



Bermuda

CAPITAL

Hamilton

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

English

CURRENCYthe Bermuda dollar (BMD),
pegged 1:1 to the US dollar**Last verified:** June 2026 | **Guide version:** 2.0**Disclaimer**

This Country Guide reflects information believed to be correct at the time of publication. Regulations, procedures and charges are subject to change. IAM does not accept liability for errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misinterpretations in this guide. The information provided should not be considered as having been provided or sanctioned by the customs authorities of the country or territory concerned.

Overview

Duty-Free Eligibility

Standard duty rate: Most goods imported by air or sea in passenger baggage are dutiable at 22.25% of value. Electronics and household goods not for personal use (to be left in Bermuda) are dutiable at 25%. Some items attract 33.5% (batteries, vehicle parts).

Documents

Required Documents

- **Customs Traveller Declaration (Form 98)**
- **Passport / proof of identity**
- **Bill of lading (OBL) / air waybill (AWB)**
- **Inventory**

- **Work permit, spousal letter, or other proof of permission to reside in Bermuda (first-time residents)**
- **Proof of overseas residence for more than 1 year (returning residents)**
- **Receipts / invoices for items less than 6 months old**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Transfer of Residence Allowance (TRA): Per the Government of Bermuda (gov.bm), first-time residents and returning residents may claim duty relief on used personal and household goods under the TRA. The TRA covers most personal and professional goods including clothing, furniture, household appliances, personal computers, and portable tools of trade that have been in use for a minimum of 6 months.

First-time residents: Must provide proof of permission to live in Bermuda (work permit, spousal letter, etc.) and proof that goods are older than 6 months.

Returning residents: Must provide proof of having been living overseas for more than 1 year and proof that goods are older than 6 months.

Advance/arrears baggage: Personal baggage may be imported up to 90 days before or after arrival without payment of customs duty. Contact Customs at least 10 working days before importing baggage in advance or arrears.

Items not qualifying for TRA: New items (less than 6 months old) are subject to duty. Goods for business use must not be declared on the Customs Traveller Declaration form.

Wharfage: 1.25% of value is charged on most goods imported by air or sea cargo.

No income tax or VAT: Bermuda does not levy income tax, capital gains tax, or VAT. Customs duty is the primary source of government revenue (approximately 20% of government income).

Customs Form 98: The Customs Traveller Declaration must be completed by anyone with goods exceeding duty-free allowances. Household groups travelling together may submit one combined declaration.

Currency declaration: Cash and negotiable instruments exceeding BDA 10,000 (or foreign equivalent) must be declared.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- **Controlled drugs** — Strictly prohibited; severe penalties
- **Obscene material** — Prohibited
- **Fireworks** — Prohibited
- **Firearms and ammunition** — Generally prohibited without licence
- **Prohibited dog breeds** (Dogo Argentino, Boerboel, Fila Brasileiro, Cane Corso, Neapolitan Mastiff, Presa Canario, Tosa Inu, Wolf/Wolf Hybrids) — Prohibited
- **Ferrets** — Prohibited
- **Counterfeit goods** — Prohibited

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Duty-Free Traveller Allowances

Residents (18+):

- 1 litre of wine, 1 litre of spirits
- 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, 500g tobacco
- BDA 300 duty-free allowance on personal goods arriving by air

Visitors:

- Same alcohol/tobacco as above
- BDA 50 duty-free allowance on personal goods arriving by air

Restricted Items

- **Live animals and plants** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Import permit from the DENR required
- **Fruits, vegetables** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Import permit from the Ministry of Agriculture required
- **Dairy products** (raw milk, pasteurised milk, manufactured milk) — Prohibited unless prior approval from the Ministry of Agriculture
- **Firearms and ammunition** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Generally prohibited; licence required
- **Medications** — For personal use; carry prescriptions
- **Alcohol and tobacco in excess of allowances** — Subject to specific duty rates (wine BDA 2.89/litre, spirits BDA 10.63/litre, cigarettes BDA 44/carton of 200, cigars/tobacco 33.5%)

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Bill of lading / shipping documents**
- **Vehicle registration / title**
- **Purchase invoice**
- **Customs declaration**

Specific Information

Vehicle import to Bermuda is heavily restricted. Bermuda has strict limits on vehicle ownership to manage congestion on the island (only 21 square miles). Residents are generally limited to one car per household. All vehicles must be registered with the Transport Control Department (TCD).

Duty on vehicles: Subject to customs duty based on vehicle type and value.

Vehicle size restrictions: Bermuda restricts the maximum size of private vehicles. Cars may not exceed certain dimensional and engine capacity limits.

Rental cars: Rental cars are not permitted in Bermuda. Visitors typically use scooters, taxis, buses, or ferries.

Driving: Driving is on the LEFT-hand side of the road.

Pets

Requirements

- **Import Permit issued in advance by the DENR (apply at animals@gov.bm or fax 441-232-0046; permit issued within 1 business day by fax; valid for 10 days from the date of the veterinary certificate)**

Per the Government of Bermuda (gov.bm) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR):

- **ISO, FECAVA, European/International, or AVID-USA compliant microchip**

Per the Government of Bermuda (gov.bm) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR):

- **Original veterinary health certificate issued within 10 days of arrival, signed by a licensed veterinarian, stating the animal is free of communicable disease and external parasites**

Per the Government of Bermuda (gov.bm) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR):

- **Rabies vaccination history showing the two most recent rabies vaccinations: first given at or after 3 months of age, second given 6-12 months after the first. The most recent vaccination must have been given at least 30 days and not more than 12 months before arrival.**

Per the Government of Bermuda (gov.bm) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR):

- **Acceptable tick treatment and prevention administered during the veterinary examination (specific products required; many common products NOT accepted — see DENR list)**

Per the Government of Bermuda (gov.bm) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR):

- **USDA endorsement is NOT required for US-origin pets**

Per the Government of Bermuda (gov.bm) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR):

Specific Information

Bermuda is rabies-free. This drives the strict vaccination and documentation requirements.

There is no quarantine facility in Bermuda. Animals failing inspection are immediately deported at the owner's expense (by air) or confined to the vessel at deep water anchorage (by sea). In rare cases, non-compliant animals may be seized and humanely destroyed.

Minimum age: 10 months. Dogs and cats under 10 months of age do not qualify for entry into Bermuda (exception: animals arriving directly from the UK, New Zealand, Jamaica, or Australia). This is one of the highest minimum age requirements of any country.

Two rabies vaccinations required. Pets with only a single rabies vaccination do not qualify for entry, regardless of age. The two vaccinations must be at least 6 months apart and both administered by a licensed veterinarian after 3 months of age.

Foot and Mouth disease clearance: The animal must not have been kept within 30 miles of Foot and Mouth disease during the last 30 days. This requirement is NOT applicable to dogs or cats arriving directly from the Continental USA or Canada.

Import permit timeline: File the application at least 10 days prior to arrival. The DENR typically responds within 1 business day by fax. The permit is valid for only 10 days from the veterinary certificate date.

Tick treatment (CRITICAL): Bermuda requires specific acaricidal (tick) treatments and explicitly does NOT accept many common products, including Advantage, Advocate, Bio-Spot, Capstar, Comfortis, Revolution (for cats), Promeris (for cats), selamectin, Sentinel, Vectra, shampoos, and collars. Consult the DENR's approved product list before the vet appointment.

Customs duty on pets: Pets are subject to a 25% customs duty on their assessed value (primarily for new resident animals brought by foreign nationals). Returning resident animals that left Bermuda less than 5 years ago are not subject to import duty with proof of prior residency (e.g., a local health certificate, vaccination certificate, or dog licence receipt from the last 5 years).

Prohibited breeds: Argentine Mastiff (Dogo Argentino), Boerboel, Brazilian Mastiff (Fila), Cane Corso, Neapolitan Mastiff, Presa Canario, Tosa Inu, Wolf and Wolf Hybrids. These may NOT be imported.

Restricted breeds (require pre-approval and property inspection): Akita, Australian Cattle Dog, American Bulldog, American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Belgian Malinois, Bouvier des Flandres, Bull Terrier, Bullmastiff, Cao de Fila de Sao Miguel, Chow Chow, Doberman Pinscher, Dogue de Bordeaux, all Shepherd breeds, English Mastiff, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Rottweiler, Olde English Bulldogge, and Staffordshire Bull Terrier. Restricted breeds require a property inspection by an Animal Warden confirming inescapable fencing/enclosure before a permit is issued. Apply at least 1 month before intended arrival.

Banned cat breeds: Wolf hybrids, Savannah cats, and Bengal cats (unless 5th generation or further removed from the pedigree).

Ferrets: Not permitted to enter Bermuda from any country.

Dog licensing: All dogs remaining in Bermuda over 28 days must be licensed at the DENR office in the Botanical Gardens, Paget. Multiple Dog Permits required for more than 2 dogs.

Service/emotional support animals: Must meet the same conditions as pet animals. No special concessions upon arrival.

Common mistakes: Having only one rabies vaccination (two required, 6 months apart). Pet under 10 months old. Using a non-approved tick treatment product. Not applying for the import permit at least 10 days in advance. Attempting to import a prohibited or restricted breed without pre-approval.

Consignment Instructions

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

Advance/arrears: Personal baggage can arrive up to 90 days before or after the owner. Contact Customs at least 10 working days before importing goods in advance or arrears.

Customs offices: Hamilton (main office), St. George, L.F. Wade International Airport, and Dockyard. Officers process declarations and control passenger/cargo movement at all ports.

Valuation: Bermuda uses WTO (GATT) valuation rules. Duty is calculated ad valorem on the transaction value.

Routing / port of entry: L.F. Wade International Airport (only airport) for air freight. Hamilton Harbour and St. George for sea freight. Bermuda is a group of approximately 181 islands in the North Atlantic Ocean, approximately 665 miles east-southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

Vehicle restrictions: One car per household is the general limit. Vehicle size is restricted. No rental cars on the island. Confirm vehicle import eligibility with the Transport Control Department before shipping.

Currency: Bermuda dollar (BMD), pegged 1:1 to the US dollar. US dollars are widely accepted. No income tax, capital gains tax, or VAT.

Cultural & Other Information

- **OpenFactBook (replaces CIA World Factbook):** <https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/bermuda/>
- **Wikipedia:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bermuda>
- **HM Customs:** <https://www.customs.gov.bm/>
- **Government of Bermuda — Moving to Bermuda:** <https://www.gov.bm/exemption-duty-when-moving-bermuda>
- **Government of Bermuda — Import a Dog or Cat:** <https://www.gov.bm/online-services/import-domestic-dog-or-cat>
- **DENR — Animals:** animals@gov.bm, +441-236-4201
- **USDA APHIS — Pet Travel to Bermuda:** <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/us-to-another-country-export/pet-travel-us-bermuda>

Key territory facts: Bermuda is a British Overseas Territory in the North Atlantic Ocean, comprising approximately 181 islands with a total area of about 21 square miles. The capital is Hamilton. The official language is English. The currency is the Bermuda dollar (BMD), pegged 1:1 to the US dollar; US currency is widely accepted. Bermuda is one of the world's most affluent territories with a high cost of living. There is no income tax, VAT, or capital gains tax; customs duty is a primary revenue source. Bermuda is not part of the EU. Driving is on the left-hand side. The island has strict vehicle ownership limits and no rental cars.

Important notes for movers: The Transfer of Residence Allowance makes household goods relatively straightforward for qualifying residents. The pet import process is where Bermuda stands out: the 10-month minimum age, two-rabies-vaccination requirement (6 months apart),

specific approved tick treatments (many common products rejected), extensive prohibited/restricted breed lists, and mandatory property inspections for restricted breeds make this one of the more demanding pet import regimes in the Western Hemisphere. There is no quarantine — non-compliant animals are deported or destroyed. The 25% customs duty on pets themselves is also unusual. Vehicle import is heavily restricted by the one-car-per-household rule and dimensional limits.

Regulatory Updates

- **June 2024:** DENR updated the dogs and cats import conditions document with revised tick treatment requirements and breed lists.
- **2017/2018:** Bermuda National Parks Act amendments updated dog regulations on beaches and public spaces.
- **2008:** Dogs Act 2008 mandated secure housing requirements for prohibited/restricted breeds.
- **Ongoing:** Solar/green goods remain duty-free. Customs duty rates periodically adjusted.

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Bermuda](https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Bermuda&lat=32.3078&lng=-64.7505&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Bermuda)
<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Bermuda&lat=32.3078&lng=-64.7505&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Bermuda>
- [Foreign Embassies in Bermuda](https://www.embassypages.com/bermuda)
<https://www.embassypages.com/bermuda>
- [OpenFactBook \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/bermuda/)
<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/bermuda/>
- [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bermuda)
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bermuda>
- [HM Customs \(Bermuda\)](https://www.customs.gov.bm/)
<https://www.customs.gov.bm/>
- [Government of Bermuda — Duty-Free Allowances](https://www.gov.bm/duty-free-allowances)
<https://www.gov.bm/duty-free-allowances>
- [Government of Bermuda — Exemption from Duty When Moving](https://www.gov.bm/exemption-duty-when-moving-bermuda)
<https://www.gov.bm/exemption-duty-when-moving-bermuda>
- [Government of Bermuda — Declaring Goods](https://www.gov.bm/declaring-goods-customs)
<https://www.gov.bm/declaring-goods-customs>

- [Government of Bermuda — Import a Dog or Cat](https://www.gov.bm/online-services/import-domestic-dog-or-cat)

<https://www.gov.bm/online-services/import-domestic-dog-or-cat>

- [Government of Bermuda — Importing Animals](https://www.gov.bm/importing-animals-bermuda)

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

- [USDA APHIS — Pet Travel US to Bermuda](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/us-to-another-country-export/pet-travel-us-bermuda)

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/us-to-another-country-export/pet-travel-us-bermuda>

IAM Country Guide: Bermuda