



Guide for journalists wishing to visit the ATTO site

Effective of September 11, 2018

To guarantee fruitful and safe ATTO visits that are efficient for you and the involved scientists/technicians, this guide gives an overview of important points to consider in the planning of the visit and the work on site.

Who can go to ATTO?

We are happy to facilitate visits to the ATTO site by journalists, photographers and other media representatives. Specifically, we invite journalists who are looking to report on the scientific merit of the research site, and the data and findings acquired there. Experiences in science reporting and science communication are welcome. We are open to a broad range of approaches and topics, but do reserve the right to decline requests without a scientific scope. ATTO is a working research facility built specifically for this purpose. Science in the broadest sense should be the scope of any report on ATTO.

If you are interested in visiting ATTO, send a short proposal to the PR representative Iris Möbius at iris.moebius@bgc-jena.mpg.de. Such a proposal should include statements about your person and your affiliation (if applicable), the project or report you are planning, and the time frame you have in mind for the execution of your project. Once approved by the Scientific Steering Committee of the project, we can proceed to planning the details of your visit.

When can I go to ATTO?

Every visit to ATTO has to be scheduled well in advance. Depending on individual circumstances, the lead-time may vary considerably. In general, plan with four to six weeks for individual journalists or photographers and with up to 6 months for larger film crews.

Please note that the number of scientific staff at ATTO site is fluctuating, being largest during periodically-occurring intensive observation campaigns. If you want to interview specific scientists at the site, you will have to adhere to their expedition schedule and longer lead-times might be required.

The dry season from June to November is generally the most comfortable time to visit the site. Although field campaigns may take place over the entire year, most activity in the camp is during the dry season, as it is also preferentially used for maintenance and technical upgrades. Please get in touch early to discuss your plans to find the best option for your specific needs.

All journalistic visits will be accompanied by some scientific/technical staff members to ensure your safety and provide information on the research work at ATTO. However, this is a voluntary support. While we will do our best to accommodate your needs and plans, all activities (filming, interviews) have to be in agreement with the work schedule of those involved. Time is always running short in the field, so we kindly ask you to be mindful of that when planning to visit the site.

Because of the long travel time to the remote site, the unpredictable weather and the tight schedule of our staff, we recommend to schedule at least 3-4 days at the site. That way we can make sure you get all the material you need, even if the weather does not cooperate or any other circumstance cause delays. We also highly recommend to schedule for a "buffer day" in Manaus before your return flight, in case your transport back has to be delayed (e.g., due to impassable roads after heavy rainfall).

How do I get to ATTO?

Trips to the ATTO site always begin and end in Manaus, Brazil. Please arrange for your transport there individually. Manaus has an international airport (Eduardo Gomes-Manaus International Airport, MAO), although most flights from Europe and the US are non-direct flights.

We will arrange the trip from Manaus to the ATTO site for you. It takes ca. 6 hours:



- 2,5 hours on an asphalt road (pickup truck)
- 1 hour on a dirt road (pickup truck)
- 1,5 hours on the river (boat)
- 0,5 hours on a dirt road (pickup truck)

The trips generally leave around 6 am, so it is necessary to arrive in Manaus at the latest in the afternoon before the trip to site.

What do I have to know about staying and working at ATTO?

Visitors to ATTO are not insured by the project or the lead institutes and visit ATTO at their own responsibility. Health and liability insurance must be covered either privately or through the employer. A corresponding document must be signed before departure to ATTO.

We charge a small fee for the transport to site and a daily fee for accommodation and meals. The price list is available upon request.

The ATTO site provides a base camp consisting of a communal dormitory with hammocks, bathrooms and a dining room. A cook provides three meals daily. Please let us know in advance, if you have specific dietary needs; however, we cannot guarantee that all dietary needs can be accommodated. The camp is equipped with electric power, running water and internet connection via satellite (that usually cannot be offered to visitors).

Please keep in mind that ATTO is a remote site in the tropical rainforest. Climate is hot and humid with a pronounced wet and dry season, but little temperature change throughout the year. In the tropics, the sun rises around 6 am and sets around 6 pm every day, twilight is very short. Working in and around the camp as well as on the tower is restricted to daytime for security reasons. Exceptions have to be authorized by our staff. Access to towers is strictly prohibited during wet and stormy conditions (including frequent thunderstorms). Movements outside the camp should always be accompanied by our staff. Never leave the camp alone, especially after sunset or before sunrise, in case of accidents and animal encounters.

We will provide you with detailed safety information upon request or at latest some weeks before the start of your trip to ATTO.

What I can/can't do at ATTO?

Can:

- capture audio and video footage as well as still images of
 - o the tower, lab containers and instruments
 - o field work at near-by sites (e.g. soil plots)
 - o the pristine rainforest around the camp
 - o the activities and people in the camp with their individual permission
- climb the towers only after safety instruction and under the guidance of one of our staff to capture the construction, instruments, work at the towers and the rainforest (audio, video, still images). It is a MUST to wear safety harnesses on the towers; these can be provided by the ATTO staff.
- interview scientists and technicians about their work and research with their individual permission (audio, video, still images)

Can't:

- leave the camp unaccompanied by one of our staff
- climb the towers unaccompanied by one of our staff
- climb the towers without safety harness
- violate camp rules or neglect instructions by our staff

The rules are there to protect you and other people at the camp from accidents and to protect the integrity of the data collected by our instruments.



We also kindly ask you to include mentions of the lead-institutes of the ATTO project in the final product of your reporting. They are the Max-Planck-Institute for Biochemistry (MPI-BGC), the Max-Planck-Institute Chemistry (MPI-C), the National Institute of Amazon Researches (INPA) and the University of the State of Amazonas (UEA).

Who do I talk to?

We recommend getting in touch with our PR representative Iris Moebius informally before writing a proposal to discuss if a visit to ATTO is feasible and practical for you, or if other options (such as visiting one of our research institutes in Brazil or Germany) might be better suited.

You can reach me via e-mail at iris.moebius@bgc-jena.mpg.de or give me a call at +49 3641 576371 from 10 am to 5pm CET (UTC+1). I will gladly provide you with all further information and will answer any questions you might have.

Once you have been approved to visit ATTO, you will be put in touch with the local logistics team in Manaus.