

Distinguished Visitor Information

If you are delayed or have any issues or questions prior to your arrival at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, please call Ms. Julie Ann Ripley at (619) 940-8247.

SCHEDULE CHANGES: While it rarely impacts DV embarks, ship schedules are always subject to change on short notice, and embarks may be canceled. In the event this occurs, we will contact you immediately. If you learn that you cannot participate on an embark, please contact us as soon as possible, so we may offer this opportunity to someone else.

SURFACE NAVY EXPERIENCE: You will be flown from Naval Air Station North Island (NASNI) to a West Coast surface combatant ship while it is conducting training operations at sea. You will fly out to the ship aboard a Navy SH-60 Seahawk helicopter and make a landing on the ship's flight deck.

While aboard the ship, you may view/experience flight operations, visit the bridge and other work centers on the ship; and have the opportunity to eat with crewmembers and officers.

This is a working visit. The crew will conduct normal, daily work; wearing work clothes and uniforms.

ATTIRE: You should dress casually, wearing comfortable clothing - jeans/slacks, long-sleeved shirts, and comfortable walking shoes. Shoes with low, rubberized soles are suggested. A ship is an industrial environment with steep stairways called ladders; high-heels, open-toed shoes, sandals, and dresses are not permitted. Do not wear dinner jackets or ties. Also avoid necklaces that can get caught or anything else that may impact your ability to climb steep stairs and ladders with both hands.

Sunscreen and sunglasses are recommended. We also recommend bringing a windbreaker, sweater, or hoodie in case you become cold.

Since this is a daylight only visit, please arrive carrying as little as possible. We recommend a single backpack or purse to hold your belongings.

TIMELINE: While the itinerary is always subject to change, guests must plan to arrive at Commander, U.S. Naval Surface Forces Pacific, located at Naval Base Coronado before 7:00 a.m. on the morning of their embark. Members of the Public Affairs staff will meet you at the parking lot. Once all guests have arrived, you will be escorted into the building for coffee, light snacks, and a brief meeting with the commander. Guests will then transit to the Naval Air Station North Island Air Passenger Terminal in a Navy van, which will pick you up and return you to your vehicles following your afternoon return. Flights to the ship typically depart between 9 – 10 a.m.; and return between 3 – 4 p.m. A full itinerary will be provided for the remainder of the week.

BASE ACCESS: You will be parking your vehicles outside the gate at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado and the Public Affairs staff will escort you each day. Required documentation and temperatures will be checked prior to loading the van.

OUT OF TOWN GUESTS: Guests must provide their own transportation to/from Naval Amphibious Base Coronado. The ship must maintain its operational schedule; so, it is essential that we have your contact information as requested in your registration documents. It is recommended that guests arrive in San Diego the evening prior to their embark, and stay overnight in San Diego.

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HOTEL RESERVATIONS: There are many hotels close to Naval Amphibious Base Coronado. The San Diego Chamber of Commerce web site at <http://www.sdchamber.org> provides numerous options. Search for "hotel" in the Directory of Members under the Membership link. The base is located on the south end of Coronado. We recommend staying someplace close by. There are also options in Imperial Beach that can be found through online mapping sites.

FLYING TO THE SHIP: There are safety concerns associated with a water transit on a military helicopter and we ask all guests to observe the following instructions:

- 1) Guests WILL NOT be allowed to carry/hold any material while the aircraft is launching or landing. Follow the directions of the helicopter's personnel. All carry-on items including cameras, purses, or any other bag/satchel will be taken when boarding the aircraft. Guests may carry these items prior to boarding, but items will be placed in the aircraft's stowage area as guests board until arrival at the destination. These materials will be returned upon arrival at the ship or when offloading ashore.
- 2) All bags going to/from the ship must be closable, including purses. Any material falling out of bags/purses may have the potential while in flight to cause damage to the aircraft or harm personnel.
- 3) Guests should ensure nothing is carried onto the aircraft in an open pocket. Any material falling out of pockets while in flight or on the flight deck of the ship, has the potential to cause damage to aircraft and harm personnel. Only carry items in coat, pant, or shirt pockets that zip closed or have a closing flap.

Returning from the ship: Plan to return to Naval Amphibious Base Coronado late in the afternoon. Return times can change depending on operations. Therefore, please do not schedule a commercial flight out of San Diego prior to 3:00 p.m., on the final day of your trip.

COSTS: You will be charged a \$35.00 embark fee to cover your meal and other items the ship provides. Please bring EXACT CASH as we will be unable to make change. Any extra money will be donated to the ship's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) fund. Checks and credit cards are NOT accepted. You should also bring additional spending CASH for souvenirs or snacks, i.e., ball caps, coins, drinks, etc., from the ship's store.

PHYSICAL EXERTION: There are no elevators for moving people on a warship. Guests must be fully mobile and able to climb multiple stories of stairs in order to navigate the ship.

A shipboard obstacle to be aware of are 'knee-knockers'. These are located in hatches (doorways), raised by 12-inches. Hatches are cut into steel bulkheads (walls) located throughout the ship. Moving from bow to stern (front to back), guests will pass through dozens of these hatches requiring a 'high step' to clear each bulkhead.

Guests who are not physically able to overcome these obstacles should reconsider their participation in the embark. We want to make this a memorable visit for all, and that won't happen if a guest is spending time in the Sick Bay or is physically unable to move around the ship.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS: Guests will be moving throughout the ship and into spaces that may need to be closed during drills or emergencies. When moving between decks, guests MAY need to pass through smaller openings between decks (floors), known as scuttles. Scuttles are round openings that are 53-inches in circumference. For personal safety reasons, any guest who is unable to fit through a scuttle should not participate in the embark.