



Caring for
your world.

Your
relocation
guide to
Bermuda



Tel: 0800 169 3061
Email: info@aimrelo.co.uk
www.aimrelo.co.uk



Memb No: A091





TELEPHONE:	Country Code (1441) + Area Code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT -4 Hours
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	110v, 60 Hz
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) Tetanus-diphtheria Influenza
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1 New Year's Day, Jan 3 New Year Holiday, April 22 Good Friday, May 24 Bermuda Day, Jun 20 National Heroes' Day, Jul 28 Emancipation Day, Jul 29 Somers Day, Sept 5 Labour Day, Nov 11 Remembrance Day, Dec 25 Christmas Day, Dec 26 Boxing Day, Dec 27 Christmas Holiday
OFFICE HOURS:	9.00 to 17.00
BANK HOURS:	9.00 to 16.30
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	911
UK EMBASSY IN BERMUDA:	Government House Hamilton Bermuda Tel: (441) 295-1342 Fax: (441) 295 3823 Email: depgov@ibl.bm
BERMUDA GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN UK:	6 Arlington Street London SW1A 1RE Tel: 0207 518 9900
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Bermuda Tourism 26 York Street London W1U 6PZ Tel: 0207 096 4246 / 0800 883 0857 Fax: 0207 096 0509

Customs

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

Household Goods

Documents required:

- Descriptive Inventory
- Cash Value Sheet with depreciated values for all items listed on the inventory (consolidated in categories)
- Signed Customs letter
- Work permit (not temporary)

If Transfer of Residence Allowance (TRA) is granted then no duty/tax is payable on goods over six months old.

Goods less than six months old are subject to duty/tax and purchase invoices should be provided.

Wharfage is charged on all items (old and new) at 1.25% of the depreciated value.

For TRA a Standard Work Permit is needed and with this Customs at the airport will issue a Transfer of Residence Certificate upon arrival of the importer.

For returning Bermudians, they need to provide proof of overseas residence for at least one year.

Goods must arrive within 90 days of the importer's own arrival.

Goods can be sent in advance of shipper's arrival in Bermuda but no more than 90 days.

Goods can be sent after shipper's arrival in Bermuda but no more than 90 days.

Diplomatic Removals

Documents required:

- Exemption certificate from Government

Wedding trousseaux

Subject to payment of duties.

To be valued by Customs.

Inheritances

Subject to payment of duties.

To be valued by Customs.

New furniture and household goods

Document required:

- Commercial invoices

Subject to payment of duties.

Precious metal objects (jewellery and coins)

Subject to payment of duties.

Counterfeit coins prohibited.

Antiques

Document required:

- Certificate of antiquity

Subject to payment of duties.

Electrical appliances

Documents required:

- Descriptive inventory

To be valued by Customs.

Motor Vehicles

Subject to payment of duties.

Size and age restrictions apply.

Check with local Transport board.

Alcohol

Subject to payment of duties.

No volume restrictions.

Arms and ammunition

Prohibited.

Medicines, Narcotics and drugs

Duty free.

Prescription only.

Plants

Subject to payment of duties.

Plants will have to be inspected by dept of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Pets

Import permit required.

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 **Atlantic form QF565** for completing.

Wood

The International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (ISPM15) is one of several International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures adopted by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The IPPC is an international treaty to secure action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control. The American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) and the National Wooden Pallet and Container Association (NWPCA) provide phytosanitary certification for wood packaging materials (WPM). APHIS will issue a phytosanitary certificate for wood package materials only if the WPM is the cargo.

General Information on Bermuda

Background

Bermuda was first settled in 1609 by shipwrecked English colonists headed for Virginia. Tourism 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 developed into a highly successful offshore financial center. Although a referendum on independence from the UK was soundly defeated in 1995, the present government has reopened debate on the issue.

Geography

Bermuda lies 570 miles from the coast of North Carolina and is surrounded by the blue waters of the Atlantic Ocean. With a landmass of only 21 square miles, it is one of the smallest territories in the world (Monaco and Gibraltar are the only notable ones smaller in size).

Bermuda is actually an archipelago consisting of around 140 islands. 8 of these (Ireland Island North, Ireland Island South, Boaz Island, Watford Island, Somerset Island, Bermuda Island, St George's Island and St David's Island) are linked by bridges to form a continuous fishhook shaped area of land, 22 miles in length and only 2 miles across at its widest point. This is the Bermuda which most locals and guests are

familiar with, many of the other islands are uninhabited or mere rocks.

Climate

Sub-tropical weather, mild and humid in summer, gales, strong winds are common in the winter.

Population

It is estimated at 65,773.

Environmental Issues

There is sustainable development in Bermuda.

Currency

Bermudian dollar (BMD).

Since switching from the Bermudian pound in 1970, Bermuda's currency has been the Bermudian dollar, which is pegged to the US dollar. US notes and coins are used interchangeably with Bermudian notes and coins within the islands for most practical purposes; however, banks levy a small exchange rate for the purchase of US dollars with Bermudian dollars. Bermudian notes carry the image of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The Bermuda Monetary Authority is the issuing authority for all banknotes and coins, as well as being responsible for the regulation of financial institutions.

Economy

Bermuda enjoys the highest per capita income in the world, more than 50% higher than that of the US. Its economy is primarily based on providing financial services for international business and luxury facilities for tourists. A number of reinsurance companies relocated to the island following 11 September 2001 and again after Hurricane Katrina, contributing to the expansion of an already robust international business sector. Bermuda's tourism industry – which derives over 80% of its visitors from the US – continues to struggle but remains the island's number two industry. Most capital equipment and food must be imported. Bermuda's industrial sector is small, although construction continues to be important; the average cost of a house in June 2003 had risen to \$976,000. Agriculture is limited with only 20% of the land being arable.

Education

The Bermuda Education Act 1996 requires that only three categories of schools can operate in the Bermuda Education system:

- Aided school, has all or a part of its property vested in a body of trustees or board of governors and is partially maintained by public funding or, since 1965 and the desegregation of schools, has received a grant-in-aid out of public funds.
- Maintained school, has the whole of its property belonging to the Government and is fully maintained by public funds.

- Private school, not maintained by public funds and has not, since 1965 and the desegregation of schools, received any capital grant-in-aid out of public funds. The private school sector consists of 6 traditional private schools, two of which are religious schools, and the remaining four are secular with one of these being a single gender school and another a Montessori school. Also, within the private sector there are a number of home schools which must be registered with the government and receive minimal government regulation.

The only boys' school opened its doors to girls in the 1990s and in 1996, one of the maintained public schools became a private school.

At present there are 26 schools in the Bermuda Public School System, 18 of which are primary schools, five are middle schools, two senior schools and one special school. There is also an Alternative Programme provided for students with behavioral challenges who cannot function in the public mainstream. There are two aided primary schools, two aided middle schools and one aided senior school.

For higher education, the Bermuda College offers various associate degrees and other certificate programme Bermuda does not have any four-year colleges or universities.

Religion

The majority are Anglican 23%, Roman Catholic 15%, African Methodist Episcopal 11%, other Protestant 18%, other 12%, unaffiliated 6%, unspecified 1%, none 14% (2000 census).

Health

All children should be up-to-date on routine childhood immunizations, as recommended by medical advisors, prior to international travel.

Influenza vaccine is recommended for all travellers during flu season, which runs from November through April. The vaccine may cause soreness at the injection site, low-grade fevers, malaise, and muscle aches. Severe reactions are rare. Influenza vaccine should not be given to pregnant women during the first trimester.

All travelers should be up-to-date on routine immunizations, including:

Tetanus-diphtheria vaccine (recommended for all travellers who have not received a tetanus-diphtheria immunization within the last 10 years.)

Measles vaccine (recommended for any traveller born after 1956 who does not have either a history of two documented measles immunizations or a blood test showing immunity. Many people who had only one vaccination show immunity when tested and do not need the second vaccination. Measles vaccine should not be given to pregnant or severely immunocompromised individuals.)

Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine (recommended for any international traveller over one year of age who does not have either a history of documented chickenpox or a blood test showing immunity. Many people who believe they never had chickenpox show immunity when tested and do not need the vaccine. Varicella vaccine should not be given to pregnant or immunocompromised individuals.)

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date we cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.