

Moving to Morocco: Your Relocation Guide



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

ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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MOVER



Memb No: A001



FS 23942



198656



TELEPHONE:	Country code (212) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220v AC – New buildings, 110v Ac – Old buildings
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	No inoculations or vaccinations required if EU citizen
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, 11, 24, May 1, July 30, Aug 8, 14, 20, 21 Oct 15, Nov 4, 6, 18. Religious holidays are based on the Lunar Calendar the dates will therefore change by 11 days every year. Feb Aid Al Fitr, Apr Aid Al Adha, May Muslim New Year, July Prophet's Birthday.
OFFICE HOURS:	08.30-16.30 Monday – Friday
BANK HOURS:	08.30-11.00, 14.30-17.00 Monday – Friday
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	19 Police 15 Fire
UK EMBASSY IN MOROCCO:	British Embassy 28 Avenue, S.A.R Sidi Mohammed, Souissi, Rabat, 10105 Morocco Tel: +212 (0)537 63 33 33 Fax: 0537 75 87 09 Web: http://ukinmorocco.fco.gov.uk/en
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Moroccan National Tourist Office 22 Ave D'Alger Tel: 3 767 3918 Web: http://www.visitmorocco.com/index.php/eng/
MOROCCAN EMBASSY IN LONDON:	49 Queens Gate Gardens London SW7 5NE Tel: 0207 581 5001/4 Fax: 0207 225 3862 Web: http://morocco.embassyhomepage.com/

Customs

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

Removal Goods

Documents required:

- Original change of residence certificate issued by local authority from country of departure
- Inventory in French or Arabic
- Work contract or original attestation from Moroccan company
- Copy of passport with stamp of entry in Morocco

Duty free entry if goods have been in your possession and used for more than six months.

Moroccan Consulate must stamp same documents in place of departure for Moroccan people.

CCR has to be on city hall's paper head signed and stamped.

CCR can be done in most consulates / embassies in Morocco. Check with yours before departure.

Diplomats Removals

Documents required:

- Franchising delivered by Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rabat (in French)
- Inventory (in French or Arabic)
- Copy of passport

Duty free entry even for new furniture.

Wedding Trousseaux

Documents required:

- Wedding certificate
- Original certificate of change of residence
- Inventory (in French or Arabic)
- Proof of residence in Morocco for your husband / wife

Duty free except new items.

Inheritance

Documents required:

- Notary act giving name of the deceased and their family relationship with the heir
- Inventory delivered by notary

Duty free entry except for new furniture.

New Articles

Subject to duty and taxes.

Depending on items' category. You can count on 35% more or less.

Antiques and Works of Art

Documents required:

- Detailed and valued inventory
- Authorisation issued by Ministry of the Cultural Affairs.

Duty free entry when used and part of removal goods.

Motor Vehicles, Motor Cycles, Boats, Caravans

Documents required:

- Original of title certificate
- Original passport

Diplomats allowed free entry with a franchising letter, can import cars older than five years old. Can be new or used.

Non-diplomats temporary import, free entry if car is less than five years old. Temporary import is limited to six months per calendar year.

For a regular import taxes and duties are charged at around 50% and have to be less than five years old.

Dogs & Cats Documents

Documents required:

- Certificate of vaccination (vaccination against rabies required for dogs only)
- Health certificate

Plants

Require Phytosanitary certificate.

Hunting Arms

Documents required:

- Firearm acquisition certificate
- Hunting Permit

Duty free entry when used and part of removal of goods.

If documents are not produced, arms will be retained at Customs.

Wine & Alcohol

25 to 30 bottles admitted as "fond de cave" if part of your removal.

Bottles shouldn't be in new cases. They have to seem bought some time ago.

Wine, Alcohol, Tins and Food

Small quantities admitted as part of removals goods. 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.

Prohibited Items

- Narcotics and drugs
- Pornographic books and magazines
- Walkie talkies
- Cellular or cordless telephones
- Fax machines

A declaration / certificate has to be made to authorities ONTT and “Maroc Telecom” when shipping mobile phones, cordless telephones, fax machines, satellite walkie talkies.

General Information on the Kingdom of Morocco

Background

In 788, about a century after the Arab conquest of North Africa, a series of Moroccan Muslim dynasties began to rule in Morocco. In the 16th century, the Sa’adi monarchy, particularly under Ahmad AL-MANSUR (1578-1603), repelled foreign invaders and inaugurated a golden age. The Alaouite dynasty, to which the current Moroccan royal family belongs, dates from the 17th century. In 1860, Spain occupied northern Morocco and ushered in a half century of trade rivalry among European powers that saw Morocco’s sovereignty steadily erode; in 1912, the French imposed a protectorate over the country. A protracted independence struggle with France ended successfully in 1956. The internationalized city of Tangier and most Spanish possessions were turned over to the new country that same year. Sultan MOHAMMED V, the current monarch’s grandfather, organized the new state as a constitutional monarchy and in 1957 assumed the title of king. Morocco annexed Western Sahara during the late 1970s, but final resolution on the status of the territory remains unresolved. Gradual political reforms in the 1990s resulted in the establishment of a bicameral legislature, which first met in 1997. Under King MOHAMMED VI – who in 1999 succeeded his father to the throne – human rights have improved. Morocco enjoys a moderately free press, but the

government has taken action against journalists who they perceive to be challenging the monarchy, Islam, and the status of Western Sahara. Influenced by protests elsewhere in the Middle East and North Africa, in February 2011 thousands of Moroccans began weekly rallies in multiple cities across the country to demand greater democracy and a crackdown on government corruption. Police response to most of the protests was subdued compared to the violence elsewhere in the region. A commission set up in March 2011 presented a draft constitution that was passed by popular referendum in July 2011. Under the new constitution, some new powers were extended to parliament and the prime minister, but ultimate authority remained in the hands of the monarch. That same month, the king urged swift implementation of the new constitution, starting with the holding of parliamentary elections in 2011 instead of in 2012. A prominent moderate Islamist party, the Justice and Development Party, subsequently won the largest number of seats on 25 November 2011, becoming the first Islamist party to lead the Moroccan Government. In January 2012, Morocco assumed a nonpermanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2012-13 term.

Geography

The Kingdom of Morocco lives in the northwest corner of Africa, and has both Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts. The Atlas mountains separate the arid south and Western Sahara from the fertile regions of the west and north. The northern mountains are geologically unstable and subject to earthquakes, the highest point being Jbel Toubkal at 4,165m. Natural resources are; phosphates, iron ore, manganese, lead, zinc, fish and salt.

Environmental issues currently are land degradation and desertification soil erosion resulting from farming of marginal areas, overgrazing and destruction of vegetation, contaminated water supplies by raw sewage, siltation of reservoirs, also oil pollution of coastal waters.

Annual sunshine levels are more than 8 hours a day at Agadir, Fez, Marrakech and Ouazarate with average temperatures above 21 degrees. If you feel to hot or too cold you only have to travel a few kilometers. You can go from the snow of the Atlas to the Saharan desert in one day.

Population

Most of the 33 million Moroccans live in the Atlanticoastal plain. The majority of the population are Muslim. Almost one-third of the population are Berbers, who are mostly concentrated in the Rif and Atlas mountains. Morocco has a sizeable community (1.7 million) of expatriates living abroad, mostly in France, Spain, and Italy.

Economy

Morocco has capitalized on its proximity to Europe and relatively low labor costs to build a diverse, open, market-oriented economy. In the 1980s Morocco pursued austerity measures and pro-market reforms, overseen by the IMF. Since taking the throne in 1999, King MOHAMMED VI has presided over a stable economy marked by steady growth, low inflation, and generally declining government debt. Industrial development strategies and infrastructure improvements – most visibly illustrated by a new port and free trade zone near Tangier – are improving Morocco's competitiveness. Key sectors of the economy include agriculture, tourism, phosphates, textiles, apparel, and subcomponents. In 2006 Morocco entered into a bilateral Free Trade Agreement with the United States; it remains the only African country to have one. In 2008 Morocco entered into an Advanced Status agreement with the European Union. Despite Morocco's economic progress, the country suffers from high unemployment and poverty. In 2011, high food and fuel prices strained the government's budget and widened the country's current account deficit. Key economic challenges for Morocco include fighting corruption, reducing government spending, reforming the education system and judiciary, addressing socioeconomic disparities, and building more diverse, higher value-added industries

Language

Apart from classical Arabic, the language of education, the Civil service and the media, the everyday language used in Morocco is a dialectal Arabic, as well as Tamazight (Berber) spoken in the Riff, the Atlas and the Souss and which varies according to region. French is often the language of business, government and diplomacy. In the North, Spanish is also spoken, English is slowly being learnt by most of the population.

Currency

The Moroccan currency is the Dirham (DH) divided into 100 centimes. Dirham are available in the following denominations:

Notes: 10, 50, 1000, 2000 DH

Coins: 1, 5 DH 5, 10, 20, 50 centimes

Do not change money in the streets, it is illegal. The best place to change it is at a bank or approved change office (indicated by a golden sign).

Religion

Islam is the official religion in Morocco, but it perfectly coexists with the other religions (freedom to practice other religions of revelation is guaranteed by constitution). The day is marked by five calls to prayer. The Muesin announces them from the top of his minaret. During the months of Ramadan, the Moroccans fast refrains from eating and smoking from sunrise to sunset.

There is a small amount of Jewish people and the French and Spanish speaking population is generally Catholic. Obviously this disturbs daily life. Most Civil Service and public offices, monuments and shops alter their opening hours.

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Health

No vaccination certificate is required for visitors coming from Europe or America. An anti-cholera vaccination certificate may be required of visitors coming from areas where this disease is prevalent. Anti-malarial treatment is not necessary.

Morocco is a healthy country, however, it is not advisable to drink water from sources other than bottled spring water.

Electricity

220 volts in new buildings, 110 in older ones, sometimes both – make enquiries. Power points are of the French type.

Transport

The Highway Code is of the international type, road signs are written in French and Arabic. Speed is limited to 120 kph on the motorway and 100 kph on roads, 40-60 kph in build up areas. The wearing of safety belts is compulsory.

Mobile phone tips

To ensure you can still make and receive calls and messages abroad on your UK mobile, you need to change the network service to International roaming before you travel. Contact your UK mobile network provider to ensure your mobile phone is enabled for International Roaming. Do this well in advance as it can take up to 14 days and you can't do it from overseas. Check your existing handset will also work in the countries you are travelling to as this may not be the case particularly outside Europe. Check with your network provider for the current charges as they can be a lot higher.

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.