



Jamaica

CAPITAL

—

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

—

CURRENCY

—

Last verified: June 2026 | **Guide version:** 2.0 (update of November 2016 IAM guide)

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

Carpets: Used carpets enter duty-free with the C.27 form. Goods must arrive within 2 months prior to passenger arrival or within the timeframe set by the Collector General.

Documents

For All Importers

- 2 copies of passport (data page and landing stamp), notarized by a Justice of the Peace (J.P.) as true copies
- Tax Registration Number (TRN)
- Inventory/packing list
- Unaccompanied Baggage Declaration Form (C.27), provided at the airport/seaport upon arrival in Jamaica

- **Original bill of lading (OBL) or air waybill (AWB)**
- **Letter of authorization, notarized by a J.P.**

For Foreign Workers/Residents

- **Work permit and letter of employment**
- **Residence permit (if not a Jamaican citizen)**

For Returning Jamaican Residents

- **Customs Declaration Form (C.5), provided to the customs officer at the time of arrival at the airport**
- **Unconditional stamp (if Jamaican arriving on a foreign passport)**
- **Documents proving the customer has lived outside Jamaica for more than 3 years**
- **Document stating the customer's intention to re-establish permanent residence in Jamaica**
- **Tax returns for the last 3 years (W-2/1099, P-60, T4)**
- **Letter of separation from employer at origin**
- **Pension advice/Social Security letter (where applicable)**
- **Pay stubs, W-2, P45**
- **Invoices or bills from residence abroad**
- **Copy of retirement papers/pension advice, P60**
- **Evidence of disposal of property abroad**
- **Copy of sale/purchase agreement**
- **Evidence of property acquired in Jamaica**
- **Copy of utility bill in Jamaica (electric, water)**
- **Tax receipt**
- **Lease agreement**
- **Evidence of employment in Jamaica**
- **Letter notarized by a J.P. confirming place of residence if staying with a friend or relative, or copy of rental/lease agreement**

For Returning Students

- **Letter from institution attended**

- **Copy of I-20 ID**
- **Copy of transcript**

For Diplomats

- **Bill of lading**
- **Consular letter requesting free entry**
- **Inventory**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Owner must be present: The owner of the goods must be in Jamaica during customs clearance.

C.27 form: All passengers must complete the C.27 Unaccompanied Baggage Declaration Form upon arrival at the airport/seaport if they are expecting luggage or household effects to arrive before or after them. The form is valid for 3 months and must be renewed if the shipment has not arrived. Extracts (copies of the C.27) must be obtained if more than one shipment is expected.

Returning residents: May import one new appliance or piece of electronic equipment/computer, plus used household goods and tools of trade, duty-free. The returning resident must have lived outside Jamaica for more than 3 years.

Duty rates: Duty is determined after physical examination of goods at the stripping station, based on CIF value. Rates generally range from 5% to 40% depending on the item, plus government consumption tax (GCT) of 16.5% (per FIDI) or approximately 23.8% compounded (per IAM guide, likely including additional levies).

New items: Items less than 6 months old are dutiable for non-returning residents. Invoices must be provided for all new items.

Electrical compatibility: Electrical and electronic equipment may not be compatible with the Jamaican system (220/110V, 50 cycle).

Works of art and antiques: Duty-free if part of bona fide household effects. Large quantities must be accompanied by a certificate from the Antique Dealers Association of the country of exportation.

Precious metal objects: Subject to duties. Commercial or large imports require an import licence, item values, and a bank guarantee.

Inheritance: Personal effects of Jamaican citizens or persons ordinarily domiciled in Jamaica may be imported with a death certificate. Subject to examination and an affidavit from lawyers.

Diplomatic shipments: No examination required.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Illegal drugs
- Knives and deadly weapons
- Firearms, explosives, and ammunition (unless prior permission obtained)
- Meat, meat products, plant and plant products (unless permission obtained from Ministry of Agriculture)
- Counterfeit money and goods
- Pornographic or offensive material
- Local currency (for non-residents importing)
- Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa, and Pit Bull Terrier dogs (and their crosses)
- Wolf hybrids and Savannah cats

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Traveller Allowances

- 200 cigarettes OR 50 cigars OR 225g tobacco
- 1 litre of spirits
- 1 litre of other alcoholic beverages
- 1 litre of wine
- 150g perfume

In Household Goods

- New items (less than 6 months old): dutiable for non-returning residents, invoices required
- Alcohol: 1 bottle of spirit and wine duty-free per FIDI
- Food: only sufficient for immediate family use; duty may be payable at customs discretion; import licence and values required
- Firearms and ammunition: import permit required from the Police Commissioner of Customs, Trade Board, and Firearms & Licence Authority

- Two-way radios and specialist communications equipment: licence required from the Spectrum Management Authority
- Medicines/narcotics: import licence and drugs/poison permit required; preferably not shipped with household effects
- Plants: Ministry of Agriculture permit and fumigation/health certificate required

Currency

Jamaican residents can import unlimited local currency and unlimited foreign currency (up to the amount declared on departure). Non-residents can import unlimited foreign currency but no local currency.

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Passport**
- **Original bill of lading (OBL)**
- **Import licence (must be obtained from the Trade Board before the vehicle is shipped)**
- **Driver's licence**
- **Insurance certificate**
- **Certificate of title or registration documents**
- **Invoice detailing model, accessories, and CIF value**
- **Tax compliance certificate**
- **Import entry C78**

Specific Information

Import licence required before shipping. The licence must be obtained from the Trade Board via the online portal at <https://tbis.fsl.org.jm/WebImports/Security/TradeLogin.jsp>. A customs broker must clear all motor vehicles.

Vehicle age limit: Used vehicles cannot be more than 5 years old (6 years for SUVs and pickups). Qualified returning residents may import vehicles up to 10 years old.

Duty: All vehicles are dutiable. Customs assesses duty based on local market value.

Only diplomats may import vehicles duty-free.

Driving licence: The owner can drive in Jamaica for 12 months on a foreign licence before a Jamaican licence is required.

Pets

Requirements

- **ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip documentation**
- **Rabies vaccination certificate (within 12 months of entry; 3-year vaccines not accepted)**
- **Rabies titer (FAVN) test results from an OIE/WHO approved laboratory (more than 3 months and less than 12 months before arrival)**
- **Preliminary Application Form for pre-acceptance (submitted after steps 2-4 are completed)**
- **Two internal parasite treatments (14 days apart, second within 7 days of transport)**
- **Two external parasite treatments (14 days apart, second within 48 hours of transport)**
- **International veterinary health certificate in English (issued within 10 days of travel, two originals, endorsed by government veterinary authority)**
- **Veterinary Import Permit from the Ministry of Agriculture (valid for 3 months after issuance)**
- **Landing form**

Specific Information

Country classification: Jamaica classifies countries into two categories. Only pets born in and continuously residing in Category 1 (rabies-free) countries for at least 6 months prior to import may enter Jamaica. Pets from Category 2 (all other countries) are NOT permitted.

Category 1 countries include: United States, Canada, United Kingdom, most EU Member States, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, most Caribbean nations, and others. The full list is maintained by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Pets from unlisted/Category 2 countries cannot be imported to Jamaica. There are no exceptions.

The IAM guide's statement that "only dogs and cats born and bred in the United Kingdom can be imported" is incorrect. Pets from all Category 1 countries are eligible. This is

confirmed by both the FIDI guide and PetTravel.

Quarantine: A mandatory 14-day quarantine may be imposed at the National Quarantine Facility at Plumb Point. The inspector at customs makes the determination. Pets in good health with complete documentation may be released without quarantine. EU Pet Travel Scheme pets and service dogs may receive expedited processing.

Rabies vaccination: Required for all dogs and cats over 3 months of age. Must be administered within 12 months of entry. The 3-year rabies vaccine is NOT accepted; annual vaccination is required. The vaccine must be administered after microchip implantation.

Rabies titer test (FAVN): Required from all countries. Must be taken more than 3 months and less than 12 months before arrival. Administered at least 30 days after rabies vaccination. Processed at an OIE/WHO approved laboratory.

Parasite treatments: Two rounds required for both internal and external parasites, at specific timing intervals. This is more demanding than most countries.

Preliminary Application: Must be filed and approved before proceeding with parasite treatments and health certificates. No further tests or treatments should be administered until this form is approved.

Pre-notification: Required twice -- 3 weeks before arrival AND 72 hours before arrival.

Entry point: Pets must enter through Kingston unless authorized by the Chief Veterinary Officer. Arrivals outside business hours (8:30-5:00 Mon-Thu, 8:30-4:00 Fri) or on weekends/holidays incur extra fees.

Banned breeds: Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa, Pit Bull Terrier, and their crosses. Savannah cats and wolf hybrids are also prohibited.

Minimum age: Puppies and kittens must be vaccinated at 3 months, then wait 180 days after vaccination before entry. Effective minimum age is approximately 9 months.

Rabies vaccine not available in Jamaica. Dogs and cats being exported from Jamaica must travel to the US or another country to receive the rabies vaccination required by most destination countries.

Jamaica is NOT on the CDC high-risk rabies country list.

Unverified Items

- Current GCT rate and additional levies could not be verified against a current Jamaican government source (TAJ website was unreachable). The 16.5% GCT rate from the FIDI guide

(2020) may have changed.

- The FIDI guide's Trade Board import licence portal URL could not be verified (returns a login page, which is expected behaviour).
- Whether the 5-year vehicle age limit has been adjusted since 2020 could not be independently confirmed. The destination agent should verify current limits.

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.

C.27 form is critical: Must be completed upon arrival at the airport/seaport. Without this form, customs clearance cannot proceed. The form is valid for 3 months; renew if the shipment is delayed. Obtain extracts if multiple shipments are expected.

Owner must be in Jamaica for clearance. This is non-negotiable for non-diplomatic shipments.

Vehicle import licence: Must be obtained from the Trade Board BEFORE the vehicle is shipped. Failure to have this licence on arrival will cause significant delays.

Pet pre-notification: Required twice (3 weeks and 72 hours before arrival). The preliminary application must be approved before proceeding with parasite treatments.

Physical examination: All non-diplomatic shipments are physically examined at the stripping station. Duty is assessed based on what customs finds, not just what the inventory states.

Cultural & Other Information

Jamaica is an English-speaking Caribbean island nation. The currency is the Jamaican dollar (JMD). Driving is on the left. The electrical system uses both 110V and 220V at 50 cycles, which may cause compatibility issues with appliances from 60-cycle countries (US, Canada). Jamaica is a member of CARICOM (Caribbean Community).

Key government links:

- OpenFactBook -- Jamaica: <https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/jamaica/> (verified 200)
- Wikipedia -- Jamaica: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaica> (verified 403 to bots; works in browser)
- Jamaica Customs Agency: <https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/> (verified 200)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <https://www.mfaft.gov.jm/> (verified 200)

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Jamaica](#)

<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Jamaica&lat=18.1096&lng=-77.2975&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Jamaica>

- [Foreign Embassies in Jamaica](#)

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

- [Jamaica Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

<https://www.mfaft.gov.jm/>

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

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

- [Wikipedia](#)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaica>

- [Jamaica Customs Agency \(JCA\)](#)

<https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/>

- [JCA Restricted Items](#)

<https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/service/restricted-items>

- [JCA Prohibited Items](#)

<https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/service/prohibited-items>

- [RADA \(Rural Agricultural Development Authority\)](#)

<https://www.rada.gov.jm/>

- [PetTravel.com -- Jamaica](#)

<https://www.pettravel.com/information/pet-passports/jamaica-pet-import-requirements/>

- [Trade.gov -- Jamaica Import Requirements](#)

<https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/jamaica-import-requirements-and-documentation>

- [VisaHQ -- Jamaica Customs](#)

<https://www.visahq.com/jamaica/customs/>

- [Trade Board Import Licence Portal](#)

<https://tbis.fsl.org.jm/WebImports/Security/TradeLogin.jsp>

(returns login page, expected behaviour)