides prior to being carried out
Do stay a minimum distance of twice the height away from any iceberg	Don't enter iceberg ice pools or drive over ice foots
Do keep the appropriate distance from whales and seals (FOM Section 07 Wildlife Operational Procedures)	Don't go over 10kn in Geofenced Whale areas during the specified time periods (IAATO Geofenced Whale Areas, FOM Section 08)
Do remember that communication between a larger vessel and a yacht is best achieved through a friendly dialogue between the EL/Navigator on the Bridge of the ship and the Skipper/Watchkeeper of the Yacht, beginning on Channel 16 VHF	Don't interfere with other Operators' operations
Do submit a PVR within two weeks of the voyage disembarkation date	Don't finish your contract without finishing your voyages PVRs