

# The Cayman Islands Islands Relocation Guide



By Appointment To  
Her Majesty The Queen  
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

# ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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FS 23942



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ISO 9001 - ISO 14001  
OHSAS 18001

<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	Country Code (001) + Area code.
<b>STANDARD TIME:</b>	GMT – 3 hours.
<b>WEIGHTS &amp; MEASURES:</b>	Imperial.
<b>ELECTRICITY:</b>	120 V and 60Hz.
<b>INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:</b>	Recommended Typhoid and Hepatitis A.
<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:</b>	1st January – New Year’s Day, 4th Monday in January – National Heroes Day, Ash Wednesday – 46 days prior to Easter Sunday, Good Friday – Friday before Easter, Easter Monday, 3rd Monday in May – Discovery Day, June – date varies – Queen Birthday, 1st Monday in July – Constitution Day, 2nd Monday in November – Remembrance Day, Christmas Day, Boxing Day.
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Most businesses operate from Monday to Friday. (8.30am–5pm) and some Saturday mornings. Sunday, the Sabbath, is strictly observed.
<b>BANK HOURS:</b>	Most banks open 09.00 hrs to 16.30 hrs.
<b>EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:</b>	Police, Fire and Hospital 911.
<b>GOVERNMENT OFFICE UK:</b>	34 Dover Street London W15 4NG Tel: 0207 491 7772
<b>GOVERNOR’S OFFICE GRAND CAYMAN:</b>	Suite 101, Fifth Floor Government Administration Building Grand Cayman KY1 – 9000 Tel: (001) 345 244 2431

## Part 1 – Background Information on Cayman Islands

### Background

The Cayman Islands were first discovered by Christopher Columbus on his fourth voyage to the New World in 1503. Columbus named them Las Tortugas (The Turtles in Spanish) because there were so many sea turtles on the islands. However, Columbus did not land on the islands and it wasn't until Sir Francis Drake visited the islands over 80 years later that someone visited the islands. He called them the Cayman Islands after the alligators, or caiman, that he saw there. Still the islands remained uninhabited for some years.

The Cayman Islands were colonised from Jamaica by the British during the 18th and 19th centuries and the first settlers tended to hail from a variety of places and backgrounds including slaves, deserting soldiers, pirates and refugees. They were administered by Jamaica after 1863. In 1959, the islands became a territory within the Federation of the West Indies. When the Federation dissolved in 1962, the Cayman Islands chose to remain a British dependency (British Overseas Territory). The territory has transformed itself into a significant offshore financial center.

### Geography and Climate

The Cayman Islands are situated in the Caribbean around 440 km northwest of Jamaica and 390 km south of Cuba. At around 197 sq km Grand Cayman is the largest and most populous island. Little Cayman and Cayman Brac lie around 130 km northeast of Grand Cayman and are separated from each other by a channel about 16 km wide.

The Islands are peaks of a very deep subterranean mountain range called Cayman Ridge which extends from Cuba towards the Gulf of Honduras. All three islands are situated in some of the deepest waters in the Caribbean: the Cayman Trough which separates them from Jamaica reaches a depth of 6.4 km. The islands themselves are relatively low-lying with the highest point on Grand Cayman reaching only 18 metres above sea level. The bluff, a magnificent limestone peak on Cayman Brac is the highest point on all three islands, reaching an elevation of 43 metres.

The beaches on the Cayman Islands are considered some of the very best in the Caribbean. Casuarinas and sea-grape trees line many of the beaches, and are protected offshore by a fringing reef.

The Cayman Islands enjoy a very warm, tropical climate throughout the year, with temperatures that can reach highs of 33 C during the summer, moderated by trade winds. December to April is generally dry and temperatures are cooler than in summer hovering between 22 C and 27 C. The rainy season is from May to October, and showers are generally short and sharp. The hurricane season is from June to November.

### Population

The population as at April 2018 was approximately 62,200.

### Currency

The Cayman Islands Dollar ([currency code](#) KYD) is the currency of the Cayman Islands. It is abbreviated with the dollar sign \$, or alternatively CI\$ to distinguish it from other dollar-denominated currencies.

Bank Notes 1, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 Dollars.

Coins: 1, 5, 10, 25 Cents.

### Economy

With no direct taxation, the islands are a thriving offshore financial center. More than 65,000 companies were registered in the Cayman Islands as of 2017, including more than 280 banks, 700 insurers, and 10,500 mutual funds. A stock exchange was opened in 1997. Nearly 90% of the islands' food and consumer goods are imported.

Tourism is also a mainstay, accounting for about 70% of GDP and 75% of foreign currency earnings. The tourist industry is aimed at the luxury market and caters mainly to visitors from North America.

## **Education**

The education system in Cayman Islands is of a very high standard. Education is compulsory from the age of 4 to 16 for all children living on the islands, and is free to all Caymanian children and those who qualify as residents.

For expats, if they are employed by the government, the expat has the option of sending their children to a public school provided there is space. However, if they are employed in the private sector and earn a certain amount per month with two dependents on their permit, then the child is to attend a private school.

All children are required to take a medical test before entering a public or private/international school.

## **Religion**

The islands are almost exclusively Christian, with large numbers of Baptists, Presbyterians and Catholics, also hosts Jewish, Muslim and Hindu communities.

## **Language**

British English is the most commonly spoken language in the Cayman Islands, with a distinctive Caymanian dialect. Jamaican patois is also commonly spoken.

## **Healthcare**

Every resident of the Cayman Islands is required by law, to have an active health insurance policy in place. Employers are mandated, at the very minimum, to provide a Standard Health Insurance plan for their employees from the first day of employment regardless of the type or length of their work permit.

These provisions also apply to self-employed people, those in a partnership and those on permanent residency without the right to work. This requirement of employers extends to any un-employed dependent spouse and child(ren) living in the Islands. Legally, an employer only has to pay half of the single premium, based upon the lowest-costing plan made available to the staff, and the employee pays the other 50%.

Cayman Islands is home to a broad range of medical services, including hospitals, clinics, specialist doctors and general practitioners. The standard of healthcare on the islands is excellent. Most of the facilities are located on Grand Cayman, however there are health centres on all three islands. The hospitals have received recognition for their technologically advanced excellence in a number of specialties.

## **Part 2 – Cayman Islands Import Customs Regulations**

**To the best of our knowledge, the following is required to import household and personal effects into the Cayman Islands.**

### **General Information**

Personal and household effects, which must have been owned and used for more than 6 months, can be imported duty free provided you are entering Cayman for work or residency for a period in excess of 12 months. The effects must arrive within six months of your arrival and the six months starts the moment you arrive.

### **Documents Required**

- Passport
- Detailed Inventory prepared by us
- Completed Customs Forms which we will supply

### **Motor Vehicles**

Vehicles being imported into Cayman Islands are subject to duty, based on the cost of the Vehicle, insurance and freight costs (known as CIF value). The duties are currently about 27.5%.

### **Additional Document Required**

The vehicle registration document.

### **Alcohol**

All alcohol is subject to taxes and duties.

### **Restricted Items**

Firearms, ammunition, bullet proof vest and gun powder (an import permit and license is required).

**Please note** we cannot ship these items with your household effects.

### **Prohibited Items**

- Controlled or illegal drugs or paraphernalia
- Obscene publication and articles
- Items depicting any reference to marijuana
- Counterfeit coins and notes
- Items for gambling
- Turtles and products related thereof
- Spear guns and Hawaiian slings and parts

### **Pets (dogs, cats, etc.)**

We work with a number of Pet Relocation Companies who can help you import your pet to the Cayman Islands.

Please contact us if you wish to be put in contact with our partners.

Please also see further information on the importing of pets to the Cayman Islands

<http://www.customs.gov.ky/portal/page/portal/cushome/restrictions/requirements/dogscats>

### **Endangered Species**

A CITES certificate is normally required. There is a worldwide ban on the movement of Ivory without a CITES Certificate. **Please note old pianos usually have ivory keys and a CITES certification will be required.**

For information on obtaining a CITES certificate please visit:-

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/endangered-species-application-for-import-and-export-permit>

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*