

Appendix 1 Antarctic Treaty

Recommendation XVIII-1

In response to increasing tourism and other visitors to the Antarctic, and the need to implement the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, the eighteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting agreed to circulate widely and as quickly as possible the Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic, and the Guidance for Those Organising and Conducting Tourism and Non-Governmental Activities in the Antarctic documents set out below.

The Treaty Parties urge those intending to visit or organise and conduct tourism and non-governmental activities in the Antarctic to act in accordance with this guidance, consistent with the relevant provisions of their applicable national law.

Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic

This is intended to ensure that all visitors are aware of, and are therefore able to comply with, the Treaty and the Protocol. Visitors are bound by national laws and regulations applicable to activities in the Antarctic.

A. Protect Antarctic Wildlife

Taking, or harmful interference with, Antarctic wildlife is prohibited except in accordance with a permit issued by a national authority.

1. Do not use aircraft, vessels, small boats, or other means of transport in ways that disturb wildlife, either at sea or on land
2. Do not feed, touch, or handle birds or seals, or approach or photograph them in ways that cause them to alter their behaviour. Special care is needed when animals are breeding or moulting
3. Do not damage plants, for example by walking, driving, or landing on extensive moss beds or lichen-covered scree slopes
4. Do not use guns or explosives. Keep noise to the minimum to avoid frightening wildlife
5. Do not bring non-native plants or animals into the Antarctic (eg live poultry, pet dogs and cats, house plants)

B. Respect Protected Areas

A variety of areas in the Antarctic have been afforded special protection because of their particular ecological, scientific, historic or other values. Entry into certain areas may be prohibited except in accordance with a permit issued by an appropriate national authority. Activities in and near designated Historic Sites and Monuments and certain other areas may be subject to special restrictions

1. Know the location of areas that have been afforded special protection and any restrictions regarding entry and activities that can be carried out in and near them.

2. Observe applicable restrictions
3. Do not damage, remove or destroy Historic Sites or Monuments, or any artefacts associated with them

C. Respect Scientific Research

Do not interfere with scientific research, facilities or equipment

1. Obtain permission before visiting Antarctic science and logistic support facilities reconfirm arrangements 24-72 hours before arriving; and comply strictly with the rules regarding such visits
2. Do not interfere with, or remove, scientific equipment or marker posts, and do not disturb experimental sites, field camps, or supplies

D. Be Safe

Be prepared for severe and changeable weather. Ensure that your equipment and clothing meet Antarctic standards. Remember that the Antarctic environment is inhospitable, unpredictable and potentially dangerous

1. Know your capabilities, the dangers posed by the Antarctic environment, and act accordingly. Plan activities with safety in mind at all times
2. Keep a safe distance from all wildlife, both on land and at sea
3. Take note of, and act on, the advice and instructions from your leaders; do not stray from your group
4. Do not walk onto glaciers or large snow fields without proper equipment and experiences there is a real danger of falling into hidden crevasses
5. Do not expect a rescue service; self-sufficiency is increased and risks reduced by sound planning, quality equipment, and training personnel
6. Do not enter emergency refuges (except in emergencies). If you use equipment or food from a refuge, inform the nearest research station or national authority once the emergency is over
7. Respect any smoking restrictions, particularly around buildings, and take great care to safeguard against the danger of fire. This is a real hazard in the dry environment of Antarctica.

E. Keep Antarctica Pristine

Antarctica remains relatively pristine, and has not yet been subjected to large scale human perturbations It is the largest wilderness area on earth Please keep it that way

1. Do not dispose of litter or garbage on land Open burning is prohibited
2. Do not disturb or pollute lakes or streams Any materials discarded at sea must be disposed of properly
3. Do not paint or engrave names or graffiti on rocks or buildings
4. Do not collect or take away biological or geological specimens or man-made artefacts as a souvenir, including rocks, bones, eggs, fossils, and parts or contents of buildings
5. Do not deface or vandalise buildings, whether occupied, abandoned, or unoccupied, or emergency refuges

Guidance for those Organising and Conducting Tourism and Non-Government Activities in the Antarctic

Antarctica is the largest wilderness on earth, unaffected by large scale human activities. Accordingly, this unique and pristine environment has been afforded special protection. Furthermore, it is physically remote, inhospitable, unpredictable and potentially dangerous. All activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area, therefore, should be planned and conducted with both environmental protection and safety in mind.

Activities in the Antarctic are subject to the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 and associated legal instruments, referred to collectively as the Antarctic Treaty system. These include the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (CAS)(1972), the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)(1980) and the Recommendations and other measures adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties under the Antarctic Treaty.

In 1991, the Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty adopted the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. This Protocol sets out environmental principles, procedures and obligations for the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment, and its dependent and associated ecosystems. The Consultative Parties have agreed that, pending its entry into force, as far as possible and in accordance with their legal systems, that the provisions of the Protocol should be applied as appropriate.

The Environmental Protocol designates Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science, and applies to both governmental and non-governmental activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area. The Protocol seeks to ensure that human activities, including tourism, do not have adverse impacts on the Antarctic environment, nor on its scientific and aesthetic values.

The Protocol states as a matter of principle that all activities are planned and conducted on the basis of information sufficient to evaluate their possible impact on the Antarctic environment and its associated ecosystems, and on the value of Antarctica for the conduct of scientific research. Organisers should be aware that the Environmental Protocol requires that "activities shall be modified, suspended or cancelled if they result in or threaten to result in impacts upon the Antarctic environment or dependent or associated ecosystems".

Those responsible for organising and conducting tourism and non-governmental activities must comply fully with national laws and regulations which implement the Antarctic Treaty system, as well as other national laws and regulations implementing international agreements on environmental protection, pollution and safety that relate to the Antarctic Treaty Area. They should also abide by the requirements imposed on organisers and operators under the Protocol on Environmental Protection and its Annexes, in so far as they have not yet been implemented in national law.

Key Obligations on Organisers and Operators

1. Provide prior notification of, and reports on, their activities to the competent authorities of the appropriate Party or Parties
2. Conduct an assessment of the potential environmental impacts of their planned activities

3. Provide for effective response to environmental emergencies, especially with regard to marine pollution
4. Ensure self-sufficiency and safe operations
5. Respect scientific research and the Antarctic environment, including restrictions regarding protected areas, and the protection of flora and fauna
6. Prevent the disposal and discharge of prohibited waste.