

Bermuda Relocation Guide



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

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

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Memb No: A001



FS 23942



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ISO 9001 - ISO 14001
OHSAS 18001

TELEPHONE:	Country Code (001) + Area code.
STANDARD TIME:	GMT – 4 hours. Bermuda does have daylight saving which normally starts a couple of weeks prior to the UK.
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	British Imperial standard weights and measures are still used in Bermuda and many Bermudians habitually use American terms of measurement – but the Bermuda Government did sometime ago adopt a policy of shifting to the metric system.
ELECTRICITY:	Bermuda as U.S. standard 110/60.
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	Recommended Hepatitis A and Typhoid.
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	New Year's Day 1st January, Good Friday – Easter (Gregorian Calendar), Bermuda Day – last Friday in May, National Heroes Day – 3rd Monday in June, Emancipation Day/Cup Match Day 1 (cricket) the Thursday before 1st Monday in August, Somers Day/Cup Match Day 2 – day after Emancipation Day, Labour Day – 1st Monday in September, Remembrance Day – 11th November, Christmas Day – 25th December, Boxing Day – 26th December.
OFFICE HOURS:	Usually 09.00 to 17.00 hrs.
BANK HOURS:	There are only four Banks in Bermuda and normally opening hours are 09.00 to 16.30 hours.
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	911 for Police, Fire and Ambulance.
BRITISH CONSULATE:	Bermuda is a British Overseas Territory and as such there is no British Embassy. The Consulate address is:- Government House 11 Langton Hill Pembroke, Hamilton Tel: (+001) 441 292 3600
GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA LONDON:	6B Arlington Street St James's London SW1A 1RE Tel: 0207 518 9900

Part 1 – Background Information on Bermuda

Background

Bermuda was first settled in 1609 by shipwrecked English colonists heading for Virginia. Self-governing since 1620, Bermuda is the oldest and most populous of the British overseas territories. Vacationing to the island to escape North American winters first developed in Victorian times. Tourism continues to be important to the island's economy, although international business has overtaken it in recent years. Bermuda has also developed into a highly successful offshore financial centre. A referendum on independence from the UK was soundly defeated in 1995.

Geography

North America, group of islands in the North Atlantic Ocean, east of South Carolina (US) with a sub-tropical climate, mild, humid with strong winds and gales common in winter. There are low hills separated by fertile depressions with the highest point being Town Hill 79 m. Arable Land about 15% and Forest about 20%, with relatively even population distribution throughout the Island. The Island consist of about 138 coral islands and islets, with ample rainfall, but no rivers or freshwater lakes.

Population

The population as at November 2017 is 61,220.

Currency

The Bermudian dollar is the official currency and is subdivided into 100 cents. The Bermudian dollar is not normally traded outside Bermuda, and is pegged to the United States dollar. Currently in circulation:-

Coins: 1, 5, 10, 25 and \$1.

Bank Notes: \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100.

Economy

Tourism accounts for about 5% of Bermuda's GDP, but a much larger share of employment. Over 80% of its visitors come from the US. The sector struggled in the wake of the global recession of 2008-09. International business, which consists primarily of reinsurance and other financial services, is the real bedrock of Bermuda's economy, consistently accounting for about 85% of the island's GDP. Even this sector, however, has lost roughly 5,000 high-paying expatriate jobs since 2008, weighing heavily on household consumption and retail sales. Bermuda must import almost everything. Agriculture and industry are limited due to the small size of the island.

An increase in spending by tourists has helped to boost the island's receipts from the export of goods and also services.

Education

Education in Bermuda is compulsory for all children from 5 to 16. It is free for parents of students at Government schools, namely primary schools, middle schools, senior schools and special schools - all day schools - comprising preschools, junior, special and secondary schools – administered by Bermuda's Ministry of Education. It is **NOT** free for parents of students at local private day schools.

Religion

The majority of the population practices Christianity.

Language

English is the official language, but some Portuguese is also spoken. Standard English is used in professional circles and in writing, while vernacular Bermudian English is spoken on more casual occasions.

Health

Even though Bermuda is a British Overseas Territory, there is no reciprocal healthcare arrangement. Bermuda does not have any government or private health service offering free healthcare, medical, hospital, surgical or medical prescription services in return for taxes paid. It is a legal requirement for employers based, or operating in, Bermuda to provide and pay for a health plan for all employees at all levels, whether local resident or expatriate, Bermudian or non-Bermudian. The employee does have to pay a share of the healthcare costs. Working newcomers to Bermuda are not given a choice to opt out of the Employers plan if they belong to any other healthcare plan. If an employee has an unemployed spouse, the employer must bear part of the cost of insuring the spouse, and any dependent children.

Part 2 – Bermuda Import Customs Regulations

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

General Information

All goods imported into Bermuda which are less than 6 months old are subject to import duties and taxes, and invoices/receipts will be required. Effects older than 6 months old are duty free provided they are imported within 90 days of your arrival in Bermuda.

For duty free entry of effects you will need a Transfer of Residence Allowance and to obtain this you must complete the Customs Form and valuation form, which we will send to you, and on completion this should be returned to us with a copy of your passport and your permanent work permit. Please note duty free entry of effects cannot be obtained with a temporary work permit. For effects over 6 months old the depreciated value is required and for effects not 6 months of age the purchase value is needed. The Transfer of Residence Allowance Certificate will be issued to you by Customs upon arrival at Bermuda Airport, and a copy of this will need to be sent to our partner company.

You will also need to obtain a Trader ID Number, which is obtained by completing the on-line application form on the Bermuda Customs website – details of which we can send to you.

Wharfage is charged on all effects (old and new) currently at 1.25% of either the depreciated value for old effects or purchase price for new effects.

Effects must arrive no more than 90 days after your self.

Documents required

- Inventory of Effects
- Copies of Passport
- Copies of Permanent Work Permit
- Transfer of Residence Certificate
- Customs Trader ID Number
- Returning Bermudians will also require proof they have lived overseas for at least one year

Prohibited and Restricted Goods

- Wedding trousseaux and Inheritances – subject to duty
- Alcohol and Tobacco – subject to duty and tax, please do not include
- Plants and Food – please do not include
- Drugs and Drug utensils – strictly prohibited

- Arms and ammunition – strictly prohibited
- Vehicles – subject to high duty and taxes

Pets (dogs, cats, etc.)

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

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

Please also see further information on importing of pets to Bermuda.

<https://www.gov.bm/importing-animals-bermuda>

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.