



Ascension Island

ATom Deployment Guide

(revised August 2017)

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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, Hong Kong, Iran, Libya, Macau, North Korea, Russia, Syria, Taiwan, 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 cash** to pay for food, lodging, or other miscellaneous costs. There is an ATM on base, but since there is only one, you would be advised not to rely on it. 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

Tuesday, October 17	Wednesday, October 18	Thursday, October 19
≈ 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 (08:00-16:00), 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 will be at the briefing to process everyone's arrival. **At this time, you must have in your possession your passport and proof of medical evacuation insurance that provides coverage up to 1 million USD.** The ESPO site manager will have a copy of everyone's entry permit.

Everyone will 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.

NOTE: On Mon 24 Jul 17, there was a near fatal shark attack at English Bay and on Wed 26 Jul, a close encounter at Comfortless Cove. Shark behavior around the Ascension coastline has become increasingly unpredictable. As a result, **swimming at any of the beaches on Ascension Island is strictly forbidden. NO ONE SHOULD ENTER THE OCEAN DURING THE ATOM DEPLOYMENT.**

ESPO SITE SUPPORT

Name	Phone	E-mail
Erin Czech (Site Manager)	US Mobile: +1 650 499 6406; Ascension Mobile: +247 45800	erin.czech@nasa.gov

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	122	23	6	151	11/01/2016

* 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 \$7, and dinner is \$12.

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). A box lunch (\$7) will be provided to you on arrival since everything else will be closed.

TRANSPORTATION

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

Due to the stoppage of the twice/week A330 service from the UK, tourism to Ascension has ceased for the time being. As a result, the Obsidian Hotel has closed and no longer has cars available for hire.

ATom participants will be bussed to and from the aircraft based on the following schedule:

Date	Time	Depart	Arrive
17 October (Arrival)	≈ 21:00	Aircraft	Base Terminal/Library
18 October (Instr. Access)	07:40	Base Terminal/Library	Aircraft
18 October (Instr. Access)	11:30	Aircraft	Base Terminal/Library
18 October (Instr. Access)	12:20	Base Terminal/Library	Aircraft
18 October (Instr. Access)	16:00	Aircraft	Base Terminal/Library
19 October (Departure)	05:40	Base Terminal/Library	Aircraft
19 October (Departure)	07:10	Base Terminal/Library	Aircraft

COMMUNICATIONS

INTERNET

A dedicated wireless service will be available in the Passenger Terminal/Base Library. 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). **ESPO will send out a listing of everyone's room extension prior to your arrival at Ascension that you can provide to your friends and family to get a hold of you.** 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.

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.



Georgetown Hospital

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.

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

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 will be out processed by the AIG police at the Base Terminal/Library (i.e., passports stamped, etc.). ESPO will pre-order box lunches from the Dining Hall for the outbound flight (\$7 each).

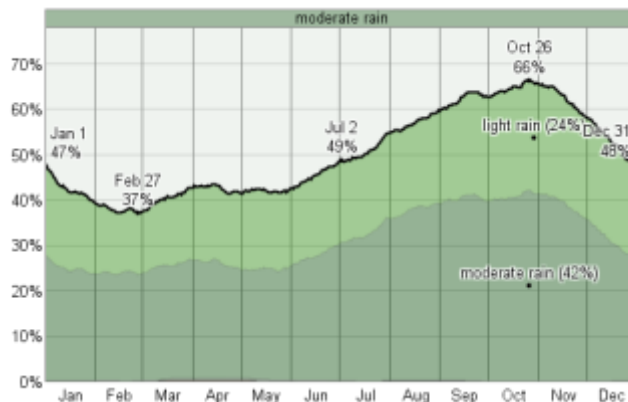
WEATHER

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



Probability of Precipitation at Some Point in the Day

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.

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.

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."

All Emergencies – On Base	911
All Emergencies – Off Base	999
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

GEORGETOWN, ASCENSION ISLAND



- Card / Coin Phone
- Public Toilet
- Fire Station
- Police Station
- Hospital
- Foot path/dirt track
- Main Road
- 1 Pier Head
- 2 Shipping Office
- 3 AIG Stores
- 4 Swimming Pool
- 5 Fort Thornton
- 6 Turtle Ponds
- 7 Long Beach – turtle nesting site
- 8 Fort Hayes
- 9 Museum
- 10 Exiles Building
- 11 Solomon's Shop
- 12 Post Office
- 13 A&P's Gift Shop
- 14 Saints Club
- 15 Saint Mary's Church
- 16 AIG Building & Bank
- 17 Conservation Building & AIG Insurance Office
- 18 Sure Communications Office
- 19 Dental Clinic
- 20 Hospital
- 21 Obsidian Hotel, Bar & Restaurant, Souvenir Shop
- 22 Hood Guns
- 23 Jubilee View



- 24 Solomon's Fuel station
- 25 One Boat Golf Club
- 26 Comfortless Cove Beach
- 27 English Bay Beach
- 28 Two Boats Pool
- 29 Two Boats Club & Snack Bar
- 30 Atlantic Appliances Shop
- 31 Two Boats School & Library
- 32 North East Bay & Blow hole
- 33 The Residency & Monkey Rock Cemetery
- 34 Green Mountain: Red Lion
- 35 Green Mountain: The Dew Pond
- 36 Travellers Hill Pool
- 37 NAAFI Complex: Bar Restaurant & Shop
- 38 Devil's Ashpit—Site of Old NASA Building
- 39 The Grotto
- 40 US Base: Volcano Club Snack Bar, Bar & Cinema
- 41 Wideawake Airfield: en-route to Bird Ground
- 42 Boatswain Bird Island