



Guyana

CAPITAL

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

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CURRENCY

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Last verified: June 2026 | **Guide version:** 2.0 (complete rewrite; the November 2016 IAM guide was erroneously based on French Guiana, not Guyana)

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

Duty-free allowances for personal effects: Individuals may be entitled to duty-free allowances on certain personal effects and household goods. Returning Guyanese nationals and persons establishing residence may qualify for reduced duty rates on used household effects. Confirm specific eligibility with the destination agent or GRA.

Documents

Required Documents

- **Copy of passport**
- **Commercial invoice or valued packing list**
- **Original bill of lading (OBL) or air waybill (AWB)**

- **Import license from the Ministry of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce (may be required depending on goods)**
- **Tax Identification Number (TIN) registration with the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA)**
- **Customs declaration form (electronic Single Administrative Document / eSAD via ASYCUDA World)**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Duty on household goods: Guyana charges customs duty on all imported goods. Duty rates range from 5% to 20% under the CARICOM Common External Tariff (CET), with some items subject to higher rates. A 14% VAT applies on top of import duties, calculated on CIF value plus duties.

CARICOM membership: Guyana is a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Goods originating from other CARICOM member states may qualify for preferential duty rates with a CARICOM Certificate of Origin.

ASYCUDA World system: Guyana uses the ASYCUDA World electronic customs system. Importers or their customs broker must complete an eSAD and upload supporting documents (invoice, bill of lading, tax exemption letter, import license, etc.).

Excise tax: An excise tax applies to alcoholic beverages (40%), tobacco products (100%), petroleum products (50%), and motor vehicles (rates vary by age, engine capacity, type, and usage). Items subject to excise tax also attract 14% VAT.

Environmental tax: Guyana levies an environmental tax (approximately GYD 10, about USD 0.05) on every unit of non-returnable metal, plastic, glass, or cardboard container of any alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage imported.

ISPM 15: Wood packaging materials must comply with ISPM 15 standards.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Illegal drugs, including cocaine, heroin, cannabis, and related preparations (PROHIBITED except under license from Chief Medical Officer)
- Knives and dangerous weapons (PROHIBITED)

- Counterfeit goods and currency imitations (PROHIBITED unless approved by the Commissioner-General)
- Pornographic materials (PROHIBITED)
- Goods whose importation is prohibited by any other law of Guyana (RESTRICTED)

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Duty-Free Allowances (personal baggage)

Tobacco products:

- 200 cigarettes, OR
- 50 cigars, OR
- 225 g of tobacco

Alcoholic beverages:

- 750 ml of wine
- 750 ml of spirits

Other:

- Reasonable quantity of perfume for personal use

Restricted Items

Firearms and ammunition: Require written permission from the Commissioner of Police. Difficult to obtain.

Plant materials: Require an import permit from the Plant Quarantine Section of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Fresh and raw meat: Require an import permit and inspection by a qualified official.

Spirits and wine: Must be specifically reported as such in shipping documentation and must arrive in vessels of at least 27.30 tonnes burden.

Exotic fish species: Require a license from the Chief Agriculture Officer.

Cinematographic films: Subject to review by the Minister responsible for public safety.

Pharmaceuticals: Require a license from the Food and Drug Department.

Currency Restrictions

No specific restrictions found in sources consulted. Confirm with the destination agent.

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Original vehicle title or registration**
- **Commercial invoice or proof of value**
- **Bill of lading**
- **Import license (if required)**
- **TIN registration with GRA**

Specific Information

Excise tax on vehicles: Motor vehicles are subject to excise tax. Rates vary widely by age, engine capacity, type, and usage. The excise tax is calculated on CIF value plus import duties and fees. VAT of 14% is then applied on top.

Temporary import: Excise taxes may be waived by the Commissioner General of the GRA for vehicles imported for temporary use. In such cases, goods must be exported within three months and a deposit left with the Commissioner General.

Left-hand drive: Guyana drives on the left side of the road. Both left-hand-drive and right-hand-drive vehicles are found on Guyanese roads, but right-hand-drive vehicles are standard.

Pets

Requirements

- **Import permit from the Ministry of Agriculture (must be obtained prior to arrival)**
- **Rabies vaccination certificate**
- **Veterinary health certificate confirming the animal is vaccinated and in general good health**
- **ISO-compliant microchip (recommended)**

Specific Information

Import permit required: All cats and dogs require an import permit from the Ministry of Agriculture. This must be obtained before the animal arrives in Guyana.

Rabies vaccination: Required for all dogs and cats.

No quarantine (if compliant): Quarantine is not required for animals arriving with proper documentation. However, animals found to have rabies upon arrival must be quarantined.

Livestock and other animals: Livestock and other animals also require an import permit from the Ministry of Agriculture. Plant materials require a permit from the Plant Quarantine Section.

CDC high-rabies-risk: Guyana IS on the CDC's list of high-risk countries for dog rabies. Dogs returning to the United States from Guyana must meet CDC requirements for dogs from high-risk countries, including the Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination form (completed before departure from the U.S.), microchip, minimum age of 6 months, and potentially a rabies titer test. Plan return travel requirements before departure.

Critical Note

The existing IAM guide dated November 15, 2016 and labeled "Guyana" is actually a guide for **French Guiana** (an overseas department of France). This is evident from references to documents "in French," proof of residence "in French Guyana," the "Octroi de Mer" tax (a French overseas territory tax), and authorization from the "territorial administration." This version has been completely rewritten using actual Guyana (South America) sources. The French Guiana content should be treated as a separate guide if needed.

Sources Consulted

1. **IAM Country Guide: Guyana** (November 15, 2016) -- THIS GUIDE IS ACTUALLY FOR FRENCH GUIANA, not Guyana. See Critical Note above. The duty-free allowances from its restricted items section (200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, 225g tobacco, 750ml wine, 750ml spirits) appear to match Guyana's actual allowances per VisaHQ, suggesting some data may have been correct despite the misidentification.
2. **FIDI Global Alliance** -- no dedicated Guyana customs guide found (404)
3. **VisaHQ Guyana Customs** -- duty-free allowances, prohibited/restricted items, pet requirements
4. **Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) website** -- import procedures, ASYCUDA World system, restricted goods list
5. **Trade.gov Country Commercial Guide: Guyana** -- tariff rates, VAT, excise tax, customs procedures

6. **PwC Tax Summaries: Guyana** -- confirmed duty rates of 5-150%, excise tax details
7. **PetTravel.com** -- confirmed import permit, rabies vaccination, and microchip requirements
8. **CDC high-risk rabies country list** -- confirmed Guyana is listed

Discrepancies and Clarifications

1. **IAM guide identity error (critical):** The IAM guide for "Guyana" (November 2016) is actually a guide for French Guiana. Evidence includes: (a) documents required "in French," (b) proof of residence "in French Guyana," (c) "Octroi de Mer" tax (exclusive to French overseas territories), (d) authorization from "territorial administration" (French administrative term). This guide has been completely rewritten from independent sources.
1. **Duty-free allowances overlap:** Despite the misidentification, the IAM guide's restricted items section lists duty-free allowances (200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, 225g tobacco, 750ml wine, 750ml spirits) that match VisaHQ's figures for Guyana. This may be coincidence or the data may have been separately sourced.
1. **Alcohol allowances:** VisaHQ lists 750ml wine and 750ml spirits. A USCIS Guide source mentions "up to 1.5 liters of spirits or wine and up to 2 liters of beer." The VisaHQ figures are used as the more conservative estimate; confirm with the destination agent.
1. **Household goods duty-free status:** No source explicitly confirms a blanket duty-free exemption for used household goods when relocating. The USCIS Guide mentions individuals "may be entitled to duty-free allowances on certain items such as personal effects, gifts, and household goods," but specifics are not provided. Confirm with the GRA or destination agent.

Unverified Items

- Whether a blanket duty-free exemption exists for used household goods of relocating individuals
- Specific duty rates applicable to used household effects (vs. general tariff rates of 5-20%)
- Whether an import license is required for personal household goods shipments
- Current vehicle excise tax rate schedule by age and engine capacity
- Exact currency import/export restrictions (if any)

Consignment Instructions

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

Port of entry: The primary port is Georgetown (Port of Georgetown). Air cargo clears through Cheddi Jagan International Airport.

ASYCUDA system: All customs declarations must go through the ASYCUDA World electronic system. Work with an experienced customs broker in Guyana.

Import license: Depending on the goods, an import license from the Ministry of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce may be required. Some product categories also require clearance from other government agencies (Ministry of Health, Food and Drug Department, etc.), which can significantly increase processing time.

Unpredictable expenses: Demurrage, storage, and customs processing fees can accumulate. The GRA has been modernizing its systems, but procedural obstacles and inefficiencies can still cause delays.

Cultural & Other Information

- **OpenFactBook (replaces CIA World Factbook):** <https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/guyana/> (verified 200)
- **Wikipedia -- Guyana:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guyana> (verified 200)
- **Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA):** <https://www.gra.gov.gy/> (verified 200)
- **GRA Imports Information:** <https://www.gra.gov.gy/business/customs-and-trade/imports/> (verified 200)
- **Guyana Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** <https://www.minfor.gov.gy/> (verified 200)
- **Trade.gov -- Guyana Customs Regulations:** <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/guyana-customs-regulations> (verified 200)
- **Trade.gov -- Guyana Import Tariffs:** <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/guyana-import-tariffs> (verified 200)
- **PetTravel.com -- Guyana:** <https://www.pettravel.com/information/pet-passports/guyana-pet-import-requirements/> (verified 200; updated from legacy /immigration/Guyana.cfm path)
- **VisaHQ -- Guyana Customs:** <https://www.visahq.com/guyana/customs/> (verified 200)

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Guyana](#)

<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Guyana&lat=6.8013&lng=-58.1551&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Guyana>

- [Foreign Embassies in Guyana](#)

<https://www.embassypages.com/guyana>

- [Guyana Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

<https://www.minfor.gov.gy/>

- [OpenFactBook \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](#)

<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/guyana/>

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