

Moving to Pakistan: Your Relocation Guide



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

ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

Freephone: 0800 626769 E-Mail: export@abels.co.uk

www.abels.co.uk



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TELEPHONE:	Country code (92) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT +5 hours
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220v AC 50Hz, Round 2 or 3 pin plugs
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	Inoculation against Typhoid, malaria, hepatitis and polio recommended.
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, 28, 29, Feb 5, Mar 23, 31, May 1, June (Islamic New Year), June (Ashoura), Aug 14, Aug (Prophet's Birthday), Sept 6, Sept 11, Oct 13-15, Nov 9, Dec 25. Dates vary with the Islamic calendar
OFFICE HOURS:	09.00-16.00 Saturday - Thursday. Closed Friday
BANK HOURS:	09.30-13.00 15.00-20.00 Saturday-Thursday
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	22 22 22 – Police (in Karachi)
UK EMBASSY:	British High Commission Diplomatic Enclave, Ramna 5, Islamabad Tel: (51) 201 2000 Fax: (51) 201 2031 British Deputy High Commission Ahahrah-e-Iran, Clifton, Karachi Tel: (21) 5872432 Fax: (21) 5874014
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Pakistan Tourism Development Corp House No 2, Street 61, F7/4, Islamabad Tel: (51) 811 001
PAKISTAN HIGH COMMISSION IN	34-36 Lowndes Square LONDON: London SW1 X 9JN Tel: 02076 649 200 Fax: 02076 649 204



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Moving to Pakistan from the UK – Information and Advice: Abels Relocation Guide

Customs

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

Household Goods

Residents Availing Transfer of Residence

Documents Required

- Original passport
- Original Bill of Lading
- Packing list
- TR certificate
- Valid Visa for two years or more
- Employment certificate (for foreign nationals availing the TR facility)
- Signatures on customs and Shipping line / air line Authority Letters

Each person is allowed duty free allowance for the following items:

- Personal wearing apparel and clothing accessories
- Personal adornments
- Toilet requisites and electric shaver
- Medals, trophies & prizes
- One electric iron
- One hair dryer
- One hair dresser
- Two hundred cigarettes or fifty cigars, or half a kg of manufactured tobacco
- Pushcart, toys & goods of personal use of the accompanying child
- One mobile phone
- One wrist watch
- One radio or one ordinary tape recorder
- One VCP or VCR or VCD or DVD player
- One still and one video camera
- One laptop or desktop PC
- One wheel chair for personal use
- Personal jewellery not exceeding \$1500 for ladies
- Professional tools & equipments of the value not exceeding \$5,000
- Old and used furniture, fixtures, crockery, cutlery, kitchen utensils, rugs, carpets, Household linen & bedding
- Second hand or used medical equipment only for registered medical practitioners recognized by Pakistan Medical and Dental council

To avail this facility the resident must have been living abroad for two years or more, and short visits and stays in Pakistan in these two years should not exceed a maximum of 120 days in short breaks.

The TR gives an automatic Duty free allowance of \$2500 assessed on your goods.

The transfer of residence also includes foreign nationals coming to Pakistan for a period of two years or more.

Following items are allowed on the payment of 25% to 50% duties/taxes as notified from time to time by the federal government. This list is further discounted under the Transfer of residence facility:

- Television / LCD / LED
- Deep freezer
- Refrigerator
- Microwave oven
- Cooking range
- Washing machine
- Air conditioner

Clearance 4-5 days.

Customs duties payable in any currency acceptable in Pakistani Banks or in Pak Rupees.

Residents not availing the Transfer of Residence

Documents Required:

- Original Passport
- Original Bill of Lading
- Packing List
- National Identity Card Copy (for locals only)
- Signatures on Customs and shipping line / air line authority letters

Each person is allowed duty free allowance for the following items:

- Personal wearing apparel and clothing accessories
- Personal adornments
- Toilet requisites and electric shaver
- Medals, trophies & prizes
- One electric iron
- One hair dryer
- One hair dresser
- Two hundred cigarettes or fifty cigars, or half a kg of manufactured tobacco
- Pushcart, toys & goods of personal use of the accompanying child
- One mobile phone
- One wrist watch

- One radio or one ordinary tape recorder
- One VCP or VCR or VCD or DVD player
- One still and one video camera
- One laptop or desktop PC
- One wheel chair for personal use
- Personal jewellery not exceeding \$1000 only for lady passengers
- Professional tools not exceeding a value of \$2,000

Following items are allowed on the payment as notified from time to time by the federal government:

- Television
- Deep freezer
- Refrigerator
- Microwave oven
- Cooking range
- Washing machine
- Air conditioner

Clearance 4-5 days.

Customs duties payable in any currency acceptable in Pakistani Banks or in Pak Rupees.

Diplomat Removals

Documents Required:

- Exemption certificate issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad
- Original Bill of Lading / Airway bill
- Inventory/Packing list
- Authority letter from Mission for customs and shipping line / air line

All household goods and personal effects are duty/tax free.

Port storage is free for five days while demurrage for containerised shipments will be charged normally after Seven days from vessel arrival.

Import of alcohol is allowed for only diplomats and limited to the permissible quota between MOFA / Embassy / High Commission / Respective Missions. The status and level of the diplomat has different Quota as prescribed by MOFA. The Quota is divided over 4 quarters in a year. This is as per the Agreement between (MOFA) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the respective embassies, missions in the country.

The shipment is exempt from any physical checks and does not open at the Port/Airport. The MOFA exemptions usually take between two to four weeks to be given and hence almost all if not all diplomatic shipments incur Port /Airport Storage Demurrage and container detention costs. Ask your local agent to best suggest ways to minimize these amounts.

Clearance 2-4 working days.

Customs duties payable in any currency acceptable in Pakistani Banks or in Pak Rupees if the exemption certificate is not available.

Temporary Visitors/Tourists

Documents Required:

- Original passport
- Original Bill of Lading
- Packing list
- Signatures on Customs and shipping line / airline authority letters

The tourist is allowed duty free allowance for a period of 30 days or less:

Personal wearing apparel and clothing accessories, personal adornments, toilet requisites and electric shaver, medals, trophies and prizes, one electric iron, one hair dryer, one hair dresser, 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars, or half a kg of manufactured tobacco, pushcart toys and goods of personal use of the accompanying child, one mobile phone, one wrist watch, one still and one video camera, professional tools of the value not exceeding \$500, additional duty free allowance of the value not exceeding \$100, pushcart, toys and goods of personal use of the accompanying child.

An officer of customs not below the rank of Superintendent may allow temporary release of any personal and professional tools, equipments, computers, cameras, video camera, DVD, VCD without payment of customs duties by making an endorsement to that effect of the serial number, or the identifications on the passport of foreigners or against a bank guarantee for export within 30 days or return of the tourist whichever is earlier.

Clearance 4-5 days.

Customs duties payable in any currency acceptable in Pakistani banks or Pak Rupees.

Vehicles

Documents required:

- Original Bill of Lading
- Goods Declaration Form
- Original Technical Passport or Certificate of Title
- Invoice of purchase showing the engine number, model and horsepower
- Valid Driving License (in case of TR)
- De-registration Certificate (in case of used car import)
- National Identity Card copy (in case of Locals)
- Signatures on customs and shipping line / airline authority letters

Duty as per specifications:

Up to 800 cc

- 50% Custom Duty on the assessed value



- 17% Sales Tax
- 9% Income Tax

801 to 1000 cc

- 55% customs duty
- All other duties remain the same

1001 to 1500 cc

- 60% Custom duty
- All other duties remain the same

1501 to 1800 cc

- 75% Custom duty on the assessed value
- All other duties remain the same

1800 cc and above

150% Custom duty on the assessed value, 10% Federal Excise Duty, 17% Sales Tax and 9% Income Tax

Motor Bike:

65% Customs Duty, 17% Sales Tax and 9% Income Tax.

Sales tax is charged at the assessed value plus the custom duty.

Income tax is charged at the assessed value plus the custom duty plus the sales tax value. Federal Exercise duty is charged at the assessed value plus the customs duty.

Duty free entry for diplomats and privileged persons.

Cars older than three years cannot be imported into Pakistan.

A depreciation of 2% /month is calculated from the date of manufacture of the vehicle and is restricted to a maximum of 50%.

Cars/passenger vehicles can be imported under three schemes:

- Transfer of residence
- Gift Scheme
- Personal baggage scheme

A diplomat is exempt from all these formalities.

Pets

Documents required:

- Health and vaccination certificates issued by concerned authority at original country
- Passport of importer
- Quarantine Health certificate issued by Government of Pakistan
- Pet Passport
- Airway bill

Allowed accompanied or as unaccompanied baggage.

Immediate clearance on arrival on presentation of Airway Bill, Health certificate and quarantine certificate (required at least 48 hours prior to flight arrival).

Prohibited items

- Arms and ammunition
- Obscene and subversive literature
- Items of intellectual property right infringement
- Alcoholic beverages
- All goods of Israeli origin
- Erotic / Naked Artwork
- Narcotics
- Ivory
- Pornography or related magazines / DVDs
- Toxic and radioactive materials

NON-Admissibility of Allowances

Allowances under these rules shall not be admissible in case:

- Goods are in commercial quantity
- Goods are not shipped from the country where the passenger has resided prior to arriving in Pakistan
- Goods do not reach Pakistan within 60 days of the passenger's arrival
- Baggage of the crew of the conveyances excluding the articles in their personal use
- Baggage of the passengers returning to Pakistan after stay abroad of less than seven days excluding the articles of their personal use

For further info visit: www.fbr.gov.pk

Food

We strongly recommend that shippers be advised not to ship any commercially prepared and purchased food product with your unaccompanied personal goods.

This includes: wines, spirits, beer, cider, spices, herbs, canned packed or wrapped foods, pet food, pastas, rice, food supplements, vitamins, fruit juices, carbonated / non carbonated drinks, milk, perishable foods, dry foods and any other item intended for human or animal consumption.

If the shipper insists on shipping food items, the specified information below must be gathered and provided for each food item imported. If the information is not provided, the food items may face refusal of entry, requiring segregation / manipulation of the shipment under customs supervision at a bonded facility, at substantial additional cost. Costs could be in the thousands of dollars and can not be anticipated. These costs will be the responsibility of the client.

- Product brand name
- Product classification

- Country of production
- Country of packaging
- Type of product (canned, bottled, packaged)
- Quantity

Ask for **Abels form QF565** for completing.

General Information on the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Background

The Indus Valley civilization, one of the oldest in the world and dating back at least 5,000 years, spread over much of what is presently Pakistan. During the second millennium B.C., remnants of this culture fused with the migrating Indo-Aryan peoples. The area underwent successive invasions in subsequent centuries from the Persians, Greeks, Scythians, Arabs (who brought Islam), Afghans, and Turks. The Mughal Empire flourished in the 16th and 17th centuries; the British came to dominate the region in the 18th century. The separation in 1947 of British India into the Muslim state of Pakistan (with West and East sections) and largely Hindu India was never satisfactorily resolved, and India and Pakistan fought two wars - in 1947-48 and 1965 - over the disputed Kashmir territory. A third war between these countries in 1971 - in which India capitalised on Islamabad's marginalisation of Bengalis in Pakistani politics - resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh. In response to Indian nuclear weapons testing, Pakistan conducted its own tests in 1998. India-Pakistan relations have been rocky since the November 2008 Mumbai attacks, but both countries are taking small steps to put relations back on track.

In February 2008, Pakistan held parliamentary elections and in September 2008, after the resignation of former President MUSHARRAF, elected Asif Ali ZARDARI to the presidency. Pakistani government and military leaders are struggling to control domestic insurgents, many of whom are located in the tribal areas adjacent to the border with Afghanistan. In January 2012, Pakistan assumed a nonpermanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2012-13 term.

Geography

Pakistan is situated in the north-west of the Indian subcontinent, and covers an area of about 800,000 square kilometers. The country is bounded to the west by Iran and to the south west by Afghanistan and there is a short frontier with China in the north east and a longer border with India to the east. To the south is the Arabian Sea.

Economy

Decades of internal political disputes and low levels of foreign investment have led to slow growth and underdevelopment in Pakistan. Agriculture accounts for more than one-fifth of output and two-fifths of employment. Textiles account for most of Pakistan's export earnings, and

Pakistan's failure to expand a viable export base for other manufacturers has left the country vulnerable to shifts in world demand. Official unemployment is 6%, but this fails to capture the true picture, because much of the economy is informal and underemployment remains high. Over the past few years, low growth and high inflation, led by a spurt in food prices, have increased the amount of poverty - the UN Human Development Report estimated poverty in 2011 at almost 50% of the population. Inflation has worsened the situation, climbing from 7.7% in 2007 to more than 13% for 2011, before declining to 9.3% at year-end. As a result of political and economic instability, the Pakistani rupee has depreciated more than 40% since 2007. The government agreed to an International Monetary Fund Standby Arrangement in November 2008 in response to a balance of payments crisis. Although the economy has stabilized since the crisis, it has failed to recover. Foreign investment has not returned, due to investor concerns related to governance, energy, security, and a slow-down in the global economy.

Remittances from overseas workers, averaging about \$1 billion a month since March 2011, remain a bright spot for Pakistan. However, after a small current account surplus in fiscal year 2011 (July 2010/June 2011), Pakistan's current account turned to deficit in the second half of 2011, spurred by higher prices for imported oil and lower prices for exported cotton. Pakistan remains stuck in a low-income, low-growth trap, with growth averaging 2.9% per year from 2008 to 2011.

Pakistan must address long standing issues related to government revenues and energy production in order to spur the amount of economic growth that will be necessary to employ its growing population. Other long term challenges include expanding investment in education and healthcare, and reducing dependence on foreign donors.

Population

The population of Pakistan is 165 million with a growth rate of 2.09% and average life expectancy of 62 years.

Climate

The climate ranges between dry desert and tundra arctic conditions on the mountain tops however generally warm and rainfall is monsoonal.

Education

Most expatriates send their children to boarding schools in the home country once they have reached the age of 11-13. Kindergartens are run in Karachi and other main centres by British, Dutch, American and German communities. Many educated Pakistanis speak fluent English and send their children to fee-paying English medium schools and to universities abroad.

Housing

Generally, the standard of housing is good although the finish in bathrooms and kitchens and the standard of plumbing



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and wiring is not up to that in the west. Most houses and apartments are large, having three, but more usually four or five bedrooms, each with a shower or bathroom adjoining. Domestic staff quarters have separate access, although these are usually part of the house. Houses are usually let unfurnished and the majority have, a garage. Most leases are for one or two years and rent for the entire period may be payable in advance. Most families are extended and several generations live under the same roof. The exceptions are modern urban families who have their own house or flat.

Language

The national language is Urdu although it is spoken by only half the population. Linguist differences are found in the various parts of the country. Considerable numbers speak Punjabi, Sindhi, Pushty and Baluchi.

Medical Facilities

All medical treatment, hospitalisation, drugs etc. have to be paid for and it is essential to take out comprehensive medical insurance before departure. All major centres have a number of good Pakistani, American and European trained doctors and dentists available who are well qualified and have modern equipment.

Comprehensive medical insurance is available from:

- BUPA, 'Life Scheme' Tel: 01273 323 563

Currency

Pakistan has a decimal currency based on the Rupee (PKR) which is divided into one hundred paisa/Denominations in circulation are:

Notes: 1,2,5,10,100,500 and 1,000 rupees

Coins: 5,10,25 and 50 paisa

American Express is the most widely accepted card, MasterCard, visa and Diners Club card have more limited use.

Religion

Islam is the state religion and an estimated 97% of the population are Muslim. A minority, (about 20%) belong to the Shia sect but most are Sunni, with the mass of the rural population adhering to the mystical Barelvi branch of the Sunni sect. Religion plays a very important part in the lives of the people. Most women appear either dressed in the black, all-enveloping burquah or wearing the typically Pakistani dupatta or fine, long scarf in public. There are small Hindu (1.6%) and Christian (1.3%) communities.

Practicing Muslims observe the fast of Ramadan which ends with the two day feast of Eld-ul-Fitr. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims are not allowed to drink, eat or smoke between sunrise and sunset. Expatriates should take care not to give offence to those who are observing the fast for example by offering a visitor a cup of tea by drinking or smoking in his presence.

Social Customs

The five major ethnic groups are the Punjabis, the Balychis, the Pathans, the Sindhus and the Mohajirs. Broadly speaking, Pakistanis can be divided into 'Urdu-Wallahs' i.e. those who speak their local language, wear local costume and are practicing Muslim, and 'English-Wallahs' i.e. those who speak English, wear western dress and are secular in outlook and go overseas to university.

Society is male-dominated, and only in the cities are women educated and part of the salaried work force. Muslims do not eat pork in any form and are prohibited from consuming alcohol.

Traditionally, everything including food and drink, should always be offered and accepted with the right hand only. Visitors should always sit with their feet firmly on the floor since it is considered impolite to show the soles of their feet. Pakistanis whom expatriates meet socially will generally have experience of Western ways; nevertheless, you should take care not to praise your host's possessions since a very strict Muslim may feel obliged to present them as a gift.

Many Muslim women are in purdah, particularly in the country districts, and wear a heavy veil in public. You are advised not to take photographs of Muslim women. At present the country is ruled by the Sharia, the law of the Koran. Penalties are strict and foreign nationals should take care not to offend against local customs.

Telephone

The domestic system is mediocre. The majority of business have, established their own private system since 1988. Services are still not readily available in rural areas, despite major improvements in trunk and urban systems.

Utilities

The electricity supply is generally 220v 50 cycles. However, voltage may fluctuate between 160 and 250 volts. Power cuts are frequent and prolonged in some areas. Plug fittings are 5 and 15 amp, 2 and 3 pin (round) and lamp fittings are normally the bayonet type. It is reported that European plugs generally do not fit, but supplies are available locally.

Bottled gas is often used in cooking. A piped supply is available in Islamabad and Karachi.

Water

Water pollution from raw sewage, industrial wastes, agricultural runoff and limited fresh natural resources mean a majority of the population does not have access to good clean water.

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.