

Moving to Mauritius: Your Relocation Guide



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

ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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Memb No: A001



FS 23942



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| TELEPHONE: | Country code (230) |
| STANDARD TIME: | GMT +4 |
| WEIGHTS & MEASURES: | Metric |
| ELECTRICITY: | 230v 50Hz Most common electric plug is the UK 3 pin |
| INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS: | Typhoid, Polio, Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Malaria, Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Rabies |
| PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: | Jan 1, 2, 27, Feb 1, 10, Mar 10, 12, Apr 11, May 1, Aug 9, Sep 10, Nov 1, 2, Dec 25. |
| OFFICE HOURS: | 08.30-16.00 Monday – Friday 09.15-11.15 Saturday |
| BANK HOURS: | 9.15-15.15 Monday – Thursday 9.15-17.15 Friday |
| EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS: | 999 |
| UK EMBASSY IN MAURITIUS: | 7th Floor Les Cascades Building Edith Cavell Street Port Louis Tel: (230) 202 9400 Fax: (230) 211 1369 Web: http://ukinmauritius.fco.gov.uk/en/ |
| TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION: | Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority 11th floor, Air Mauritius Centre 5 President John Kennedy Street Port Louis Tel: (+230) 210 1545 Fax: (+230) 212 5142 |
| MAURITIUS HIGH COMMISSION: | 32/33 Elvaston Place London, SW7 5NW Tel: (020) 7581 0294-8 Fax: (020) 7823 8437 Web: http://mauritius.embassyhomepage.com/ |

Customs

To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household goods and personal effects into Mauritius. However, it is advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Shipper must be imperatively present in Mauritius at the time of customs clearance
- Original passport imperative for customs clearance
- Passport memo to be obtained by the shipper at the Passport and Immigration Office of Port Louis before arrival of the shipment (returning citizen and expatriate)
- If goods belonging to the family of shipper (wife, husband, children) are loaded to a shipment: original passports, residential permits, wedding and birth certificates are imperative for customs clearance
- Do not load on shipment: alcohol and pharmacy products

Mauritian Returning Citizen

Documents Required:

- Passport copy
- Packing list (dated and signed by the client)
- Valued inventory list
- Customs declaration form, Exemption form and alcohol declaration form duly signed by the client
- Certificate of non-cession
- Approval of Washington International Convention
- Client information Request Sheet

Household Goods

All shipments consisting of Household effects entering Mauritius have to be examined by a customs inspector prior to delivery.

Condition of exemption and concession of duty as per revised customs.

Any passenger who on their arrival satisfies the comptroller that they are taking up Permanent residence in Mauritius or is a permanent resident of Mauritius and is returning to Mauritius after residing abroad shall be entitled to exemption on household and personal effects (such as furniture, picture, bedding, linen, cutlery, crockery, silver and plated ware, sewing machine, radio set, television set, musical instrument, refrigerator, cooking stove, heater, perambulator, and similar articles for domestic use.)

Provided that those articles have been in the possession and abroad of that person for not less than one year and not intended for sale or transfer.

That the articles are actually owned by that person and accompany them or are where these articles do not accompany that person, that person has on arrival declared

to the controller their intended giving full particulars of the articles to be imported.

Documents required:

- Passport copy
- Packing list (dated and signed by the client)
- Valued inventory list
- Residence or occupation permit
- Customs declaration form, Exemption form and alcohol declaration form duly signed by the client
- Certificate of non-cession
- Approval of Washington International Convention
- Client information Request Sheet

Diplomatic Removal

Documents required:

- Passport copy
- Packing list (dated and signed by the client)
- Valued inventory list
- 2 sets of exemption letter from Ministry of Foreign Affairs must be obtained by a local embassy
- Certificate of non-cession
- Approval of Washington International Convention
- Client information Request sheet

Used Car / Motorcycles:

Documents required for approval of import permit

- Letter addressed to ministry of trade and shipping explaining that you returned for good in Mauritius and that the vehicle has been in your possession for your personal use
- Copy of identity card (Mauritian)
- Copy of passport memo
- Copy of bill of lading
- Three-application forms

Car must be less than 4 years old, or must ask permission with the Ministry of Land and Transport.

For Motor cycles an import permit will be required for used vehicles. Approval of the import permit may take one week or more.

Importing Automobiles for Returning Residents

Automobiles proved to the satisfaction of the Comptroller to have been imported by a returning resident, provided that the conditions specified below are satisfied:

The conditions shall be:

- The returning resident is a permanent resident of Mauritius and has not renounced their citizenship of Mauritius.

- They are returning to Mauritius for good after residence abroad for an aggregate period of 10 years out of 12 years (immediately preceding the date of his return to Mauritius)
- The automobile has been in their actual ownership and registered as such in the country of their residence for a period of at least 6 months preceding the date of their return to Mauritius
- The automobile is imported within 180 days of the date of their return to Mauritius. Unless it has accompanied the returning resident on their return
- If it has not accompanied the returning resident, is imported with the prior approval of the Comptroller, provided an application is made to them within one month of the return resident and full details of the automobile are given

Where the automobile is registered in the name of the spouse who is not a permanent resident of Mauritius, the concession shall be granted provided the conditions above are satisfied.

Any returning resident who has been granted a concession shall, during the first 4 years after obtaining the concession, inform the Comptroller beforehand in writing of any intended absence from Mauritius for more than six months. Where a returning resident:

- (i) absent himself from Mauritius for more than six months or
- (ii) sells, pledges or otherwise disposes of the automobiles within four years of the date of its importation:

They shall pay such proportionate duty and value added tax on the automobile as the comptroller may determine in accordance with the Act.

Where a returning resident dies within 4 years of the date of the importation of the automobile, no duty and added value tax shall be payable on the automobile.

Where a returning resident has been granted duty concession on an automobile, no other duty concession under this item or excise duty concession under the Excise Act item 3 part 1A of the first schedule shall be allowed to them, the spouse or of their dependant children of less than 18 years of age.

Prohibited Goods

Alcohol is not prohibited however all alcohol is subject to tax and duties that are applicable at customs upon arrival to Mauritius.

The following items are prohibited in Mauritius:

- Underwater fishing guns
- Water scooters
- Drugs
- Toy guns with projectiles
- Laser penlights
- Seditious and pornographic films, magazines, photos etc
- Firearms and weapons without the necessary authorisation
- Ammunitions and explosives

Note: If the client has medicine that has been prescribed by a medical practitioner, please advise your destination agent.

Live Animals

Document Required:

- Health certificate
- Import authorisation from Chief Veterinary officer, ministry of health at Reduit which is required in advance. Animals are kept at quarantine at consignees expense

Plants and Plants Material

Phytosanitary Certificate, import authorisation from department of Agriculture required in advance.

General Information on The Republic of Mauritius

Background

Although known to Arab and Malay sailors as early as the 10th century, Mauritius was first explored by the Portuguese in the 16th century and subsequently settled by the Dutch – who named it in honor of Prince Maurits van NASSAU – in the 17th century. The French assumed control in 1715, developing the island into an important naval base overseeing Indian Ocean trade, and establishing a plantation economy of sugar cane. The British captured the island in 1810, during the Napoleonic Wars. Mauritius remained a strategically important British naval base, and later an air station, playing an important role during World War II for anti-submarine and convoy operations, as well as the collection of signal intelligence. Independence from the UK was attained in 1968. A stable democracy with regular free elections and a positive human rights record, the country has attracted considerable foreign investment and has earned one of Africa's highest per capita incomes.

Geography

The state comprises of Mauritius, Rodrigues and some twenty small islands in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar. The main island of Mauritius is volcanic in origin and has a coral coast rising to a central plateau. Most people live in the north and west side of the island.

Mauritius claims the Chagos Archipelago (UK-administered British Indian Ocean Territory), and its former inhabitants, who reside chiefly in Mauritius, but were granted UK citizenship and the right to repatriation in 2001, claims French-administered Tromelin Island.

The economy is based on sugar production, light manufacturing, chiefly clothing and tourism.

Climate

Tropical climate modified by southeast winds. From November to May the climate is hot and wet a humid Summer, in May to November its warm a dry winter.

Population

Its estimated at 1,240,000.

Environmental Issues

There is water pollution and degradation of coral reefs.

Currency

Mauritian rupee. (MUR).

The rupee is made up of 100 cents.

Economy

Since independence in 1968, Mauritius has developed from a low-income, agriculturally based economy to a middleincome diversified economy with growing industrial, financial, and tourist sectors. For most of the period, annual growth has been in the order of 5% to 6%. This remarkable achievement has been reflected in more equitable income distribution, increased life expectancy, lowered infant mortality, and a much-improved infrastructure. The economy rests on sugar, tourism, textiles and apparel, and financial services, and is expanding into fish processing, information and communications technology, and hospitality and property development. Sugarcane is grown on about 90% of the cultivated land area and accounts for 15% of export earnings. The government's development strategy centers on creating vertical and horizontal clusters of development in these sectors. Mauritius has attracted more than 32,000 offshore entities, many aimed at commerce in India, South Africa, and China. Investment in the banking sector alone has reached over \$1 billion. Mauritius, with its strong textile sector, has been well poised to take advantage of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Mauritius' sound economic policies and prudent banking practices helped to mitigate negative effects from the global financial crisis in 2008-09. GDP grew more than 4% per year in 2010-11, and the country continues to expand its trade and investment outreach around the globe.

Religion

Hindu 52%, Christian 28.3%, (Roman Catholic 26%, Protestant 2.3%), Muslim 16.6%, other 3.1%.

Language

The official language is English – but the most widely spread is French and the local dialect, Creole. Teaching is in English but written and spoken press predominantly in French.

Most Mauritians also speak their native language such as Hindi, Chinese, Urdu etc.

Health

The medical standard on Mauritius is advanced and the hospitals are free of charge. This applies to visitors as well. There are now additionally many private clinics in the island and they offer a more attractive environment plus frequently some of the latest medical equipment available. They are however not free and you would be well advised to check that your health insurance is valid for Mauritius before you travel.

The local water is relatively clean and the Mauritians drink it. You need therefore have no fear if you use it for cleaning your teeth etc. However, it is better you boil the water before drinking it or buy bottled water which is freely available in the local shops.

Mosquitoes: As in all tropical countries (even Europe in the summer) mosquitoes do exist. We recommend using a mosquito repellent cream to keep them away.

Some holiday houses are equipped with electrical mosquito repellents (vapes) which you can use at night. Small impregnated tablets are inserted into the apparatus which is then plugged into the electricity. The effect will last for about 8 hours. You may leave 1 window open in the bedroom provided there is not a strong wind as this blows the vapor away. If you run out of tablets they can be purchased locally for about 45 rupees.

Post and Telecommunication

Post offices are present in all villages and an airmail would take less than a week to reach destination in Europe, or less than 10 days to the American continent.

The telephone network of Mauritius is well developed and reliable; phone booths can be found almost everywhere. Same for the cellular phones where two companies have erected reliable networks.

Telephones can be rented on arrival and roaming agreements exist. International access is automatic.

The internet is quite widely used by hotels and individuals, however, there are hardly any internet cafes around. Most hotels offer business centers or at least email services.

Food and Cuisine

To the image of the pluri-cultural or rather pluri-ethnic richness of Mauritius, the Mauritian food and cuisine reveals its cultural influences and the shy beginning of interbreeding, to the point that one same dish can be classified as Creole, Mauritian or Indian. The traditional base of Mauritian cuisine is definitely the curries and "rougailles" but instead of cooking and serving it the Indian way, they are simplified and commonly served with white rice and other beans. Mauritians of all origins have definitely adopted this combination in their everyday food and for many Mauritians of European origin it is the traditional Sunday treat that is looked forward to.



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Mobile Phone Tips

To ensure you can still make and receive calls and messages abroad on your UK mobile, you need to change the network service to International roaming before you travel. Contact your UK mobile network provider to ensure your mobile phone is enabled for International Roaming. Do this well in advance as it can take up to 14 days and you can't do it from overseas. Check your existing handset will also work in the countries you are travelling to as this may not be the case particularly outside Europe. Check with your network provider for the current charges as they can be a lot higher.

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.