

Barbados Relocation Guide



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

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TELEPHONE:	Country Code (001) + Area Code.
STANDARD TIME:	GMT – 5 hours.
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric.
ELECTRICITY:	110 Volts/50 Cycles.
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	For long says Tetanus, Typhoid and Hepatitis A.
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	1st January – New Year’s Day, 21st January – Errol Barrow Day – Birthday of former Prime Minister, Good Friday – Friday before Easter, Easter Monday, 28th April – National Heroes Day, 1st May – May Day, Whit Monday/Pentecost Monday, 1st August – Emancipation Day – Slavery ended, 1st Monday in August – Kadooment Day/Crop over, 30th November – Independence Day, 25th December – Christmas Day, 26th December – Boxing Day.
OFFICE HOURS:	Mainly 08.00 hours. to 16.30 hours.
BANK HOURS:	Varies according to Bank.
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	Police 211. Fire 311. Ambulance 511.
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION:	Lower Collymore Rock Road Bridgetown Tel: 001 246 430 7800
BARBADOS HIGH COMMISSION:	1 Great Russell Street London WC1B 3ND Tel: 0207 299 7150

Part 1 – Background Information on Barbados

Background

The first indigenous people were Amerindians who arrived here from Venezuela. Paddling long dugout canoes they crossed oceans and currents that challenge modern sailing vessels.

The Arawaks were short, olive-skinned people who bound their foreheads during infancy to slope it into a point. They considered this along with black and white body painting to be attractive. The Caïques (chiefs) and influential members of the tribe wore nose plugs and/or rings made of copper and gold alloys. They were an agricultural people and grew cotton, cassava, corn, peanuts, guavas, and papaws (papaya). In 1200, the Arawaks were conquered by the Caribs. The Caribs were a taller and stronger Amerindian tribe than the Arawaks.

The Portugese came to Barbados en route to Brazil. It was at this time that the island was named Los Barbados (bearded-ones) by the Portugese explorer Pedro a Campos. It was so named, presumably, after the island's fig trees, which have a beard-like appearance.

The first English ship touched the island on May 14th 1625 under the command of Captain John Powell. The island was therefore claimed on behalf of King James I. On February 17th 1627, Captain Henry Powell landed with a party of 80 settlers and 10 slaves to occupy and settle the island. This expedition landed in Holetown formerly known as Jamestown. The colonists established a House of Assembly in 1639. It was the 3rd ever Parliamentary Democracy in the world. People with good financial backgrounds and social connections with England were allocated land. Within a few years much of the land had been deforested to make way for tobacco and cotton plantations.

The Barbadians dominated the Caribbean Sugar Industry in these early years. However by 1720 Barbadians were no longer a dominant force within the sugar industry. They had been surpassed by the Leeward Islands and Jamaica.

Slavery, abolished in 1834, was followed by a 4-year apprenticeship period during which free men continued to work a 45-hour week without pay in exchange for living in the tiny huts provided by the plantation owners. Freedom from slavery was celebrated in 1838 at the end of the apprenticeship period with over 70,000 Barbadians of African descent taking to the streets with the Barbados folk song.

Barbados remained a British colony until internal autonomy was granted in 1961. The Island gained full independence in 1966, and maintains ties to the Britain monarch represented in Barbados by the Governor General. It is a member of the Commonwealth.

Geography and Climate

Barbados is the most easterly of the Caribbean chain. Barbados lies well to the east of the West Indies. A lively surf scene enjoys pounding waves along the rugged east coast where a rocky shoreline kicks up plenty of spray. To the west, fine white sand beaches and natural coral reefs predominate. A handful of gently rolling hills form a ripple to the north whilst the rest of the island is predominantly flat. Coral filters ensure surrounding waters are among the purest on the planet.

Constant sea breezes cool Barbados's balmy, tropical climate but the island is still sunnier and drier than the other islands. During the so-called wet season (July to November), some brief rain showers are likely. Average sunshine hours per day are eight to ten from November to March and eight to nine from April to October. Tropical storms and hurricanes may occur between June and November.

Language

While English holds the official language status, it is not as widely spoken among the islanders as the Bajan dialect.

Bajan is an English-based creole language and is recognized among the islanders as a native language of their own and is an integral part of their culture. The language emerged as a secretive mode of communication amongst African slaves who did not want their masters understanding them. Bajan is mainly an informal spoken language with no standard alphabet or dialect.

Population

As at April 2018 the population was 286,235.

Currency

The Barbadian Dollar.

Coins: 1, 5, 10, 25 Cents and 1 Dollar.

Bank Notes: 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 Dollars.

Economy

Barbados is the wealthiest and one of the most developed countries in the Eastern Caribbean and enjoys one of the highest per capita incomes in the region. Historically, the Barbadian economy was dependent on sugarcane cultivation and related activities. However, in recent years the economy has diversified into light industry and tourism. Offshore finance and information services are important foreign exchange earners, boosted by being in the same time zone as eastern US financial centers and by a relatively highly educated workforce. Following the 2008-09 recession, external vulnerabilities such as fluctuations in international oil prices have hurt economic growth, raised Barbados' already high public debt to GDP ratio – which stood at 105% of GDP in 2016 – and cut into its international reserves.

Education

Education in the country is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of five to 16. The education system is made up of three levels: the primary stage (ages 3 to 11), the secondary stage (ages 11 to 16) and the tertiary stage (post-secondary education). The strong education system in the country has resulted in a high literacy level of about 98 percent.

While public schools are the main sector of the education system, there are also private schools and a schools that primarily cater to children from the expatriate community.

Religion

The Constitution provides for freedom of religion, and the Government generally respects this right in practice.

Anglican is officially the national religion of Barbados, however there are various denominations of Christianity and non-Christian religions practiced throughout the island. It stems from the first permanent English settlers, who arrived on the island in 1627 and were sternly Anglican and from the moment they landed started building a church in which to worship.

Healthcare

The Barbadian healthcare system operates, with Barbadian citizens being covered by a national healthcare service based on a fundamental right of all citizens having access to healthcare services free of cost at the point of delivery.

Medical costs are expensive for visitors and non Barbadian citizens. It is essential that foreign nationals have international medical insurance for Barbados, which gives full healthcare coverage.

Part 2 – Barbados Import Customs Regulations

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

General Information

- Household and personal effects can generally be imported duty free provided they have been owned and used for 12 months prior to shipping
- Consignee's presence is required for a customs interview followed by customs examination at residence
- A **Returning National** is one who is a Barbadian citizen by birth, registration, naturalisation or descent and has been living abroad for 10 years or over. A Barbadian by descent is required to show proof of having resided on the island for at least 183 days within a year at some time prior to emigration

- Proof that you have lived overseas for at least 10 years is required in the form of one of the following:
 - A signed job letter covering the last 10 years
 - A signed affidavit from a Justice of Peace/Attorney-at-Law
 - Successive income tax returns for the last 10 years
 - Please note Barbadian nationals deported for criminal activities do not qualify under the Returning Nationals Programme

Documents Required

- Valid Passport
- Proof of residence
- Detailed Inventory prepared by us
- Diplomats – Exemption Certificate from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Vehicles

- If importer is not a returning national of diplomat, vehicles must be under four years of age, with less than 50,000 kilometers on the clock. Vehicles will attract duties and taxes at various levels
- For Returning Nationals and Diplomats there are no restrictions on age or mileage provided importer meets all other requirements. Vehicles will be free of all normal applicable import duties and taxes
- Returning Nationals can import only one vehicle per household duty free
- An Import License must be obtained prior to shipping a car

Prohibited Items

- Firearms and ammunition
- Explosives
- Knives and deadly weapons
- Narcotics and any illegal drugs
- Plants and plant matter
- Foreign rum and matches
- Bags, clothing and other articles made from camouflage material
- Radioactive or other hazardous materials
- Counterfeit money and goods
- Pornographic material

Food and Alcohol

Please do not include in your consignment.

Pets (dogs, cats, etc.)

We work with a number of Pet Relocation Companies who can help you Import your pet to Barbados.

Please contact us if you wish to be put in contact with our partners.

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.

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