

# Kuwait Relocation Guide



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

# ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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INTERNATIONAL  
MOVER



Memb No: A001



FS 23942



198656



ISO 9001 - ISO 14001  
OHSAS 18001



<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	Country code (00965) + Area code.
<b>STANDARD TIME:</b>	GMT + 3 Hours.
<b>WEIGHTS &amp; MEASURES:</b>	Metric.
<b>ELECTRICITY:</b>	240V supply voltage and 50Hz.
<b>INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:</b>	Hepatitis A and Typhoid recommended.
<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:</b>	1st January New Year's Day, 25th February National Day, 26th February Liberation Day, Isra'a Wai Mira 27th day of Islamic month of Rajab, Eid Al Fitr (end of Ramadan) 9th month of Islamic Lunar calendar – 3 days holiday, 20th/21st August Arafat Day, Eid Al-Adha 10th day of Islamic month of Dhu al-Hijjah – 2 days holiday, Islamic New Year – Beginning of the month of Muharram, Birthday of Prophet Muhammad – month of Rabi.
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	The working week is Sunday to Thursday 08.30 to 18.00 hours.
<b>BANK HOURS:</b>	Normally Sunday to Thursday.
<b>EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:</b>	112 for Police, Ambulance and Fire.
<b>BRITISH EMBASSY IN KUWAIT:</b>	Arabian Gulf Street Dasman Kuwait City Tel: +965 2259 4320
<b>KUWAIT EMBASSY IN LONDON:</b>	Kuwait Embassy 2 Albert Gate, Knightsbridge London SW1X 7JU Tel: 0207 590 3400

## **Part 1 – Background Information on Kuwait**

### **Background**

Kuwait has been ruled by the Al-Sabah dynasty since the 18th century. The threat of Ottoman invasion in 1899 prompted Amir Mubarak Al-Sabah to seek protection from Britain, ceding foreign and defense responsibility to Britain until 1961, when the country attained its independence. Kuwait was attacked and overrun by Iraq on 2 August 1990. Following several weeks of aerial bombardment, a US-led UN coalition began a ground assault on 23 February 1991 that liberated Kuwait in four days. Kuwait spent more than \$5 billion to repair oil infrastructure damaged during 1990-91. The Al-Sabah family returned to power in 1991 and established one of the most independent legislatures in the Arab World. The country witnessed the historic election in 2009 of four women to its National Assembly. Amid the 2010-11 uprisings and protests across the Arab world, stateless Arabs, known as bidoon, staged small protests in early 2011 demanding citizenship, jobs, and other benefits available to Kuwaiti nationals.

### **Geography**

Kuwait borders the Persian Gulf with 195 kilometers of coast. Within its territory are nine islands, two of which, Bubiyan (the largest) and Warbah, are largely uninhabited but strategically important. Kuwait's most prominent geographic feature is Kuwait Bay (Jun al Kuwayt), which indents the shoreline for about forty kilometers, providing natural protection for the port of Kuwait, and accounts for nearly one half the country's shoreline.

Kuwait has an arid climate with huge temperature difference between winter and summer. Rainfall in the nation varies from 75 to 150 millimeters (2.95 to 5.91 in) a year. There is limited natural fresh water resources.

The summers are quite long, dust storms in March and April, with average daily high temperatures between 42 to 48 degrees. By the end of October all of the hot weather is over, and colder winter weather sets in, dropping temperatures to as low as -6 °C (21 °F) at night. On the other hand, daytime temperature is between 10–17 °C (50–63 °F). In this time, there are brief but strong thunderstorms. Frost occurs when the temperatures drop below 5 °C (41 °F). Kuwait's winter is colder than in other Persian Gulf countries, such as Bahrain, Qatar or United Arab Emirates.

### **Population**

The estimate population January 2018 is 4.20 million.

### **Currency**

The currency is the Dinar and files made up as follows:-

Coins:- 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 fils

Notes:- ¼, ½, 1, 5, 10 and 20 Dinars

### **Economy**

Kuwait is geographically small, but wealthy, has a relatively open economy with crude oil reserves of about 102 billion barrels – more than 6% of world reserves.

### **Religion**

The Kuwait constitution has declared Islam to be the religion of the state and freedom of belief "absolute." It declares the state will protect the freedom to practice one's religion, provided such practice does not conflict with established customs, public policy, or morals.

### **Language**

Arabic is official language with English widely spoken.

## Health

The Kuwaiti healthcare system adheres to high standards. All citizens are eligible for medical treatment at no cost at all, at government hospitals. Expats can gain access to public healthcare by paying a yearly fee. This does not include additional facilities such as X-rays or other tests, for which expats have to pay extra. Expats who wish to access public healthcare in Kuwait are required to have a medical card. They will receive this card once they present their Civil ID card at the time of registering at the nearest hospital or clinic.

Private facilities in Kuwait adhere to high standards although the costs tend to be higher than those in public hospitals. Some private clinics refuse to accept local health insurance, so expats should ensure that they have other options for coverage.

## Education

Education is free and mandatory for all Kuwaiti children aged 6-14, and the educational policy for the State of Kuwait aims to provide opportunities for all children. This includes children of all social classes and irrespective of any disability and special needs that they may have.

Public schools in Kuwait deliver the national curriculum. The international schools follow the curriculum specified in their prospectus.

All schools must include Arabic language lessons in their timetable, including International schools which may be delivering their curriculum in English or French.

Muslim children will receive compulsory lessons in Islamic Studies. No other religious studies will be offered in any school in Kuwait, as this is prohibited by law. Public schools, and many private schools, teach girls and boys separately.

Before starting school, parents must provide evidence that their child has received a BCG vaccination. They must also present the results of a general health check undertaken by the staff in a local government health clinic.

## Part 2 – Kuwait Import Customs Regulations

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

### Household Goods

#### **General Information**

- 5% customs duty will be applicable on all consignments (except Diplomatic). Duty free entry is only allowed on total value not exceeding US\$1000 (C and F Value)
- It is mandatory that you are present during customs inspection
- You will need to obtain a Temporary Import Licence, by submitting, the Bill of Lading (supplied by us), Packing List (supplied by us), Copy passport, picture page and residence page, Kuwait Civil ID to Secretary of Licensing Department Office at the Ministry of Commerce and Industries to obtain approval. The address will be provided. Please note we have been informed that this takes about 7 to 14 days for approval to be given
- You will also need to have a letter from your Company in Kuwait, in Arabic, addressed to Customs stating that you are under their sponsorship, and indicating the Destination Agent appointed to clear your shipment (a format for the letter will be provided). The letter must be on company headed paper, signed by the authorised signatory of your company and must bear the company stamp. A scanned copy of the authorised signature (in Arabic – Itimad Tokia) is required by customs as verification
- Consignments being imported into Kuwait can take sometime to clear customs resulting in extra charges which are passed to client. In order to keep any costs to minimum please make sure all documentation is available prior to the arrival of the consignment

### **Documents Required**

- Packing List supplied by us
- Passport copy of picture page and residence page
- Temporary Work/Entry Visa) duly stamped by Kuwait Immigration upon arrival in Kuwait
- Kuwait Civil ID
- Work Permit
- Temporary Import License

### **Diplomats removals**

#### **Duty free entry with below documentation**

- Packing List supplied by us
- Passport copy of picture page and residence page
- Copy of Kuwait personal identity card
- Copy of Diplomatic identity card issued by Embassy
- Exemption certificate from Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kuwait
- An authorisation letter from Diplomatic Mission – Kuwait, in Arabic, addressed to customs stating that you are under Diplomatic Mission sponsorship, and indicating your Destination Agent appointed to clear your consignment. The letter must be on Mission letterhead and signed by the authorised signatory of your Diplomatic Mission. The format will be provided

### **New items**

All subject to 5% duty on C.I.F value unless manufactured in Kuwait. On items where a similar product is manufactured in Kuwait the duty will range from 15% to 22%.

### **Documents required**

- Import License or Temporary Import License
- Certificate of Origin – showing complete name and address of manufacturer, legalised by the Arab Chamber of Commerce and visaed by Kuwait Embassy or Consulate at origin
- Invoice - showing complete name and address of manufacturer, legalised by the Arab Chamber of Commerce and visaed by Kuwait Embassy or Consulate at origin
- Packing list

### **Motor vehicles, motorcycles and caravans**

Only Diplomats and Kuwaitis are allowed to import cars, and cars over 5 years of age are prohibited.

An Import Permit is required issued by the Kuwait Ministry of Commerce.

### **Personal Computers**

Computer modems are subject to registration and an initial fee levied by the Ministry of Communication of approximately US\$400.00 and a renewable fee of US\$400.00 per annum.

Please note that this is not a Customs requirement but a requirement of the Ministry of Communication administered by the Department of Customs.

### **Books, audio/video tapes, CDs, DVDs and music records**

Are allowed but censored, for which there is normally a charge. Items manufactured by companies on Israeli boycott list such as CBS, RCA, Columbia etc are confiscated.

### Medicines

Please do not include in your consignment.

### All Food Stuffs and Beverages

Please do not include in your consignment.

### Strictly Prohibited Items

- All Alcoholic beverages and manufacturing kits
- Pornographic materials, books and magazines
- Walkie-Talkies and radios
- Firearms, weapons (including Antique weapons) and ammunitions
- Drugs, narcotics and incitements
- Gambling equipment
- Any goods connected with or manufactured by Israel

If any of the above items are included they will be confiscated and the owner is liable to be detained pending legal action.

### Pets (dogs, cats, etc.)

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

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.*