

Moving to Trinidad & Tobago: 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 1868 no area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT -4 (Atlantic Time)
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	115v or 230v 60Hz
INOCULATIONS / VACCINATIONS:	Polio, Typhoid, Hepatitis A
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, Mar 30, Apr 9, 12, May 30, Jun 19, Aug 1, 31, Sept 24, Nov 11, 14, Dec 25, 26
OFFICE HOURS:	0730-1200, 1300-1600 Mon–Thurs 0730-1230 Fri
BANK HOURS:	0800-1400 Mon–Thurs 0900-1200 and 1500-1700 Fri
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	Police 999 Ambulance & Fire 990
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO HIGH COMMISSIONS IN LONDON:	42 Belgrave Square London SW1X 8NT Tel: 0207 245 9351 Fax: 0207 823 1065 Email: tthc@btconnect.com Web: www.tthighcommission.co.uk/
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN IN TRINIDAD:	19 St Clair Avenue St Clair Port of Spain Trinidad Tel: 868 622 2748 Fax: 868 622 4555 Web: http://ukintt.fco.gov.uk/en
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	PO Box 222 Maritime Centre 29 Tenth Avenue Barataria Trinidad West Indies Tel: 868 675 7034 Fax 868 638 7962 Email: info@tdc.co.tt Web: www.tdc.co.tt

Customs

To the best of our knowledge, the following applies for the importation of household and personal effects into Trinidad & Tobago. However, since regulations are subject to change without notice, it is always advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.

Documents required:

- Valid passport
- Work permit (non resident)
- Inventory (Abels undertake)
- Original Bill of Lading or express release (Abels undertake)
- Import License for refrigerator, freezer, air condition unit and motor vehicle to importation (to be obtained from Ministry of Trade & Industry)

A customer interview is required, followed by customs examination at the container examination station situated at the ports. Your presence is needed at the customs interview and examination.

Used household goods and personal effects can be imported duty free, provided the items are used and in your possession for at least one year.

Shipper needs to be present for Customs interview and examination.

For shipments to Tobago it is recommended that port of Spain should be the port of entry. The bill of lading must include final destination Tobago.

Diplomats Removals

Documents required:

- Bill of Lading (Abels undertake)
- Inventory (Abels undertake)

Documents are required prior to arrival of the shipment so diplomatic agencies can apply for the exemption certificate required for customs clearance.

Used Motor vehicles and motorcycles

In order to benefit from the tax concessions, the returning national must provide:

- Proof of residence abroad, e.g. passport, employment records
- Proof of ownership of vehicle, e.g. registration certificate, insurance certification of vehicle in country abroad, purchase bill of sale and/or official certificate of title
- Affidavit sworn before a local Commissioner
- Two (2) passport size photos

Returning nationals importing left hand drive vehicles should reside abroad for a period of five years or more and must own the vehicle for at least six (6) months prior to shipping.

Vehicles are allowed entry by qualified returning national and diplomats only.

Right hand drive, returning nationals importing vehicles should reside abroad for a period of one year or more and must own the vehicle for at least three (3) months prior to shipping. The vehicle should not be more than five years old.

As a returning national who resided abroad for a continuous period of at least five years immediately prior to your return, and intend to reside in Trinidad & Tobago permanently, would qualify for a relief from Customs Duty as follows:

- Where you are the registered owner of the vehicle for more than six months but not more than one year, 25% of the duty payable. In other words, you pay 75% of the duty payable
- Where you are the registered owner of the vehicle for more than one year but not more than two years, 50% relief of the duty payable
- Where you are the registered owner of the vehicle for more than two years, 90% relief of the duty payable

In other words, you pay 10% of the duty payable.

- With regards to household effects a relief of 10% on new items

Person importing vehicles should reside abroad for a period of five years or more and must own the vehicle for the last six months prior to shipping.

In case of right hand drive vehicles, returning nationals importing vehicles should reside abroad for a period of three months prior to shipping.

The vehicle should not be more than five years old Left hand drive vehicles are allowed entry by qualified returning nationals and diplomats only.

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.

New Furniture and Household Goods

Documents required:

- Original signed commercial invoices

Subject to payment of duties.

Cats, Dogs and Other Animals

Must be quarantined in UK for six months prior to importation.

Fire Arms and Ammunition

Police and Government permit is required before importation and must be strictly adhered to.

Narcotics

Are strictly prohibited.

Fumigation of Imported and Exported Wooden Crates

The Government has established the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures – NIMF Number 15, with the purpose of almost eliminating in its totality the risk of entrance of most of pests that are in quarantine and considerably reducing the risk of other pests.

The phytosanitary measure approved for the treatment of wood packaging should be treated as follows:

- Heat Treatment (HT) at a minimum wood core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes, or
- Fumigation with Methyl Bromide (MT). The minimum temperature should not be less than 10°C and the minimum exposure time should be 16 hours.

The wood packaging material must be marked in a visible location on each article, on at least two opposite sides of the article, with a legible and permanent mark. The mark can be printed with permanent black painting. The colours red and orange, are not to be used as colour of the mark.

The treatments established in the present regulation have the intention to reduce the introduction and/or dissemination of quarantine plagues associated with wood packing.

General Information on Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

Background

First colonized by the Spanish, the islands came under British control in the early 19th century. The islands' sugar industry was hurt by the emancipation of the slaves in 1834. Manpower was replaced with the importation of contract laborers from India between 1845 and 1917, which boosted sugar production as well as the cocoa industry. The discovery

of oil on Trinidad in 1910 added another important export. Independence was attained in 1962. The country is one of the most prosperous in the Caribbean thanks largely to petroleum and natural gas production and processing. Tourism, mostly in Tobago, is targeted for expansion and is growing. The government is coping with a rise in violent crime.

Geography

Trinidad the most southerly Caribbean island lies off the Venezuelan coast. It is hilly in the north, with a central plain. Tobago, to the north east is smaller more mountainous and less developed. Oil and petrochemical industries dominate the economy. The main crops are cocoa, sugar cane, coffee, fruit and vegetables. Tourism is also important. USA is the main trading partner. Pitch lake on Trinidad's southwestern coast, is the world's largest natural reservoir of asphalt.

Off Trinidad & Tobago, the confluence of the cool North Atlantic currents, the warmer Caribbean waters and the rich effluent of the Orinoco River creates coastal waters of unusual richness, teeming with many types of marine life. Trinidad and Tobago, originally part of the South American continent, has retained many of the plants and animals of South America, leaving the islands with a diversity of flora and fauna quite disproportionate to their size. In addition to possessing the flora and fauna of South America, these islands are also influenced by their geographic location, being a perfect stopping point for Northern or Southern migratory birds, butterflies or anything drifting in the ocean or wind currents. Habitats include tropical rain forest, Savannah, semi-deciduous forest, mangrove swamp and marsh lands.

International Disputes

Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago abide by the April 2006 Permanent Court of Arbitration decision delimiting a maritime boundary and limiting catches of flying fish in Trinidad and Tobago's exclusive economic zone; in 2005, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago agreed to compulsory international arbitration under UNCLOS challenging whether the northern limit of Trinidad and Tobago's and Venezuela's maritime boundary extends into Barbadian waters; Guyana has also expressed its intention to include itself in the arbitration as the Trinidad and Tobago-Venezuela maritime boundary may extend into its waters as well.

Climate

The tropical temperatures range from moderate to hot and they only vary slightly throughout the year. There are tradewind breezes which are slightly more on Tobago. There are two seasons the rainy season is June to December and the drier season, summer is January to May. It is outside the usual path of hurricanes and other tropical storms.

Population

Estimated at around 10 million.

Environmental Issues

Pollution from agricultural chemicals, industrial wastes, and raw sewage are issues. Oil pollution on beaches, deforestation and also soil erosion are environmental problems.

Currency

Trinidad & Tobago dollar (TTD)

- Coins, Cents: 1, 5, 10, 25, 50
- Dollars: 5, 0
- Notes dollars: 1, 5, 10, 20, 100

Economy

Trinidad and Tobago has earned a reputation as an excellent investment site for international businesses and has one of the highest growth rates and per capita incomes in Latin America. Economic growth for the past seven years has averaged slightly over 8%, significantly above the regional average of about 3.7% for that same period; however, it has slowed down this year to about 5% and is expected to slow further with the global downturn. Growth has been fueled by investments in liquefied natural gas (LNG), petrochemicals, and steel. Additional petrochemical, aluminum, and plastics projects are in various stages of planning. Trinidad and Tobago is the leading Caribbean producer of oil and gas, and its economy is heavily dependent upon these resources but it also supplies manufactured goods, notably food and beverages, as well as cement to the Caribbean region. Oil and gas account for about 40% of GDP and 80% of exports, but only 5% of employment. The country is also a regional financial center, and tourism is a growing sector, although it is not proportionately as important as in many other Caribbean islands. The economy benefits from a growing trade surplus. The MANNING administration has benefited from fiscal surpluses fueled by the dynamic export sector; however, declines in oil and gas prices have reduced government revenues which will challenge his government's commitment to maintaining high levels of public investment.

Education

The International school provides fee paying education for children in grades pre-kindergarten through grade 12 of high school. They focus on programmes of study and requirements of University in North America and abroad and caters for International families and long term residents of Trinidad and Tobago.

International School of Port of Spain | International Drive
Westmoorings
Trinidad & Tobago
Tel: 633 4777
Fax: 632 4595

Religion

The population's religious backgrounds are also varied. Around 32 per cent are Roman Catholic, 24 per cent are Hindu, 15 per cent are Anglican, 14 per cent are of other Protestant beliefs, 6 per cent are Muslim and 9 per cent believe in other religions.

Health

Although there is no reciprocal health agreement with the UK, public sector health care is free. However, health insurance is recommended as Tobago's health care provision is basic, with limited supplies and medication.

Food and Drink

Mains water in Tobago is safe to drink, though bottled water is available in supermarkets. Drinking water outside main cities and towns may be contaminated and sterilization is advisable. Milk is pasteurised and dairy products are safe for consumption. Local meat, poultry, seafood, fruit and vegetables throughout both islands are generally safe to eat. The authorities advise caution, however, during carnival time when buying food from the 'hawker' stalls in Port of Spain.

Mosquitoes can be inconvenient anywhere just before and after dusk. Visitors are advised to carry insect repellent and bite cream. Rabies is present. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered. If you are bitten, seek medical advice without delay. Bats are a problem as far as the transmission of rabies is concerned.

Cuisine

Trinidad cuisine is as diverse as the different ethnic groups that make up the people. Trinidad's multicultural society gives you the enjoyment of Indian, Creole, Chinese, Syrian-Lebanese and Italian foods. With such a range of choices and flavours, your taste buds are sure to be delighted.

Taxis

Taxis and maxi taxis (colour coded mini-buses) run on fixed routes and generally operate from designated stands. Off route transfers usually cost more.

Driving

Visitors in possession of valid licenses issued in U.S Canada, UK, Germany and the Bahamas may drive for up to three months. International licenses are also accepted. Driving is on the left side of the road.

Things you need to know about driving

Drive on the left – Thanks to the British heritage, they are supposed to drive on the left. Mostly this rule is observed, but there are a few local drivers who prefer the middle of the road approach, even on blind corners. Approach corners warily, and when in doubt, sound your horn.



Watch out for animals – In rural areas, you may run into (literally) sheep or cows in the middle of the road. Chickens are everywhere, and rural areas are closer to the city than you may believe.

What to do in case of an accident – Remain calm. Photograph the scene if possible. Otherwise, mark the position of the tires on the ground (scrape with a stone or chalk). Make sure that the other driver has done the same. Then you can move your vehicle to the side of the road. Call your rental agency, and report the accident to the nearest police station, even if the onlookers assure you that this is not necessary. Be sure to get the other drivers licence plate number, and his insurance information.

Watch out for pedestrians – In many areas there are no sidewalks. Keep an eye out for pedestrians walking in the road, as well as for children playing – they may dart out suddenly.

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.