

Oman

CAPITAL Muscat	OFFICIAL LANGUAGE Arabic	CURRENCY Omani rial (OMR)
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Guide version: V2 draft

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.

Documents

Required Documents

- **Copy of passport including the page showing the Oman visa stamp**
- **Copy of Oman residence visa and Residence Card (front and back), issued by the Royal Oman Police**
- **Original Bill of Lading (OBL), or copy of B/L in the case of an Express Release or Sea Waybill; Air Waybill (AWB) for air shipments**
- **Fully detailed inventory in English (Customs does not accept "PBO" or similar generic entries -- all items must be individually described)**
- **Authorization letter from the consignee authorizing the destination agent to clear the shipment**
- **Client's Oman mobile number (required for BAYAN e-clearance system registration)**
- **Duty Exemption Certificate issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (diplomatic shipments only)**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Approximate customs clearance times:

A valid Oman residence visa is required for customs clearance. The consignee must be registered in the BAYAN e-customs system before the shipment arrives. This can be done by the consignee personally if present in Oman, or by the local destination agent through the Directorate General of Customs. The destination agent can provide full details and assist with registration.

Used household goods are duty-free if the items have been owned and used for a minimum of 6 months. New items within a shipment are subject to a 5% customs duty. All personal effects shipments are subject to 100% physical inspection by customs authorities.

Multiple shipments may be imported at any time; there is no restriction on the number of entries.

All wood crating, packing cases, and lift vans must be heat treated and bear a clearly visible ISPM 15 stamp. Wood packaging with timber thickness exceeding 6 mm that is not treated and stamped will not be admitted, and non-compliance can result in fines and penalties.

A small quantity of dry foodstuff may be included as part of removal goods, provided items are in original sealed packaging with expiry dates clearly visible and the expiry date is well beyond the arrival date. Perishable foodstuff is prohibited.

Books, films, audio/video materials, CDs, records, computer software, and similar media are detained by customs on arrival for censorship screening by the Ministry of Information. This process takes approximately 3 weeks. If material is found unsuitable, it will be destroyed and the consignee may be fined. Items should be packed separately and near the container doors for easy access. Any detained prohibited articles may be destroyed without the consignee's consent.

Sea FCL: 6-7 business days; Sea LCL: 7-9 business days; Air: 4-5 business days.

During Ramadan: Sea FCL: 8-9 business days; Sea LCL: 10-12 business days; Air: 5-6 working days.

Customs and port authorities allow 7 days free storage for FCL shipments (some shipping lines such as Maersk allow only 5 days), 15 days for LCL, and 3 days for air shipments. Storage charges apply after these periods.

Fridays and Saturdays are non-working days for Customs.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Alcoholic beverages (wine, spirits, beer, and any similar product). Strictly prohibited for all non-diplomatic shipments; if found, heavy duties and penalties apply and the shipment may be detained pending refusal of release. Diplomatic shipments may import alcohol only with prior written permission from the relevant Ministry and must be handled directly by the embassy.
- Narcotics and drugs (medicines in reasonable personal quantities are permitted with inspection)
- Pornographic literature, videos, films, pictures, and any nude imagery of any kind
- Products of Israeli origin
- Political or religious literature, statues, or imagery deemed offensive to the Omani government or the Islamic faith (requires prior approval from the Ministry of Information for restricted items)
- Explosives, firearms, ammunition, knives, swords, daggers, spears, and similar weapons, including toy guns and decorative items of this nature (subject to confiscation without exception)
- Military uniforms and equipment (prohibited unless prior approval is received from the Ministry of Defence)
- Wireless and communications equipment including walkie-talkie systems, remote or cordless telephones, and telescopes **[PERMIT REQUIRED]**
- Drones and remotely piloted aircraft
- E-cigarettes and vaping devices
- Perishable foodstuff
- Objects made of ivory or any endangered species **[CITES]**
- Aircraft and helicopters (without prior authorization)
- Pets younger than 4 months old

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Oman is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The standard GCC external tariff is 5% on most goods. Alcohol is prohibited for all non-diplomatic shipments. There is no intra-GCC free movement equivalent for household goods import purposes; all shipments are subject to Omani customs processing.

Books, DVDs, videos, CDs, and digital media: All such items are subject to censorship clearance by the Ministry of Information upon arrival. Clearance takes approximately 3-4 weeks and may incur additional charges. Items deemed unsuitable may be confiscated and destroyed.

Medicines and prescription drugs: Permitted in reasonable quantities for personal use but subject to inspection and possible analysis. Quantities beyond personal use require prior authorization from the Ministry of Health.

Dry foodstuffs: Small quantities permitted as part of removal goods in original sealed packaging with a clearly visible, future-dated expiry. Perishable foodstuff is prohibited entirely.

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Proof of ownership (original vehicle registration papers and/or purchase receipt)**
- **Copy of passport**
- **Copy of Oman visa**
- **Copy of Oman Residence Card (consignee)**
- **Certificate of Export from the country of origin**
- **Authorization letter from the consignee to clear the vehicle on their behalf**
- **Original Bill of Lading**
- **Statistical report (BAYAN/MAKASA report from country of origin, required for GCC vehicles claiming duty exemption)**
- **Proof of insurance (must be obtained at least 24 hours before vehicle arrival in Muscat)**

Specific Information

All motor vehicles, motorcycles, and trailers must be left-hand drive and manufactured to comply with GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) specifications. Vehicles older than 7 years from the date of manufacture cannot be imported.

All vehicles are subject to a minimum 5% customs duty. Non-compliance with documentation requirements may result in confiscation or financial penalties.

Insurance must be obtained at least 24 hours before the vehicle arrives in Muscat. The destination agent will file insurance documents with Customs.

Upon customs clearance, Customs issues a green form that the consignee must submit to the Royal Oman Police for vehicle registration. Destination agents are generally not involved in the registration process itself but can assist for an additional fee.

For vehicles from GCC countries: Vehicles registered within 1 year in another GCC country may be admitted duty-free, provided they were not originally imported under a duty-free scheme and are accompanied by a statistical/BAYAN report (MAKASA) from the country of origin confirming duty was paid there. The original statistical report must be filed with Oman Customs. No Ministry of Commerce permission is required for GCC-origin vehicle imports.

Pets

Requirements

- **Import Permit from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Department of Animal Health (must be obtained before shipping)**
- **Veterinary health certificate issued by the health authorities in the country of origin**
- **Vaccination record confirming rabies vaccination administered no less than 1 month and no more than 6 months before the travel date**
- **Authorization letter from the consignee to clear the pets on their behalf**

Specific Information

The Import Permit is an online application and must be submitted along with a copy of the pet's rabies vaccination record and health certificate. The permit can be obtained through a local sponsor in Oman and must be secured before the pet is shipped.

Pets less than 4 months old are not permitted entry.

When transported by air as cargo (rather than as accompanied baggage), pets must be manifested as cargo on an Air Waybill.

Confirm current requirements and species/breed restrictions with the destination agent and the Ministry of Agriculture prior to shipping, as regulations can change.

Consignment Instructions

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

All shipments must pass through the BAYAN e-customs system. The consignee must be registered in BAYAN before the shipment arrives; the destination agent can assist with this process.

Inventories must be fully detailed in English; generic entries such as "PBO" (packed by owner) are not accepted by Oman Customs and will delay clearance.

Load media items (books, CDs, DVDs, videos) and any restricted items near the container doors to facilitate customs access and censorship screening.

Do not include alcohol in any shipment. Even trace quantities will trigger penalties, detention, and potential refusal of the entire consignment.

Allow for extended clearance times during Ramadan (see Section 1 for specific timeframes). Free storage periods at the port are relatively short; coordinate arrival timing with the destination agent to avoid demurrage.

Insurance for vehicles must be arranged at least 24 hours before the vessel arrives in Muscat. The destination agent should be informed well in advance to coordinate.

For diplomatic shipments, a Duty Exemption Certificate from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is required and must be arranged before shipping.

Cultural & Other Information

Oman (officially the Sultanate of Oman) occupies the southeastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula, bordered by the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and the Arabian Sea. The capital and main port of entry is Muscat. Arabic is the official language; English is widely used in business. The currency is the Omani Rial (OMR), which is pegged to the US Dollar at approximately 1 OMR to 2.60 USD.

Oman is a monarchy governed by Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, who succeeded Sultan Qaboos in January 2020. The country has historically maintained a policy of neutrality and dialogue in regional affairs, making it an important diplomatic hub. Islam is the state religion and shapes both law and daily life.

For expatriates, Oman is generally regarded as one of the more accessible Gulf states. Alcohol is available only in licensed hotels and restaurants; it cannot be imported in personal shipments. Non-Muslims may consume alcohol in designated venues. Business hours typically run Sunday through Thursday; Fridays and Saturdays are the weekend. Dress modestly in public, particularly outside Muscat.

Key Resources:

- [OpenFactBook -- Oman](#)

- [Wikipedia -- Oman](#)
- [Directorate General of Customs \(customs.gov.om\)](#)
- [Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources \(maf.gov.om\)](#) *(WAF-protected; accessible in browser)*
- [Royal Oman Police -- Vehicle Registration \(rop.gov.om\)](#)
- [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman \(fm.gov.om\)](#)
- [FIDI Import Customs Guide -- Oman \(January 2024\)](#)

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Oman](#)
<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Oman&lat=21.51&lng=55.92&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Oman>
- [Foreign Embassies in Oman](#)
<https://www.embassypages.com/oman>
- [Oman's Embassies Abroad](#)
<https://www.fm.gov.om/en/ministry/embassies/embassies-and-consulates-abroad/>

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