

Moving to Serbia: 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



Memb No: A001



FS 23942



198656



TELEPHONE:	Country Code (381) + Area Code
STANDARD TIME:	+ 2 hours GMT
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	230 V AC, 50 Hz
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	Hepatitis A & B, Typhoid
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, 2, 7, 14, 27, Feb 15, 16, Apr 14, 15, 16, 17, May 1, 2, 9, Jun 28 Oct 21, Nov 11
OFFICE HOURS:	Monday-Friday 0700/0800 – 1500/1600
BANK HOURS:	Monday-Friday 0800-1900, Saturday 0800-1500 Some are open on Sunday.
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	112
SERBIAN EMBASSY IN UK:	28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QB, Tel: (020) 7235 9049 Web: www.serbianembassy.org.uk
BRITISH EMBASSY IN SERBIA:	Resavska 46 11000 Belgrade Tel: (381) (11) 2645 055 Fax: (381) (11) 2659 651 Web: www.ukins Serbia.fco.gov.uk/en
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Decanska 8A/V, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia Tel: (11) 334 2521 or 323 2586 Web: www.Serbia-tourism.org

Customs

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

Household Goods

Diplomatic Removals

For clients employed in embassy or other diplomatic organisations (such as UN, US Aid projects OSCE.)

Documents required:

- Copy of passport (page with photo and personal data)
- Packing list (in English or Serbian)
- List of books (title and author's name) in word or excel
- List of paintings (title, author's name and technique used) in word or excel
- Diplomatic protocol from the embassy/organisation (number of items and gross weight must be same as on travel documents)
- LNPDV certificate from the embassy / organisation
- Power of attorney for import customs clearance on name of our custom agent from the embassy / organisation on letter headed paper (stamped and signed)

Import is duty / tax free.

Food and alcohol is duty / tax free.

If a vehicle is with the shipment and arrives at custom point till 11am on a working day, Import procedure takes from one to eight hours.

Temporary Import for Foreign Citizens with a temporary working contract in Serbia

Documents required:

- Copy of passport
- Packing list (in English or Serbian)
- Detailed list of goods with quantity of each type of items
- List of books (name and author, typed in word or excel)
- List of paintings (name, author and technique used, typed in word or excel)
- List of electrical items (with brand, model and serial number, typed in word or excel)
- Certificate from police station that client is allowed to import household goods which will be obtained on base of business visa / temporary residence (to obtain the certificate, the temporary resident VISA must be valid for more than three months)
- Power of attorney for import customs clearance with name of customs agent from clients company on company letter head, signed and stamped

- Total cost of transport (from origin to destination in Serbia)

Import is tax free.

Food and alcohol and all consumables are not allowed to be imported on a temporary basis.

Import procedure may take from four hours to seven days (in case of custom inspection) but in most of the cases shipments are cleared during the same day.

All shipments imported on a temporary basis must be extended at the time of client VISA extension. This used to be every year.

The client is obliged to close the temporary import by exporting the same goods they imported when they leave the country.

Returning Serbian Citizens

Documents required:

- Copy of passport
- Copy of personal ID card (with the address in the city where delivery should be)
- Packing list (in English or Serbian)
- Detailed list of goods with quantity of each type of items
- Total number of books in the shipments
- List of paintings (title, author's name and technique used) in word or excel
- Photos of each painting (sent to Destination Agent by post)
- Paintings value expertise (if applicable)
- List of electrical items (type, brand, model and serial number) in word or excel
- Power of attorney for import customs clearance with name of destination agent (client needs to sign this document)
- Total cost of transport (from origin to destination in Serbia)
- Certificate from Serbian embassy (at country of origin) proving that you have worked abroad for more than two years (if applicable)

If you have worked abroad for more than two years (and if you can prove it with certificate from Serbian embassy) import is tax free for up to 5000 Euros of the value of the goods (Original passport on day of import, you must show last stamp of entrance into Serbia (not older than one year).

If you didn't work abroad for more than two years (or you can not prove it with certificate from Serbian Embassy) import will be taxable. Taxes and duties are calculated on value of the shipment and cost of transport. Please don't declare any value of the goods or cost of transport on travel documents before Destination Agents approval.

Food products alcohol and consumables are not allowed.

Shipment will be unloaded in custom warehouse for import customs clearance (except if client worked for Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs abroad). Import procedure can take from three working days to several weeks.

Firearms

Document Required:

- Permits for import is necessary (one from ministry of internal affairs and one from police). For temporary import you must be in the country for more than one year before you can ask for import documents

Very difficult import procedure. Import licenses are valid for very short time.

Plants

Document required:

- Two Phytosanitary exams is necessary (one at Serbian border and one at destination city of residence)

Subject to examination. May cause delay in import procedure. Very few house plants are usually not a problem.

Not all custom offices have the phytosanitary equipment. This may cause delay in transport and delivery.

Motor Vehicles for Diplomats

Documents required:

- Copy of passport (page with photo and personal data)
- Diplomatic protocol from the embassy / organisation (all data of vehicle must be same as on travel documents)
- LNPDV certificate from the embassy / organisation
- Power of attorney for import customs clearance with name of the custom agent from the embassy / organisation on letter headed paper (stamped and signed)
- Registration card

Import is tax free.

Note that next data will be needed: type, model, chassis serial number, engine serial number, number of doors and seats, colour, weight, engine volume (ccm), power of engine (kw).

If truck with vehicle arrives at customs point at 11am on a working day import procedure takes from one to eight hours.

Motor Vehicles Temporary Import

For foreign citizens temporarily working in Serbia

Documents required:

- Copy of passport
- Certificate from police station that client is allowed for import of vehicle which will be obtained on basis of business visa / temporary residence (to obtain the certificate the temporary resident VISA must be valid for more than three months)
- Power of attorney for import customs clearance on name of customs agent from clients company (on company letter head signed and stamped)
- Total cost of transport (from origin to destination in Serbia)
- Registration card

- Certificate that car engine is at least EUR III standard (delivered by Serbian standardisation institute) this is necessary to register the car after import is finished

- Certificate (COC Certificate) issued by manufacturer or car dealer confirming that the car engine is a minimum EUR3 standard

- Import Certificate issued by Serbian Traffic Safety Agency
- Import is tax free but on a temporary basis. Your destination agent would need to extend this temporary import at least once per year (each time client extends their working visa in Serbia).

Please note that we need next data for car: type, model, chassis serial number, engine serial number, number of doors and seats, colour, weight, engine volume (ccm), power of engine (kw).

Car will be unloaded in customs warehouse. Import procedure takes approx. five working days.

Temporary import must be closed (when client finally leaves Serbia), car must be exported from Serbia or client must pay taxes and duties in Serbia.

Motor Vehicles for Returning Serbian Citizens

Documents required:

- Copy of passport
- Copy of personal ID card (with the address where delivery should be)
- Registration card
- Invoice of the car
- Certificate that car engine is at least EUR III standard (delivered by Serbian standardisation institute) this is necessary in order to register the car after the import is finished
- Total cost of transport (from origin to destination in Serbia)
- Power of attorney for import customs clearance with name of customs agent (client to sign the documents)
- Certificate (COC Certificate) issued by manufacturer or car dealer confirming that the car engine is a minimum EUR 3 standard

- Import Certificate issued by Serbian Traffic Safety Agency
- Taxable import. Client will have to pay taxes and duties on value of the car and cost of transport.

Please note that the information required i.e. type, model, chassis, serial number, engine serial number, number of doors and seats, colour, weight, engine volume (ccm), power of engine (kw).

Import customs clearance usually takes five working days.

Please note that customs have their own book price of all car models in the world. The value from this book will be applied in case the invoice shows a lower price.



General Information on Republic of Serbia

Background

The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes was formed in 1918; its name was changed to Yugoslavia in 1929. Communist Partisans resisted the Axis occupation and division of Yugoslavia from 1941 to 1945 and fought nationalist opponents and collaborators as well. The military and political movement headed by Josip Broz “TITO” (Partisans) took full control of Yugoslavia when their domestic rivals and the occupiers were defeated in 1945. Although communists, TITO and his successors (Tito died in 1980) managed to steer their own path between the Warsaw Pact nations and the West for the next four and a half decades. In 1989, Slobodan MILOSEVIC became president of the Republic of Serbia and his ultranationalist calls for Serbian domination led to the violent breakup of Yugoslavia along ethnic lines. In 1991, Croatia, Slovenia, and Macedonia declared independence, followed by Bosnia in 1992. The remaining republics of Serbia and Montenegro declared a new Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) in April 1992 and under MILOSEVIC’s leadership, Serbia led various military campaigns to unite ethnic Serbs in neighboring republics into a “Greater Serbia.” These actions ultimately failed and, after international intervention, led to the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords in 1995.

MILOSEVIC retained control over Serbia and eventually became president of the FRY in 1997. In 1998, an ethnic Albanian insurgency in the formerly autonomous Serbian province of Kosovo provoked a Serbian counterinsurgency campaign that resulted in massacres and massive expulsions of ethnic Albanians living in Kosovo. The MILOSEVIC government’s rejection of a proposed international settlement led to NATO’s bombing of Serbia in the spring of 1999. Serbian military and police forces withdrew from Kosovo in June 1999, and the UN Security Council authorized an interim UN administration and a NATO-led security force in Kosovo. FRY elections in late 2000 led to the ouster of MILOSEVIC and the installation of democratic government. In 2003, the FRY became the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, a loose federation of the two republics. Widespread violence predominantly targeting ethnic Serbs in Kosovo in March 2004 led to more intense calls to address Kosovo’s status, and the UN began facilitating status talks in 2006. In June 2006, Montenegro seceded from the federation and declared itself an independent nation. Serbia subsequently gave notice that it was the successor state to the union of Serbia and Montenegro.

In February 2008, after nearly two years of inconclusive negotiations, Kosovo declared itself independent of Serbia – an action Serbia refuses to recognize. At Serbia’s request, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in October 2008 sought an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on whether Kosovo’s unilateral declaration of independence was in accordance with international law. In a ruling considered unfavorable to Serbia, the ICJ issued

an advisory opinion in July 2010 stating that international law did not prohibit declarations of independence. In late 2010, Serbia agreed to an EU-drafted UNGA Resolution acknowledging the ICJ’s decision and calling for a new round of talks between Serbia and Kosovo, this time on practical issues rather than Kosovo’s status. Serbia and Kosovo signed the first agreement of principles governing the normalisation of relations between the two countries in April 2013 and are in the process of implementing its provisions. Prime Minister Aleksandar VUCIC, has promoted an ambitious goal of Serbia joining the EU by 2020. Under his leadership, in January 2014 Serbia opened formal negotiations for accession.

Geography

Serbia is slightly smaller than Maine. Cities: Capital-- Belgrade. Other cities--Pancevo, Novi Pazar, Uzice, Novi Sad, Subotica, Bor, Nis. Terrain: Varied; in the north, rich fertile plains; in the east, limestone ranges and basins; in the southeast, mountains and hills.

Climate

Climate: In the north, continental climate (cold winter and hot, humid summers with well-distributed rainfall); central portion, continental and Mediterranean climate; to the south, hot, dry summers and autumns and relatively cold winters with heavy snowfall inland.

Population

It is estimated at 7,379,000 not including Kosovo’s population.

Environmental Issues

Air pollution around Belgrade and other industrial cities; water pollution from industrial wastes dumped into the Sava which flows into the Danube.

Currency

The official currency in Serbia is the Serbian Dinar. Serbian Dinar (RSD; symbol Дин.) = 100 paras.

Notes are in denominations of Дин.5,000, 1,000, 500, 200, 100, 50, 20 and 10.

Coins are in denominations of Дин.20, 10, 5, 2 and 1.

Economy

Serbia has a transitional economy largely dominated by market forces, but the state sector remains significant in certain areas and many institutional reforms are needed. The economy relies on manufacturing and exports, driven largely by foreign investment. MILOSEVIC-era mismanagement of the economy, an extended period of international economic sanctions, civil war, and the damage to Yugoslavia’s infrastructure and industry during the NATO airstrikes in 1999 left the economy only half the size it was in 1990.

After former Federal Yugoslav President MILOSEVIC was ousted in September 2000, the Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS) coalition government implemented stabilization measures and embarked on a market reform program. Serbia renewed its membership in the IMF in December 2000 and rejoined the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Serbia has made progress in trade liberalization and enterprise restructuring and privatisation, but many large enterprises - including the power utilities, telecommunications company, natural gas company, and others - remain state-owned. Serbia has made some progress towards EU membership, signing a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Brussels in May 2008, and with full implementation of the Interim Trade Agreement with the EU in February 2010, gained candidate status in March 2012. In January 2014, Serbia's EU accession talks officially opened. Serbia's negotiations with the WTO are advanced, with the country's complete ban on the trade and cultivation of agricultural biotechnology products representing the primary remaining obstacle to accession. Serbia's program with the IMF was frozen in early 2012 because the 2012 budget approved by parliament deviated from the program parameters; the arrangement is now void. In late 2014, Serbia and the IMF announced a tentative plan for a precautionary loan worth approximately \$1 billion, but the government will be challenged to implement IMF-mandated reforms that will target social spending and the large public sector.

High unemployment and stagnant household incomes are ongoing political and economic problems. Structural economic reforms needed to ensure the country's long-term prosperity have largely stalled since the onset of the global financial crisis. Growing budget deficits constrain the use of stimulus efforts to revive the economy and contribute to growing concern of a public debt crisis, given that Serbia's total public debt as a share of GDP more than doubled between 2008 and 2014. Serbia's concerns about inflation and exchange-rate stability preclude the use of expansionary monetary policy. During 2014 the SNS party addressed issues with the fiscal deficit, state-owned enterprises, the labour market, construction permits, bankruptcy and privatisation, and other areas.

Major challenges ahead include: high unemployment rates and the need for job creation; high government expenditures for salaries, pensions, healthcare, and unemployment benefits; a growing need for new government borrowing; rising public and private foreign debt; attracting new foreign direct investment; and getting the IMF program back on track. Other serious longer-term challenges include an inefficient judicial system, high levels of corruption, and an aging population. Factors favourable to Serbia's economic growth include its strategic location, a relatively inexpensive and skilled labour force, and free trade agreements with the EU, Russia, Turkey, and countries that are members of the Central European Free Trade Agreement.

Education

Pre Primary education is from the age of three.

Primary education is divided into two stages, firstly from the age of six – ten and then from 11 – 14.

At the end of the eighth grade, students take an examination and get placed in different secondary schools depending on the result.

Until they are 18 years old they will study at one of the following types of school:

Comprehensive School (Gimnazija)

An academic school where pupils take a cross section of subjects, from science to humanities. On completion of the course, they take the Matura Examination which leads to the secondary school leaving certificate.

Technical and Vocational Schools

These schools offer two, three or four year courses with a certificate awarded at each of these levels. Subjects embrace general educational subjects as well as specific vocational training.

Higher education is offered at universities, colleges and specialist institutes.

Religion

Serbian Orthodox 85%, Catholic 5.5%, Protestant 1.1%, Muslim 3.2%, unspecified 2.6%, other, unknown, or atheist 2.6%.

Health

Tap water and unbottled beverages should not be consumed, and food should be well prepared and well cooked. In the countryside precautions should be taken against tick infestation.

Recommended vaccinations for visitors to Serbia are Hepatitis A and typhoid.

Doctors are well trained but medical facilities are limited. Some medicines may not be as freely available as in UK. Medical treatment is free to UK residents but prescribed medicines must be paid for. Health insurance with emergency repatriation is recommended. Pharmacies are open Mon-Fri 0800-2000 and Sat 0800-1500.

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.