

Jamaica Relocation Guide



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

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THE ART OF MOVING

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| TELEPHONE: | Country Code (001) + Area Code. |
| | GMT - 5. |
| WEIGHTS & MEASURES: | Officially Metric, Imperial sometimes used. |
| ELECTRICITY: | 110-120v. |
| INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS: | It is advisable to have Hepatitis B and Typhoid inoculations. Yellow fever vaccination if needed if you have been to or transited a Country with risk of Yellow fever. |
| PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: | New Years Day 1st January, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday, Labour Day 23rd May, Emancipation Day 1st August, Independence Day 6th August, National Heroes Day – third Monday in October, Christmas Day 25th December, Boxing Day 26th December. |
| OFFICE HOURS: | The normal working week is 40 hours and office hours are fairly flexi. |
| BANK HOURS: | Normal bank hours are 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM Monday to Friday. Banks in Jamaica are not normally open on Saturday. |
| EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS: | 119 Police 110 Fire and Ambulance. |
| BRITISH EMBASSY: | P.O. Box 575 28 Trafalgar Road Kingston 10 Tel: 001 976 936 0700 |
| HIGH COMMISSION OF JAMAICA LONDON: | 1 – 2 Prince Consort Road Kensington, London SW7 2BZ Tel: 020 7823 9911 |



Part 1 – Background Information on Jamaica

Background

The island – discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1494 – was settled by the Spanish early in the 16th century. The native Taino, who had inhabited Jamaica for centuries, were gradually exterminated and replaced by African slaves. England seized the island in 1655 and established a plantation economy based on sugar, cocoa, and coffee. The abolition of slavery in 1834 freed a quarter million slaves, many of whom became small farmers. Jamaica gradually increased its independence from Britain. In 1958 it joined other British Caribbean colonies in forming the Federation of the West Indies. Jamaica gained full independence when it withdrew from the Federation in 1962. Deteriorating economic conditions during the 1970s led to recurrent violence as rival gangs affiliated with the major political parties evolved into powerful organized crime networks involved in international drug smuggling and money laundering. Violent crime, drug trafficking, and poverty pose significant challenges to the government today. Nonetheless, many rural and resort areas remain relatively safe and contribute substantially to the economy.

Geography

Jamaica is a Caribbean Island in the Caribbean Sea, south of Cuba, and is the third largest Island in the Caribbean after Cuba and Hispaniola, its strategic location is between Cayman Trench and Jamaica Channel, the main sea lanes for the Panama Canal. The Island is most mountainous, with a narrow discontinuous coastal plain. The highest point being Blue Mountain Peak 2,256 metres. The Island is subject to hurricanes especially during the months July to November.

Climate

Tropical; hot, humid; temperate interior.

Environmental Issues

Heavy rates of deforestation; coastal waters polluted by industrial waste, sewage, and oil spills; damage to coral reefs; air pollution in Kingston from vehicle emissions.

Economy

The Jamaican economy is heavily dependent on services, which accounts for more than 70% of GDP. The country continues to derive most of its foreign exchange from tourism, remittances, and bauxite/alumina. Earnings from remittances and tourism each account for about 15% of GDP, while bauxite/alumina exports have declined to less than 5% of GDP.

Jamaica's economy has grown on average less than 1% a year for the last three decades and many impediments remain to growth: a bloated public sector which crowds out spending on important projects; high crime and corruption; red-tape; and a high debt-to-GDP ratio. Jamaica, however, has made steady progress in reducing its debt-to-GDP ratio from a high of almost 150% in 2012 to about 115% in 2017, in close collaboration with the International Monetary

Fund. The existing Stand By Agreement requires Jamaica to produce an annual primary surplus of 7%, in an attempt to reduce its debt burden below 60% by 2025.

Economic growth reached 1.6% in 2016. The Holness administration faces the difficult prospect of maintaining fiscal discipline to make debt payments while simultaneously attacking a serious crime problem. High unemployment exacerbates the crime problem, including gang violence fueled by the drug trade.

Population

In 2017 the population in Jamaica was recorded as 2.89 million.



Currency

The Jamaican currency is the Dollar and Cents.

Bank Notes: \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1000 and \$5000.

Coins: 1c, 10c, 25c and \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20.

Education

Education in Jamaica is free and compulsory between the age of 6 and 12.

Children between the ages of 6 and 12 attend primary school. Once in grade 6, they must pass an exam to be admitted into High School.

Religion

The religions in Jamaica, are many and varied, although the majority of are aligned to Christianity. This includes approximately two-fifths who are Protestants, mainly Pentecostal, Seventh Day Adventist and Baptist and one-tenth Roman Catholic.

Health

Jamaica's healthcare system depending on your location in Jamaica, the healthcare facilities might be restricted, every parish has at least one small hospital, comprehensive emergency care is only available in the cities of Kingston and Montego Bay. Outside of the larger cities or in remote parts of the country, emergency services are limited.

There are between 30 and 40 hospitals and clinics in Jamaica, many of which are public institutions, meaning their services are offered free of charge to all citizens and residents. However, they are often unreliable, and their quality varies widely.

Most expats opt for private healthcare which offers a higher standard of medical care in a better environment.

Part 2 – Jamaica Import Customs Regulations

To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household and personal effects into Jamaica.

First Report at Customs

You must have arrived in Jamaica before the arrival of your household and personal effects.

All importers must complete the C-27 form upon arrival at the airport in Jamaica. The form is valid for three months only, otherwise it has to be renewed. Extracts need to be obtained if more than one shipment is expected. For returning residents the required form is C-5.

Documents required for all imports

Duty free entry on items older than 6 months. Other items will attract duty, which will be determined after examination of the items by customs.

- Two copies of passport data page, which must show the landing stamp.
- Letter authorising our agent to clear your shipment on your behalf (notarised by a JP).
- Work permit and letter of employment.
- Tax Registration Number (TRN).
- Detailed Inventory (which we will supply) If owner packed effects you must provide us with a detailed inventory of what is in each owner packed box.



Returning Resident – all as above plus

- Tax returns – including W-2/1099, P-60, T4.
- Letter of separation from employer.
- Pension advice/Social Security Letter where applicable.
- Documentation proving you have lived outside of Jamaica for more than 3 years.
- Documentation showing your intention to re-establish permanent resident in Jamaica.
- Unconditional stamp if you are Jamaican and you are arriving on a foreign passport.

Diplomatic Removal

- Consular letter asking for free entry.
- Detailed Inventory.

Motor Vehicles and spare parts

- All Imported vehicles are subject to Duty, which is assessed by customs on arrival.

Documents required

- All as per household and personal effects plus.
- Driving Licence.
- Insurance Certificate.
- Registration Document.
- Purchase Invoice.
- Tax Compliance Certificate.

Wedding Trousseaux

- As per normal household effects.

Inheritance – all as per normal household and personal effects plus

- Copy of Death Certificate.
- Affidavit or Probate from Lawyers.

Electrical Appliances

- Returning residents may import duty free one new appliance or piece of electronic equipment.

Works of Art/Antiques

- Duty free if part of household and personal effects shipment.

Precious metal objects

- Duty free if part of household and personal effects shipment, and the number of items to be compatible to size of shipment.

All Food and Drink (including alcohol)

- Please do not include with your household and personal effects.



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Arms ammunition dangerous objects

- Prohibited.

Plants

- Please do not include plants with your household and personal effects.

Pets

Please see further information for relocating your pets to Jamaica.

<http://www.jhcuk.org/visitors/pets>

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.