

Jamaica Country Guide



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Country Guide: Jamaica

Due to the current coronavirus/COVID-19 situation and restrictions in various countries, the below information may not be accurate. This pandemic is a fluid situation. Check with authorities for local laws and restrictions concerning movements.

Updated: November 16, 2016

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Used Household Goods and Personal Effects

Documents Required

- Copy of passport (data page and landing stamp) (2 copies)
- Work permit or residence permit if not a Jamaican citizen
- Unconditional stamp if Jamaican and arriving on foreign passport
- Tax compliance certificate for import of auto / commercial goods
- Tax registration number
- Inventory / packing list
- Unaccompanied baggage declaration form (C.27) provided at the airport upon arrival in Jamaica or at Customs interview
- Letter of employment
- Returning residents must also provide the following documents:
 - Customs declaration form (C.5) provided to the Customs officer at the time of arrival
 - Letternotarized by a J.P. confirming place of residence if staying with a friend or relative or a copy of rental / lease agreement, etc.
 - Documents proving customer has lived outside of Jamaica for more than 3 years
 - Document stating Customer's intention to re-establish permanent residence in Jamaica
 - Letter of separation from employer at origin (foreigners)
 - Tax returns for the last 3 years (foreigners)
 - Pay stubs, W2, P45 (foreigners)
 - Invoices or bills from residence abroad (foreigners)
 - Copy of retirement papers / pension advice, P60 (foreigners)
 - Evidence of the disposal of property owned (foreigners)
 - Copy of sale of agreement / purchase agreement (foreigners)
 - Evidence of property acquired (returning citizens)
 - Copy of utility bill, such as electric bill, water bill, etc. (returning citizens)
- Tax receipt (returning citizens)
- Lease agreement (returning citizens)
- Evidence of employment (returning citizens)
- Letter from institution attended (returning students)
- Copy of 1-20 ID (returning students)
- Copy of transcript (returning students)
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Original bill of lading (OBL) / air waybill (AWB)

IAM Note: All documents should be originals or stamped by the J.P. as true copies.

Specific Information

- The owner of the goods must be in Jamaica during Customs clearance. Returning residents may import one new appliance or electronic equipment / computer, used household goods and tools of trade duty-free.
- Duty charges are determined after the examination of goods by Customs at the stripping station and are based on the CIF value.

They are generally between 5% to 40% plus taxes of approximately 23.8% compounded, depending on the item assessed.

- Electrical and electronics equipment may not be compatible with the Jamaica electrical system 220 / 110V 50 cycle.

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required

- Passport
- OBL
- Import license (which must be obtained prior to import)
- Driver's license (the owner of the goods can drive in Jamaica for 12 months before a Jamaican license is required)
- Insurance certificate
- Certificate of title or registration documents
- Vehicles require an invoice detailing the model, accessories and CIF value
- Tax compliance certificate
- Import entry C78

Specific Information

- Used vehicles cannot be more than 5 years old and are taxable. A
- Customs broker must clear motor vehicles.

Pets

Documents Required

- Vaccination record
- Veterinary health certificate
- Permit from the veterinary division of the Ministry of Agriculture (must be obtained prior to import)

Specific Information

- Quarantine may be required.
- Only dogs and cats born and bred in the United Kingdom can be imported.

Restricted/Dutiable Items

- New items (dutiable if less than 6 months old for non-returning residents and invoices must be provided)
- Firearms and ammunition (except where prior permission has been obtained from the Commissioner of Police and Trade Administrator) and drugs.

Prohibited Items

Drugs

Consignment Instructions

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

Cultural and Other Information

CIA World Factbook
Wikipedia Entry for Jamaica

IAM Note: Customs regulations can change at any time with or without notice. This document is provided as a guide and for information only. While IAM has exercised reasonable care in publishing this document, IAM makes no representation, either expressed or implied, as to its accuracy or applicability.