The information provided herein was prepared by the IODP Travel Office to assist you and/or your organization in arranging travel for your participation in the cruise. We respectfully ask that you take the time to become thoroughly familiar with this information as soon as you receive it.

Specific information pertaining to the ship’s schedule, etc. is provided on the IODP Reconnaissance sheet.

As a reminder, you and your funding organization will be responsible for the following:

1) Travel expenses en route to and from the ship, including airfare, lodging, meals, taxis, and other miscellaneous expenses.
2) Airline reservations - all reservations must be arranged through your travel agency or organization’s travel office.
3) All costs associated with obtaining required visas.

**Travel**

28 May 2013 - It is required that the science participants should arrive in Victoria, BC no later than this date.


29 July 2013 – Ship arrives in Valdez, Alaska. Scientists will disembark the ship and depart for Anchorage on a chartered bus at 1400. No one should make flight arrangements to return home on 29 July. Hotel arrangements will be at a property near the airport in Anchorage.

30 July 2013 - Due to the approximate drive time of 5 hours from Valdez to Anchorage, you should not schedule your flight home until 30 July 2013.

**Passport/Visa Information**

**IMPORTANT VISA REQUIREMENT:** Based on information provided by the port agent in Alaska, B1/B2 visas are required for all participants (except US and Canada). It is important that you local Consulate/Embassy understands you are entering Alaska on a foreign flag vessel who’s registry is Cyprus.

Passports are required for all participants because the ship is Cyprus registered. **Passport Information (Must be sent to IODP)** - IODP is required to forward this information to the agents in the port cities prior to your arrival to satisfy Customs & Immigrations requirements, and to facilitate your entry into the country and your embarking/disembarking the ship. If you have not already sent this information to Janice Muston (muston @iodp.tamu.edu), please do so at your earliest convenience.
Visa Information - Non-U.S. participants who hold U.S. visas, such as an H1B, J1, or TN, and who plan to return to the U.S., should ensure that their visas do not expire during the cruise. **IODP will not be liable for any costs incurred to participants as a result of inadequate or expired visas.**

**Hotel Accommodations and Itinerary Information**
IODP negotiates for group rates with hotels in the port cities. If you wish for IODP to make hotel reservations on your behalf at the IODP-selected hotels, please complete the “Flight Information and Request for Hotel Reservations” form. This form must be returned by the date indicated or it may not be possible to obtain a reservation for you. To avoid misunderstandings, **IODP does not make hotel reservations for participants unless specifically requested on the travel form.** If provided by the hotel, confirmation numbers will be sent to you electronically. By requesting the IODP Travel Office to make hotel reservations you are agreeing that IODP’s hotel selection, location, and rates are acceptable to you. IODP reserves the right to make or change hotel arrangements as deemed essential to official requirements, without prior notification to cruise participants. If any of these conditions are not compatible with your needs, we recommend that you make hotel reservations through your travel agent. All hotel information that is available at this time is included on the IODP Reconnaissance form. If it is not listed, it will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

**IMPORTANT:** If you do request IODP to arrange your hotel accommodations, please be aware your reservations will be guaranteed by the credit card number you provide. If your travel plans change after you have requested the reservations, it will be your responsibility to notify either the IODP Travel Office or the hotel directly to change/cancel the reservations. Please refer to the IODP Reconnaissance form.

**Letter of Introduction**
This letter explains the purpose of your travel and should be used only if questioned by officials en route to your destination. A letter will be sent electronically to each participant closer to your departure.

**Miscellaneous Information**
The following is also posted at [http://iodp.tamu.edu/travel/portcall.html](http://iodp.tamu.edu/travel/portcall.html) for your information:

1) **Reconnaissance Sheet.** This provides essential logistical information regarding your participation in the cruise (the ship’s schedule, your expected arrival dates in port, port agent’s name, address and hotel information.). We suggest a copy of this be carried with you to the port city should you need the port agent’s name and telephone number in providing directions to the ship’s exact docking location. Please note, unless advised in advance, transportation from the airport to the hotel is the traveler’s responsibility.

2) **Flight Information and Hotel Request Form.** IODP is required to provide the Port Agent with a complete Travel Manifest. This is mandatory for Immigration Notification. **Without advance notification, entry may be denied.** Please complete the flight information portion even, if you do not need hotel reservations.

For additional information, please contact:
Kathy Bass – Travel Services Administrator
TEL: (979) 845-3205/FAX: (979) 845-0293
EMAIL: bass@iodp.tamu.edu