# IAATO Operational Procedures

## Multi Night Coastal Camping in Antarctica

**Note 1:** These procedures only apply to ship or yacht support based expedition activities which might include skiing, mountaineering, scientific work or any other land activities where camping ashore exceeds 24 hours.

**Note 2:** The shore party must be **self-sufficient in every respect** and only reliant on the support vessel for emergency and planned recovery.

**Note 3:** Prior to offering this opportunity, please ensure that camping and activities ashore that necessitate extended stays are included in your operator's permit conditions (e.g., Advance Notification, Waste Management Plan and EIA) of your national authority.

## 1. Camp Site Selection

- While camping near the shore, campsites should be located away from vegetated sites and a reasonable distance (150m) from wildlife concentrations, avoiding any sites of historical interest or scientific stations.
- The siting of the camp should be a safe height above sea level, due to the potential of breaking waves coming ashore after collapse of icefalls. These 'mini tsunamis' can be propagated from icefalls miles away across open water.
- Tents should only be pitched on snow, ice, or bare, smooth rock away from lakes to avoid potential contamination of water.
- Tents should not be pitched on wildlife access routes i.e., between colonies and their haul out ramps and the sea.
- If using a camping location that falls within an ATCM Site Guideline, ensure that visits between certain hours (e.g., 10 pm and 4 am) are permitted. All movements within the area must conform to the site guideline.

## 2. Clothing and Equipment

- Prior to the expedition, camping and sporting gear should be thoroughly cleaned.
- Please refer to IAATO's "Don't Pack a Pest" leaflet before embarking from home base.
- Velcro closures on equipment and clothing should be well inspected and cleaned.
- All camping equipment, most particularly tent floors and mats, ski poles, boots and skis must be cleaned thoroughly cleaned after each use ashore if multiple campsites are planned on different locations via a shift in position of the support vessel.
- A medical kit should be as extensive as practical in terms of space and weight and abilities of the members to administer.

## 3. Food, Fuel and Waste Management

- Make sure all food produce, particularly fresh and dried meats, are certified clear of infectious diseases.
- Vegetable waste should be kept to a minimum, as all solid scraps must be carried out.
- All plastic, tins, glass and paper waste must be carried out.
- All fuel containers of either camping gas or liquid fuel must be carried out.
- Spare liquid fuel must not be dumped but carried out.
- Use spill mats when fuelling stoves, etc. to catch any spills.
- To the maximum extent practicable, all human waste should be removed back to the vessel and disposed of through the normal systems. Small groups (less than 10 persons) may deposit all human waste directly into the sea.
- When camping well away from the shore, human waste may be disposed of in ice pits where such disposal is the only practical option. These pits should not be located on ice flow-lines which terminate in ice-free areas or areas of high ablation
- Pee bottles should be used during the day and their contents emptied in ice pits at campsites, not indiscriminately along recognized routes.
- Grey water should be deposited in the sea, while camping near the shore.
- Grey water can be deposited in crevasses or snow latrines when camping at altitude on the glacier.

## 4. Safety Considerations

- Recommend a party of four as a minimum number in order to effect a self-rescue of an injured person to the shore. For commercial trips ashore, a guide to client ratio of 1:4 is recommended.
- The shore party should remain in daily contact with the support vessel on a pre- arranged schedule giving their position and status and receiving weather updates
- At least two methods of communication should be provided for contact between the shore party and the support vessel, e.g., Iridium phones x 2, plus a VHF radio.
- All communication devices should be able to be charged on site, i.e., via solar panels or wind generators.
- Have a contingency plan in place if communication between the support vessel and the shore party fails. For example, the vessel should modify her itinerary and location in order to be at a certain point at a certain time each day in order to re-establish visual contact with the shore party.