



# Ascension Island

## ATom Deployment Guide

(revised Sept 2016)

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## BEFORE ARRIVAL

### TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

All ATom participants entering Ascension must have in their possession and be ready to present:

1. An approved Entry Permit from the Ascension Island Government (AIG) (*Note: ESPO will be submitting completed AIG Entry Permit applications for all ATom participants who are entering Ascension and paying any applicable permit fees.*)
2. Evidence of travel insurance that covers up to \$1 million for medical evacuation
3. A passport that is valid six months after arrival date on Ascension

Visas are not a requirement for entry to Ascension. *Please note that it is currently Ascension Island Government policy not to issue entry permits to nationals of the following countries: Belarus, China, Egypt, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Russia, Syria, Ukraine, and Vietnam.*

### CDC RECOMMENDATIONS

Vaccines recommended by the CDC for travel to Ascension Island can be found at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/saint-helena>. The CDC advises that all travelers check the recommended vaccines list and visit their doctor 4-6 weeks prior to travel.

### MONEY

US dollars are accepted on base at Ascension and **all ATom participants should bring a minimum of 100 USD in cash** to pay for food, lodging, or other miscellaneous costs. **There are no ATMs on Ascension.** In addition, it is recommended that you bring a personal checkbook. Personal checks for under \$50 can be cashed at the Volcano Club on base and can also be used to pay for lodging.

Although some places off base take USD, most goods and services off base must be purchased in Great Britain or St. Helena pounds. The St Helena pound is fixed at a rate of one GBP.

Credit cards are not generally used on Ascension. There is one bank (the Bank of St Helena in Georgetown) that can provide cash advances against debit or credit cards with additional charges.

## SCHEDULE

Monday, February 13	Tuesday, February 14	Wednesday, February 15
≈ 20:00 arrival from Punta Arenas	Instrument access	≈ 09:00 departure to Lajes AFB

### DAILY SCHEDULE

While work and aircraft access schedules will generally follow normal business hours (08:00-17:00), schedule details and updates will be sent to the list serve and posted on the ATom website - <https://espo.nasa.gov/atom>.

## SITE ORIENTATION

The DC-8 will arrive at Wideawake Air Field on Ascension Island. After an abbreviated postflight, all flight crew, ground crew, and scientists will be bussed to the Ascension AAF passenger terminal. The base commander will provide you with a brief about the US base and the island. An immigration officer should be at the briefing to process everyone's arrival. **At this time, you must have in your possession your passport, entry permit, and proof of medical evacuation insurance with a maximum 1 million USD benefit.** Everyone will also be assigned a room prior to the aircraft's arrival. The door to your room will be unlocked and the room key will be in your dresser drawer. Keep your passport safely stored and carry a photocopy of your passport with you at all times.

## ESPO SITE SUPPORT

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## PER DIEM

Current Per Diem rates as set by the Department of Defense

<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiemCalc.cfm>

Locality	Maximum Lodging	Local Meals	Local Incidental	Maximum Per Diem	Effective Date
ASCENSION ISLAND	20	18	4	42	10/01/2002

\* All rates are in US Dollars

## LODGING AND MEALS

All ATom participants will stay on base at Ascension Auxiliary Air Field (Ascension AAF). Base lodging costs \$20 per person/per day and must be paid by cash or check at the dining hall during their hours of operation.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are available in the dining hall. Breakfast is \$4, lunch is \$6, and dinner is \$8.

## Dining Hall Hours of Operation

	Monday thru Friday	Sat/Sun and Holidays
Breakfast	0630 - 0815	0700 - 0830
Lunch	1100 - 1230	1100 - 1230
Dinner	1600 - 1730	1600 - 1730

The only food available outside of these hours is at the Volcano Club snack bar, which is open Tues - Sat from 1700 - 2100 (opens at 1600 on Saturdays).

## TRANSPORTATION

**Note: Motorists drive on the left side of the road in Ascension.**

All provisions can be found on base at Ascension AAF, which is easily walkable.

ESPO has reserved 14 vehicles from the Obsidian Hotel in Georgetown and Solomon's Fuel Station at One Boat. The vehicles will be left in the parking spaces across from the Fire/Security Dispatch Office (in Administration Building I; number 28 on the map on page 10 below). This will be a sufficient number of vehicles to eliminate our need for base provided shuttle buses. Insurance coverage is included with the rental agreement. However, there is a large deductible that must be paid in case of damage to the vehicle.

Before departure from Ascension, payment must be made at the Obsidian Hotel. If you have a rental car, you must plan on going to the Obsidian on Tuesday before 17:00 to settle your bill. Note that the Obsidian takes credit cards. For the two people with rentals from Solomon's, you have to settle your bill by cash at Solomon's Fuel Station before 17:30 on Tuesday.

All rental cars must be left in the RAF terminal parking lot upon departure.

**Obsidian** - E-mail: [accommodation@atlantis.co.ac](mailto:accommodation@atlantis.co.ac); Phone: +247 66 246; Hours: 0800-1700 M-F, 1000-1200 Sat

There is only one gas station on the island - Solomon's Fuel Station at One Boat.

**Solomon's Fuel Station** - E-mail: [asc.fuelstation@atlantis.co.ac](mailto:asc.fuelstation@atlantis.co.ac); Phone: +247 66 241; Hours: 0800-1730 M-W, F; 0800-1300 Th

## COMMUNICATIONS

### *INTERNET*

A dedicated wireless service will be available in the Passenger Terminal/Base Library for ATom-2. Login details will be provided.

There is also a wi-fi hotspot at the Volcano Club. It costs \$15 to purchase a 24-hour pass. **The project will reimburse this expense.** Download speeds are about 0.5 Mbps as of October 2015. There is no in-room wi-fi access.

### *VOICE AND TEXT*

**Cell phones with US sim cards will not work on Ascension.**

In-room telephones can be used to contact others on base or local Ascension numbers. All numbers on base are four digits and begin with a '2'. All local numbers off base can be called by using the prefix '99' (e.g., 99-63319 for RAF flight information). Important on-base phone numbers can be found below on page 8.

People in the US can call you without paying international rates by dialing your room phone (i.e., dial (321) 494-1110 to call Patrick AFB, select option 9, then 962-XXXX where the last four digits are your room's extension). You can also buy calling cards from the Volcano Club to call home from your room phone.

If you are given a local cell, important numbers will be pre-programmed into your phone. To dial an on-base in-room telephone from a local cell, dial a '6' before the four-digit number.

## POWER

Power on base is U.S. standard 120 V, 60 Hz.

## WEBSITE

For more information on Ascension Island, visit <http://www.ascension-island.gov.ac/the-island/>.

## AIRCRAFT ACCESS

The DC-8 will be parked near the Base Fire Station. You will need to wear your ATom ID Badge and a reflective vest whenever you are walking to/from the DC-8. People requiring access to the aircraft must park their rental cars by the dumpster near the Fire Station. We have been asked not to park our cars next to the building.

## AIRFIELD SAFETY

- Always use Personal Protective Equipment when handling hazardous products/materials or performing tasks that require additional protection (i.e., transferring LN2)
- You are NOT allowed free roaming on the aircraft ramp
- No open-toed shoes are allowed when working on the aircraft or walking on the ramp.
- Be extremely aware of aircraft and trip hazards when walking to the aircraft.
- No photographs of airport operations on the ramp are permitted.

## SHIPPING

There are no viable shipping options to or from Ascension.

## HEALTH

**Dial 911 for emergencies on base and 999 for emergencies off base.**

The base clinic (ext. 2224) is located southeast of the Dining Hall, next to Barracks 13, and is open Monday through Thursday, 0715 - 1600 and Friday 0715 - 1530. Sick call hours are 0715 - 0815 Monday through Friday. The Station Nurse will be available at the Clinic from Monday through Friday 0715 - 1100 only.

For emergency cases outside of routine clinic hours you will need to see the doctor at the Georgetown Hospital. Call ext. 2655 to make an appointment. For ambulance assistance, call Fire/Security at Ext. 2222 or the Georgetown Ambulance at 99-66000.

The Georgetown Hospital is located off the main road on your left just as you enter Georgetown. The fee for consultation is 90 GBP. You do not have to pay in cash; you can elect to be billed. Travelers should bring any regularly taken medications with them to Ascension Island as the hospital only has a small store of medications.



Georgetown Hospital

## STORES

The base Company Store is located next to the Passenger Terminal/Base Library. Basic toiletries, bottled water, etc. can be purchased here. The Company Store is closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

### Company Store Hours of Operation

Monday	1100 - 1230	1630 - 1800
Tuesday	0830 - 0900, 1100 - 1230	1630 - 1800
Wednesday	1100 - 1230	1630 - 1800
Thursday	0830 - 0900, 1100 - 1230	1630 - 1800
Friday	1100 - 1230	1630 - 1800

Solomon's Shop is located off the main road by the Post Office in Georgetown and is the closest thing to a full service grocery store on Ascension. Open M-F from 0900 - 1800 (closes at 1300 on Wed) and 0900 - 1430 on Sat.

## UPON DEPARTURE

Preflight for the departure to Lajes (Azores) will begin at 06:00 (approximately three hours prior to takeoff).

On the day of departure, all personnel must first go to the RAF PAX terminal for out-processing by the AIG police (i.e., passports stamped, etc.). ESPO will pre-order box lunches from the Dining Hall for the outbound flight (\$7 each).

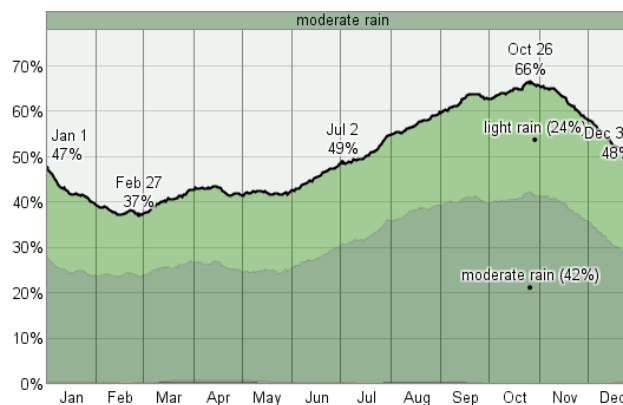
## WEATHER

Over the course of a year, the temperature on Ascension typically varies from 71°F to 86°F and is rarely below 69°F or above 88°F.

The warm season lasts from February 11 to May 12 with an average daily high temperature above 84°F. The hottest day of the year is March 20, with an average high of 86°F and low of 78°F.

The cold season lasts from July 28 to November 25 with an average daily high temperature below 80°F. The coldest day of the year is September 11, with an average low of 71°F and high of 79°F.

The probability that precipitation will be observed at this location varies throughout the year. Precipitation is most likely around October 26, occurring in 66% of days. Precipitation is least likely around February 27, occurring in 37% of days. Winds averaging 15 knots blow out of the southeast almost constantly. The relative humidity on Ascension averages around 72 percent.



Probability of Precipitation at Some Point in the Day

## NATURAL HAZARDS

There are no major natural hazards on Ascension. While Ascension is a volcanic island, there has not been any reported volcanic activity since it was inhabited in 1815. Ascension's past volcanic activity is in full display across the island, with its over 50 scoria cones that dot the island and its visible lava flows.

The ground at Ascension AAF is made up primarily of klinka, or hardened volcanic ash. All personnel should be cognizant of where they walk. It is easy to lose your footing when walking across a klinka surface depending on the rock size and visible light. Klinka can be very sharp and cut you badly. Do not wear sandals or flip flops while walking around on base because it is likely that some klinka will get between your feet and your soles, which can cause painful cuts on the bottom of your feet.

Additionally, swimming is not safe at most of the beaches on the island. The only two swimmable beaches are at English Beach and Comfortless Cove. Even at these two beaches, currents and riptides can be strong so use extreme caution and do not swim alone.



# ASCENSION AAF ON BASE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

## KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**“DO NOT DISCUSS CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ON UNSECURE  
TELEPHONES. OFFICIAL DoD TELEPHONES ARE SUBJECT TO  
MONITORING FOR COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY PURPOSES AT ALL  
TIMES.”**

<b>All Emergencies – On Base</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>All Emergencies – Off Base</b>	<b>999</b>
Base Commander	2200
Station Manager	2201
Integrated Data Services (IDS) Manager	2241
Base Maintenance	2204
Chief Fire/Security	2689
AMC Channel Flights	2377
RAF Flights	99-63319
Fire/Security	2222/2223
Clinic	2224
Dining Hall	2220
Manifesting/Housing	2487
Volcano Club Manager	2616
Commissary Supervisor	2474
Volcano Club (Office)	2493
Volcano Club (Bar)	2269
Snack Bar	2429

# MAPS AND INFORMATION

## ASCENSION AAF



## MAP OF GEORGETOWN AND ASCENSION

