



**British
Antarctic Survey**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Rothera Research Station

Adelaide Island, Antarctica

67°34' South - 68°07' West



Welcome Letter 2023-24

Welcome

On behalf of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), we are pleased to welcome you to the Rothera Research Station team for the 2023-24 Antarctic season.

If you haven't been to Rothera before, the first thing to say is "don't worry"; you certainly don't need to know everything straight away! Your first few days on station will be taken up with induction training that will familiarise you with your surroundings and enable you to live and work safely and comfortably.

This season will operate free from the constraints of the recent pandemic, with *business-as-usual* operating alongside modernisation projects. The RRS Sir David Attenborough will visit Rothera several times and our field science programme will deliver projects deep into the continent. Our construction partner, BAM, will fit windows to and continue internal work on the Discovery Building, as well as complete resurfacing of the runway. 2023-24 will be a full season and the tempo of activity will be high, as personnel not only maintain the station but also take steps towards transforming Rothera into a truly world-class modern research facility.

Rothera is an amazing place to be; the variety of activities and the diverse range of skilled people, combined with our stunning environment, make for a really great experience. We ask that you make an effort to get into the spirit of station life and play your part within the community.

We need everyone's help to make this season a safe and successful one. It is especially important to be aware of and to follow the various safety procedures and station regulations.

Whilst walking around Rothera pay close attention to your surroundings and watch out for vehicles, aircraft, wildlife and other obvious hazards. Be aware that seemingly small incidents such as 'slips, trips and falls' could have profound consequences, even resulting in evacuation from Antarctica. As soon as you arrive, prioritise learning the signing-out process and the correct way to cross the runway so you may move around the station safely.

At Rothera the Station Management Team has an "open door" policy; please feel free to speak to any of us at any time on any subject.

We hope you have a successful and rewarding visit to this remarkable place.

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Giles Murray-Jones | Mike Brian | Aurelia Reichardt | Alexandra Goldsack | Lynsay Wild |
| Station Operations Manager (SOM) | Deputy SOM | Station Leader | Winter Station Leader | Station Logistics Manager |

Arrival at Rothera

Whether you arrive at Rothera by aircraft or ship, you will be met by the Station Leader and given an arrival briefing before being shown to your bedroom.

You **must** ensure you arrive suitably dressed. This means as a minimum you must be wearing, or have in your possession:

- A warm jacket/coat
- Hat
- Gloves
- Sunglasses
- Boots or sturdy shoes

The arrival briefing will cover all the essentials that you will need to know for your first night at Rothera and will include:

- Main hazards and how to avoid them
- Key contacts on station
- What to do if the alarm sounds
- Domestic arrangements including meal times and where you will sleep

You will then be provided with a personalised training plan with induction training usually beginning the afternoon of your arrival or at 0830 the following morning. General station familiarisation and training will normally take several days and will gradually build your knowledge so that you may work and live comfortably and safely.

Time Zone

Rothera is GMT -3, the same as Chile and the Falkland Islands.

Further Information

Each bedroom at Rothera contains a ***Station Information Booklet*** detailing many aspects of life on station. Please take the time to read this as soon as possible, even if you have spent time at Rothera before, because some things will have changed. Don't hesitate to ask if you are unsure about anything.

Community Spirit

Community spirit is very important on all Antarctic stations. Success is dependent on everyone working together, willingly helping out and keeping an eye out for one another.

Being “new” on station can be somewhat daunting at first. The amount of things you need to learn, new people to meet and the excitement of being in Antarctica can be a bit overwhelming so it might take several days or even weeks to understand the routine at Rothera. However, remember that everyone was new once and throwing yourself into daily life and helping with communal duties, like washing up, will help you get to know the station and its residents. If you find you’re struggling please do speak to colleagues, line managers or the Station Management Team. We’re all there to help each other and ensure everyone gets the most out of their time in Antarctica.

A good attitude and a positive outlook will reward you with a happy experience at Rothera. In turn you’ll be contributing to a successful and enjoyable season for all. Relax, be yourself, and enjoy your time south.

We have an open culture and encourage you to ask questions as you settle in to life on station. The Station Leader, Winter Station Leader and other members of the Station Management Team will always be happy to answer your questions or address any concerns you might have.

Map of Rothera Research Station and Surrounding Area

Note: As construction works develop through the season, certain areas around station will become out-of-bounds, which will be clearly marked on the ground.

