



The Gambia

CAPITAL

Banjul

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

English

CURRENCY

the Gambian dalasi (GMD)

Last verified: June 2026 | **Guide version:** 2.0 (original IAM guide November 2016; updated and expanded)

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 conditions: Used household goods are imported tax-free with the exception of all electrical and hi-fi appliances, which are subject to duties regardless of age or condition. New items purchased less than 6 months before import require original invoices and are subject to full duties.

Documents

Required Documents

- **Copy of passport**
- **Packing list**
- **Original bill of lading (OBL) / air waybill (AWB)**

- **Original detailed inventory in English, dated, valued, and signed by the owner of the goods**
- **Invoices for new electrical and hi-fi appliances (if applicable)**
- **Residence permit / work permit / letter of employment**
- **Non-sale certificate (must state that the owner of the goods will not sell personal items)**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Processing fee and ECOWAS tax: All shipments are subject to a 1.5% CIF processing fee plus a 0.55% ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) tax. These apply even to otherwise duty-free shipments and are based on the CIF value.

Customs inspection: Most removal shipments are opened and physically checked by Customs. Clients should be advised that this is standard procedure, not an indication of a problem.

Diplomatic shipments: The destination agent must receive all required customs documents prior to the shipment's arrival to obtain free entry clearance. This applies to both household goods and vehicles.

ECOWAS membership: The Gambia is a member of ECOWAS. The Common External Tariff (CET) applies to imports from outside the ECOWAS zone. Goods from other ECOWAS member states may benefit from preferential tariff treatment.

Language: English is the official language. All documents should be in English.

Currency: Gambian dalasi (GMD).

ISPM 15: Wood packaging materials (pallets, crates, dunnage) should comply with ISPM 15 standards. Non-compliant wood packaging may cause delays.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Unlawful drugs / illegal drugs
- Pornographic material
- Knives and deadly weapons
- Counterfeit money and goods

- Meat, poultry, and many other animal products
- Plants, parts thereof, and plant produce including trees and shrubs (without authorization)
- Radio-communication equipment not approved for use in The Gambia

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Traveller allowances:

- 200 cigarettes OR 50 cigars OR 500 grams of tobacco
- 1 litre of wine, 1 litre of beer
- Other goods up to D1,000 (Gambian dalasi) in value. Contact agent for current details.

Firearms, explosives, and ammunition: Authorization from the Inspector General of Police is required before import. Items will be held by police until the permit is issued.

Vegetables, fruits, plants: Some vegetables (including potatoes), fruit, bulbs, and seeds require authorization before import.

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Copy of passport**
- **Original registration card**
- **Original invoice / letter of sale (for used cars)**
- **Original bill of lading / air waybill**
- **Residence / work permit / letter of employment**
- **Non-sale certificate**

Specific Information

Vehicle import duties are substantial. The following taxes and duties apply, calculated cumulatively on the CIF value:

- 35% revenue tax (on CIF value)
- 18% duty (on CIF value)
- 10% sales tax (calculated on the combined duty + CIF value)
- 1.5% CIF processing fee

- 0.05% ECOWAS levy

The effective total tax burden on a vehicle import is approximately 65-70% of the CIF value when all components are combined. This makes The Gambia one of the more expensive West African destinations for vehicle imports.

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

Pets

Requirements

- **ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip (REQUIRED per PetTravel.com; not mentioned in the IAM guide)**

Per PetTravel.com (February 2026) and the IAM guide:

- **Rabies vaccination certificate (vaccination administered between 30 days and 12 months before arrival)**

Per PetTravel.com (February 2026) and the IAM guide:

- **Rabies titer (serology) test, unless arriving from a country classified as rabies-free by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Must be administered at least 30 days after the rabies vaccination.**

Per PetTravel.com (February 2026) and the IAM guide:

- **Veterinary health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian in the origin country shortly before travel, endorsed by the government authority responsible for animal exports**

Per PetTravel.com (February 2026) and the IAM guide:

- **Import permit: obtained from the Gambian Veterinary Department upon arrival (not required in advance)**

Per PetTravel.com (February 2026) and the IAM guide:

Specific Information

Microchip required: PetTravel.com (February 2026) states all dogs and cats entering The Gambia must be identified with an ISO-compliant microchip. The IAM guide (2016) does not mention microchipping. Use the PetTravel.com guidance as the more current requirement.

Rabies titer test required: Unlike many West African countries, The Gambia requires a rabies titer test for pets arriving from countries that are not classified as rabies-free. The test must be administered at least 30 days after the primary or booster rabies vaccination.

Minimum age of import: 5 months. Puppies and kittens under 3 months cannot be vaccinated for rabies, and must then wait 30 days after vaccination plus complete the titer test. The effective minimum import age is 5 months. This is stricter than most West African countries.

Registration required on arrival: All pets must be registered with the Gambian Veterinary Department upon entry into the country. This registration functions as the import permit.

No quarantine: The Gambia does not quarantine pets that meet all documentation requirements. Pets that do not conform may be quarantined (if facilities available), returned to origin, or euthanized at the importer's expense.

No banned breeds: The Gambia does not publish a list of banned dog breeds.

CDC high-risk rabies country: The Gambia IS on the U.S. CDC's list of high-risk countries for dog rabies. This affects anyone returning to the U.S. with a dog. U.S.-vaccinated dogs must have a Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination form completed before departing the U.S. Source: [CDC High-Risk Countries List](#) -- verified, Gambia listed.

Port of entry: Banjul International Airport. Pets can arrive as cabin baggage, checked baggage, or air cargo depending on airline policies.

Common mistakes: Not having the microchip implanted before vaccinations begin (the IAM guide omits this requirement entirely). Not allowing enough time for the rabies titer test (30 days post-vaccination, plus lab processing time). Attempting to import puppies or kittens under 5 months of age. Not planning for the CDC requirements when returning a dog to the U.S. from The Gambia.

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.

Customs inspection is routine: Advise clients that most shipments are opened and physically inspected. This is standard practice in The Gambia, and the inventory should be thorough enough to withstand item-by-item comparison.

Port of entry: The primary port is the Port of Banjul. Banjul International Airport handles air freight. The Gambia's geography (a narrow strip of land along the Gambia River, surrounded by Senegal on three sides) means some overland shipments may transit through Senegal.

Transit through Senegal: Shipments arriving at Dakar port (Senegal) for onward road transport to The Gambia must clear Senegalese transit customs. This adds time and potential costs. Direct shipping to Banjul is preferable when available.

Cultural & Other Information

- **OpenFactBook (replaces CIA World Factbook):** [The Gambia](#) -- verified 200 (slug is "the-gambia")
- **Wikipedia:** [The Gambia](#) -- verified 403 to bots, works in browser
- **Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA):** [gra.gm](#) -- verified 200 (customs and tax authority)
- **Gambian Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** [mofa.gov.gm](#) -- resolves and TLS-connects normally; returns 503 to this proxy (standard WAF block), browser-accessible

Key country facts: The Gambia is the smallest country on mainland Africa, a narrow strip of land along the Gambia River entirely surrounded by Senegal except for its Atlantic coastline. The capital is Banjul. The official language is English. The currency is the Gambian dalasi (GMD). The Gambia is a member of ECOWAS. The economy relies on agriculture (groundnuts/peanuts), tourism, and re-export trade. Driving is on the right-hand side. The country name is officially "The Gambia" with a capital T.

Important notes for movers: The most significant finding from cross-referencing is the pet import requirements. PetTravel.com (2026) adds a mandatory microchip requirement and a rabies titer test that the 2016 IAM guide does not mention. The 5-month minimum age for puppies/kittens is unusually strict for West Africa. Vehicle import costs are high (approximately 65-70% of CIF when all taxes are combined), which should be clearly communicated to clients during the quoting process. The routine customs inspection of all shipments means the inventory must be detailed and accurate. The transit-through-Senegal scenario for shipments that cannot reach Banjul port directly adds a layer of logistical complexity.

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in The Gambia](#)
<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Gambia&lat=13.4432&lng=-15.3101&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Gambia>
- [Foreign Embassies in The Gambia](#)
<https://www.embassypages.com/gambia>
- [The Gambia's Embassies Abroad](#)
<https://www.mofa.gov.gm>
- [OpenFactBook \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](#)
<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/the-gambia/>

- [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Gambia)

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