



Moving Family and Household to Bermuda

There are many personal matters to consider when relocating, especially if you are moving with a spouse, children and/or pets. These may include schools, transport, hiring home help and customs duties on imported possessions. In this quick reference guide you will find information that will help make the move to Bermuda as easy and efficient as possible.

Arriving In Bermuda

Customs duties are imposed on intending residents when they first arrive on the Island and will cover certain belongings which either accompany them or are shipped into the Island at some later date. Books, clothes and other items that are deemed to be used may be imported without being subject to any charge. Duty will be assessed at 25% of the estimated value of any other items (subject to a modest duty-free allowance). A further wharfage charge of 1.25% will be added to the appraised total value of the items imported.

Generally speaking, no vaccinations are required to enter Bermuda. However, it is advisable to be inoculated if, within two weeks before arriving in Bermuda, you visited a country which has suffered a recent outbreak of cholera, small pox, or yellow fever.

The importation and/or possession of either firearms or ammunition is an offence which is severely punished. Similarly, the importation and/or possession of drugs or obscene materials is illegal.

Home Help

Employment agencies can assist in finding nannies, housekeepers and gardeners, should they be required.

Pets

There are no quarantine facilities in Bermuda. Therefore, any new resident intending to bring any pets should obtain a permit to import such animals from the Bermuda Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The proper documentation concerning the animal in question is required and failure to obtain and present such documentation will result in the animal's immediate return to the port of embarkation.

In accordance with the Dogs Act 1978, as amended, a person cannot keep a dog in Bermuda unless they are over 18 and hold a dog licence for each dog which they own. There is a prohibition on keeping more than two dogs without the consent of the Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. There is at present a ban on the importation of certain breeds of dogs.

A dog licence is not required on importation if it is intended that the dog will be exported within 28 days from the date of its importation. Further, a licence is not required for a dog which is less than one month old. Licences must be applied for in person at the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources. All animals may be subject to a customs import duty of up to 25% of the animal's true value.

Consular Representation in Bermuda

The following countries have consular representations in Bermuda:

Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

Transport

Bermuda residents are restricted to the ownership of one car per household. The notion of a company car does not exist in Bermuda. In light of the aforementioned restriction, an alternative means of transportation may be necessary and motorcycles ranging from 50cc to 150cc are available to satisfy this need. Bermuda driving licences are required for any motorized vehicle other than cycles rented from local liveries. In the case of a car, it is advisable to book a lesson with a local driving school as they will arrange a test appointment and allow their car to be used for the purpose of taking the driving test. If, prior to living in Bermuda, a no-claims bonus was in effect with an overseas insurance company, it may be transferred and applied by a local insurance company which can result in up to a 60% reduction in the cost of the annual premium.

Schools

Schooling is compulsory from the age of five to 16 in Bermuda. Regardless of whether schools are public or private schools they must conform to internationally accepted standards of care and education. Private and government schools are available on the Island. The annual fees for private schools can vary from just over \$11,000 to almost \$20,000. The schools insist on the wearing of uniforms. The academic year runs for approximately 40 weeks from early September until late June with breaks for Christmas (two weeks), Easter (two weeks) and summer (ten weeks). The following is a list of the private schools in Bermuda available for children aged five to 18:

- Bermuda High School (girls only)
- Saltus Grammar School
- Warwick Academy
- Somersfield Academy
- The Bermuda Institute
- Mount Saint Agnes

It should be noted that space is extremely limited in the above-named private schools and a place cannot be guaranteed.

This article is not intended to be a substitute for legal advice or a legal opinion. It deals in broad terms only and is intended to merely provide a brief overview and give general information.

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