UN OCEAN CONFERENCE SURVIVAL TIPS

UNOC SURVIVAL TIPS

THE OCEAN CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN NEW YORK, NY, USA

5–9 JUNE 2017, UN HEADQUARTERS, 405 EAST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK, NY, 10017, USA

We hope you find these helpful as you embark on your voyage ahead!

PREPARING FOR YOUR JOURNEY

TOP 10 TIPS ON WHAT TO PACK • DON'T FORGET • WEATHER

TOP 10 TIPS ON WHAT TO PACK

1. There is a lot of walking done at these meetings so you may want to make sure you have good comfortable shoes – remember comfort over fashion!
2. The dress code at these meetings tends to be formal, particularly during the first day, opening plenary, and ministerial events. For men, that means a tie and suit jacket. Note, however, that a sulu/traditional dress may be considered formal, and island dress always makes a welcome change in a sea of bland suits!
3. Pack something with an 'island flair' which is still dressy. We'd like to encourage you to raise our island visibility.
4. Travel by the "if you lose it and you will cry, then don't take it" philosophy when it comes to packing jewelry and other precious items.
5. Bring your business cards so they can be handed out to people as part of your networking.
6. Try to stay healthy: bring water bottles, eat fruit and vegetables, and bring multi-vitamins.
7. It's handy to have some healthy snacks to help you get through long sessions. Pack some with you or purchase in NYC.
8. It's helpful to pack headache pills and stomach medications, as travelling can give you an upset stomach.
9. You may want to bring your cellphones in case you are able to purchase a local SIM there are a number of mobile network providers, we have more information in this sheet.
10. If you have a smartphone, ipad or tablet, you may wish to bring it. The Conference venue will have free wifi and you may find your device handy in finding your way around NYC.

DON'T FORGET TO MAKE SURE

✓Your passport is valid for 6-months plus

✓You have all your visas for transit stops as well as for the USA

✓Any transit stops have sufficient time for travel to or in between airports and through customs

WHAT THE WEATHER WILL BE LIKE

June is late spring/early summer in the eastern USA. New York will have average temperature range between **13°C and 23°C in June**. Weather is usually mild with some rainfall. While the weather is considered mild, it may be good to pack a jumper and/or a lightweight jacket.

IN NYC

ARRIVING INTO THE AIRPORT • TRAVELLING TO THE VENUE

ARRIVING INTO THE AIRPORT

Please note: Expect the customs process to take some time and make sure you declare what needs to be declared on your forms.

FROM AIRPORT TO YOUR HOTEL

- There are a variety of Shuttle Buses from any New York Airport, many of which you can book ahead online, such as NYC Airporter, Airlink, SuperShuttle and more. Prices range from about $18 to $35 USD.
- If you have not organised an airport pick-up before travelling, on arrival, you can go out of the airport and hire a taxi, take the subway or meet a local bus. Check the information booths in the terminal for assistance.
- If you would like to find out in advance about the metro from the airport, please see http://www.nysubway.com/airport/ for fares.
- When it comes to taxi's, there's a flat fare of $45 between JFK Airport and Manhattan. Taxi fares from Newark airport to Manhattan are a lot more expensive, especially late at night. You can get help calculating your taxi fare before departure by Port Authority staff. Your cost might include tolls or a stop fee if you ask to stop to pick something up before your final destination, and a tip is customary.

For a map to the venue please visit ⇨ MAP

TRAVELING TO AND FROM YOUR HOTEL AND THE CONFERENCE VENUE

There are several mobile phone apps that can help you get around, like Moove It and TripGo.

WALKING

NYC is considered one of the best walking cities. Manhattan streets mostly follow a grid structure:

- Avenues run North/South and are numbered (e.g. 1st Avenue, 2nd Avenue, etc.) sequentially upwards as you move away from the river/from East to West.
- Streets run East/West and are numbered (e.g. 42nd Street, 43rd Street, etc.) sequentially upwards as you move from Downtown to Uptown/from South to North.
- The distance between avenues/streets is called a block. If your destination is less than 5 blocks away, it will be generally easier to travel by foot e.g. if your hotel is on E46th St between 2nd and 3rd Avenue, you can easily walk to the UN.
- Twenty "street" blocks e.g. 40th St to 60th St equals one mile also known as 1.6 km and usually takes 20–30 minutes to walk. Be aware that there is an E and W for each street, e.g. there may be a 101 E55th St and a 101 W55th St.

METRO

The Metro can be very useful. A standard subway or bus ride is about $2.75. For the week of the Conference, you might want a Metrocard that allows you unlimited subway or bus rides for 7 days for $32. If you think you'll be using more than about 13 rides per week, the 7-day pass is likely a better deal. For more info: www.freetoursbyfoot.com/how-to-buy-a-new-york-city-subway-pass/

A subway map will help you navigate the maze of the NY Subway. You can also download apps for your smartphone which provide maps and can help you plan your route. Tips on these are available here: www.freetoursbyfoot.com/which-nyc-subway-app-is-best/

TAXI

Initial charge is $3, charge per mile (1.6 km) is $2, and rate per minute stopped in traffic is $0.40.

- There is a $1 surcharge for peak traffic hours (Mon–Fri, 4pm–8pm).
- There is a $0.50 night surcharge (8pm–6am).
- There is a $0.50 New York State tax on all taxi rides.
- There is a $15 surcharge for trips to Newark Airport.

There are several websites for calculating taxi fares, like www.taxifarefinder.com or http://nyc.taxiwiz.com/

UNOC SURVIVAL TIPS

UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION • FIRST DAY • PROGRAMME TIPS

TOP 3 TIPS FOR REGISTRATION ON THE GROUND

Please note: Registration must be done before the conference, the deadline for registration to the Conference (States, IGOs) is **Monday 29 May 2017**.

1. HOW TO REGISTER

Before you can enter the formal UN venue, you have to REGISTER. To do this, carry your passport with you and a printed copy of your country's accreditation letter, which should have instructions. The **UN Pass and ID Office** is at 320 E 3rd St, but your accreditation letter should have more information.

2. ONCE REGISTERED

KEEP YOUR BADGE SAFE, as you won't be able to get into the building without it. You must wear it at all times when inside the building, but DON'T WEAR it outside as it could mark you instantly as a visitor and makes you attractive to pick pockets.

3. IF YOU LOSE YOUR BADGE

Report it immediately to the registration counter and seek a new one

ON YOUR FIRST DAY

It is useful to familiarise yourself with the venue to find key points such as:

- ✓Toilets and bathrooms
- ✓IT help desk
- ✓Computer rooms where you can check internet and print for free
- ✓Bank or money machines
- ✓Water cooler machines
- ✓Power points and desks
- ✓Restaurants or food carts
- ✓Shops in case you need key minor items e.g. batteries, gum, Panadol
- ✓The exits are in case of emergencies
- ✓Key meeting rooms such as the main plenary and exhibition sites etc.

TOP 6 DAILY PROGRAMME TIPS

1. Security is strict at the UN Headquarters, so in order to arrive at the conference venue on time for your meetings, you need to factor in the transport/travel time to the venue as well as the time it will take to go through security.
2. A cultural event hosted by Fiji and Sweden marking the opening of the Conference is tentatively scheduled to be held on **Monday 5 June 2017 at 9am** in the General Assembly Hall.
3. The **official opening** will take place on **Monday 5 June 2017 at 10 am**.
4. Formal sessions of the meeting will be held daily from 10:00am to 1:00pm and from 3:00pm to 6:00pm.
5. The Conference Programme can be found here: **https://oceanconference.un.org/programme**
6. Sign up for the **ENB – Earth Negotiations Bulletin** which is a daily summary of the meetings, these will keep you informed.

SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
WWW.SPREP.ORG

UN environment

A resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

OTHER HELPFUL INFO

ACCOMMODATION • SMOKING • DRINKING WATER • ELECTRICITY • COMMUNICATIONS • MONEY • HEALTH • TIME ZONES

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Map of area surrounding the conference venue showing **possible hotel accommodation**.
You may also wish to search AirBnb or other accommodation options, please be wary of scams.
Available accommodation ranges from 2 to 5-star hotels and serviced apartments.

SMOKING POLICY



All conference rooms and public areas are strict no-smoking zones. Smoking in public areas (e.g. hotels, airports, restaurants, theatres, shopping complexes, etc.) and transportation (e.g. airlines, railways, cars & coaches) is a punishable offence in some areas. Most hotels, restaurants and even airports have smoking lounges or marked smoking areas.

DRINKING WATER

Drinking tap water is said to be safe in the USA. Bring a reusable water bottle which you can refill to have water at all times. Here are some resources that might be of interest:

- **http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking_water/index.shtml**
- **http://wordabovethestreet.org**

ELECTRIC CURRENT



- ✓ Electric power is standardised in all states across the USA. It is set at 110 Volts and 60 cycles.
- ✓ 220 Volt power is used in homes only for large appliances like stoves, water heaters and clothes dryers.
- ✓ Sockets accept flat pins. Should you wish to use appliances of 220 volts, some hotels may provide adaptors on request.
- ✓ It is advisable to carry universal adaptors.

TELEPHONE

The country code for the United States is +1; you may need the international code 0011 or just 01 first. **This site might be helpful**. Phone numbers need the area code (3 digits) and the local number (7 digits). So you will make a call like this: dial 1 + area code + local phone number, or like this from international sources: dial 0011 + 1 + area code + local phone number.

CELL PHONES

Please note: You may need a photocopy of your passport details page or your driver's license as proof of identity.
DO NOT leave your passport, leave only the photocopy with the retailer.

In the USA, both GSM & CDMA (WLL) mobile systems are present. Please contact your mobile service providers to check their roaming partners & tariffs in the USA. SIM cards can be purchased at the airport or at conference venue. A prepaid, no-contract SIM card costs approximately $10 and up. In general, data and SMS texts will be cheaper than calls. See TripAdvisor article **here**.

If you have an unlocked dual, tri, or quad band GSM cell phone that can work on 850/1900 MHz, you will be able to use your phone in the USA.

TOP 5 MONEY TIPS

1. Currency in the USA is the US Dollar – denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500, and 1000.
2. When exchanging foreign currency for US dollars, keep the exchange receipt as this will help you reconvert unspent money back to your original currency when you leave. Always use authorised money changers and banks to exchange currency, and always get a receipt.
3. If you wish to exchange currency at the airport, do this before you go past customs. Bank Currency Exchange counters are located inside the terminal, and once you have cleared customs, you cannot go back inside.
4. There are currency exchange facilities within walking distance of the conference venue.
5. A couple of ATMs are conveniently located near the gift shop/post office/bookstore/cafe on the lower floor of the UN Headquarters building. This is safe and it avoids the need to have a US bank card to gain access to bank buildings and their cash machines.

BANKS / ATMS

Most bank ATMs honour Visa, Visa Electron, Master and Maestro cards, and you may use these ATMs also to withdraw money. ATMs will also be available at the conference venue.

Most hotels, shops & other establishments accept credit cards. Master and VISA cards are accepted at almost all such establishments, and some of them accept Diners & American Express cards as well.

TIPPING

A standard tip at a restaurant is 20% of the bill.

HEALTH

Besides the hospitals and nearby medical centres in New York, medical facilities will be available at conference venue, including fully equipped medical rooms for first aid.

Delegates should consult with their physician regarding health precautions and vaccinations prior to visiting the USA.

Healthcare costs can be very expensive in the USA. It is strongly recommended that all delegates travelling to the UNOC ensure they have adequate travel insurance coverage in the event that they are injured or fall sick while in the USA.

TIME ZONES

New York is GMT – 4

14 hrs behind Brisbane, Australia
16 hrs behind Suva, Fiji
16 hrs behind Auckland, New Zealand
17 hrs behind Apia, Samoa

We hope you found this helpful and have a pleasant, safe journey ahead!

SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

An initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States funded by the European Union

ACP MEAs 2

SWEDEN

UN environment

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