



# BERMUDA

*travel tips*



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## Transportation to Bermuda

**BY AIR:** For information on baggage allowances and carry-ons, please check with your travel professional or directly with the airline you will travel on as these specifics can vary from airline to airline.

### From USA

- **American Airlines** – non-stop from New York (JFK) and Miami.
- **Continental Airlines** – non-stop from New York (Newark)
- **Delta Air Lines** – non-stop from Boston and Atlanta.
- **jetBlue** – non-stop from New York (JFK); from Boston seasonal.
- **United Airlines** – Chicago seasonal.
- **US Airways** – non-stop from Washington D.C. and Philadelphia; from Charlotte, North Carolina seasonal.
- **USA 3000** – non-stop from Baltimore (BWI).



### From Canada

- **Air Canada** – non-stop from Toronto (from Halifax Saturdays only Feb. to Sept.) with connecting services through out Canada, USA and Europe.

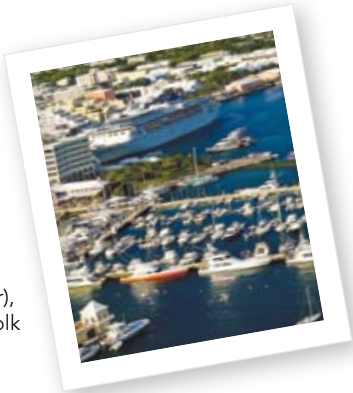
### From UK

- **British Airways** – non-stop from London (Gatwick).

**BY SEA:** Free baggage allowance for normal personal luggage.

### From USA – weekly services:

- **Norwegian Cruise Line**  
*Norwegian Dawn* from New York (May – October),  
*Norwegian Majesty* from Charleston (May – October),  
*Norwegian Spirit* from Boston (May – October),
- **Royal Caribbean International**  
*Explorer of the Seas* from Cape Liberty, NJ (May – October),  
*Grandeur of the Seas* from Norfolk (May – November);
- **Princess Cruises**  
*Caribbean Princess* from St. Thomas, British Virgin Islands to New York (May – October).



Periodic sailings of other cruise ships leaving from USA and UK ports available.

**Note:** Your travel professional can obtain all the details on air and sea schedules from the original port of departure, connecting points and fare structures, and can make all your travel arrangements. In addition, you are welcome to call 1.800.bermuda or visit [www.bermudatourism.com](http://www.bermudatourism.com).

## Travel Documents

A **Return or Onward Ticket**, or other proof of onward transportation to a country to which the passenger has right of entry, is required of all visitors.

**Proof of Citizenship and Identification.** All travellers must carry with them proof of citizenship and personal identification (including government issued photo ID) relevant to a return to their own country or for re-entry through another foreign country, as required by Bermuda Immigration authorities. This applies to adults and children travelling alone or with their parents – see Requirements for Children for additional notes on children travelling with an adult other than a parent and/or in the process of adoption.

**Visitors from the USA** must present a valid, machine-readable US Passport.

**Visitors from Canada** must present a valid machine-readable Canadian Passport.

**Visitors from UK and Western Europe** must present a valid, machine-readable Passport of their country.

### Note:

- As of 8th January, 2007, U.S. citizens, including infants and children, returning to the USA must have a valid passport. From this date, passports will be the only recognised travel documents for American travellers returning to the USA.
- Foreign citizens not in possession of a Passport may be refused entry into Bermuda.
- Driver's licence is not acceptable as proof of citizenship.
- Neither Bermuda nor US Immigration authorities accept a notarised copy of a birth certificate, or similar non-government document as proof of citizenship.
- Married women whose identification documents are in their maiden name but who are travelling under their married name should also carry their marriage certificate or certified copy as further proof of identity.

**Requirements for Children:** (see also Proof of Citizenship and Identification, above)

- (1) Children travelling with an adult other than a parent must be in possession of the travel documents specified above along with a letter from a parent authorising the adult to accompany the child for the trip.
- (2) Parents of adopted children should be particularly careful that they carry with them the proper documents for their adopted children, especially if the children are of a different nationality. Parents in the process of adopting children are advised not to leave their country with the children until all the legalities and paperwork have been finalised.
- (3) Children entering Bermuda for the purpose of adoption must be in possession of documents from the Bermuda Department of Immigration confirming they have been cleared for entry into Bermuda.

**Remember, a valid passport is always the best document for any traveller to carry.**

**Length of Stay:** Most bonafide visitors with a confirmed return ticket and place of accommodation will have no difficulties with Bermuda Immigration Control.

There is a special Secondary Immigration Control section at the airport to deal with any arriving passengers who are in unusual circumstances. Bermuda Immigration authorities may restrict the length of stay, for example; passengers arriving with an open return ticket will have a time limit imposed upon them.

An application to extend length of stay must be made in person either at Secondary Immigration Control on arrival, or with an Immigration Inspector at Immigration Headquarters in the City of Hamilton between 9:00 a.m. and noon on any working day – no appointment required.

Passengers who arrive with only a one-way ticket into Bermuda will not be admitted unless prior Bermuda Immigration authorisation has been given.

People wishing to enter Bermuda for the purpose of residence, employment or for an indefinite period, will not be permitted to land unless they have prior authorisation from Bermuda Immigration authorities to do so.

**Visas:** Nationals of the following countries require Visas: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China (Peoples' Republic of)\*, Croatia, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, FYROM (former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia), Georgia, Ghana, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea (Dem. People's Rep.), Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Moldova (Rep. of), Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Somalia, Soviet Union (former), Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates (Abu' Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras al Khaimah, Sharjah, Ummal Qaiwain), Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Yemen.

\* Holders of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passports or British National (Overseas) Passports do not require Visas for Bermuda.

**Note:** An exception will be made for a visitor who has a valid Passport and proof of a right to reside in the United States, Canada or the United Kingdom. For an American resident, that means a Permanent Resident Card is required. A Canadian resident must have their Permanent Resident Card. A United Kingdom resident must be able to show that no limit has been placed on his or her stay in the United Kingdom. Those who require Visas to enter other countries on departure from Bermuda must have those Visas prior to arrival in Bermuda.

Visas to enter Bermuda may be obtained from the Visa Section of a British Embassy, British High Commission, British Consulate or other British Foreign Service establishment abroad. For more information visit [www.immigration.gov.bm](http://www.immigration.gov.bm).

## *Passenger Tax*

All persons, visitors and residents alike, are taxable under the Miscellaneous Taxes Act, 1976 (visit [www.taxbermuda.gov.bm](http://www.taxbermuda.gov.bm)).

**Air Passengers** \$35 - included with the airfare and collected in advance. Those in direct transit and children under 2 years exempt.

**Cruise Ship Passengers** Between April 1 and October 30, \$20 per passenger for each period of 24 hours or any part thereof that the ship remains in Bermuda from the time it docks at its initial port of entry to the time when it departs from its last port of call in Bermuda, up to a maximum of \$60  
Passenger Cabin Tax - \$14 per passenger per night from May 1 to August 31; \$10 per night per passenger from September 1 to October 31.  
Passenger Taxes collected in advance by the cruise ship company. Children under 2 years exempt.

**Note:** Fees quoted in effect since April 2008.

## *H.M. Customs, Bermuda*

Visitors entering Bermuda may bring in for their personal use and consumption:

**Duty free:** personal clothing and effects including sports equipment, cameras, golf bags, etc., also, 50 cigars, 200 cigarettes, .5 kgs tobacco, 1 litre liquor, 1 litre wine, and a \$30 gift allowance.

**Dutiable items:** up to 50 lbs. of meat and other foodstuffs brought in as passenger baggage are dutiable at the rate of 25% of the value.

All plants, fruits and vegetables will be held for inspection as their importation is strictly regulated.

Animals (pets) arriving without proper documentation will be refused entry and returned to the port of origin. There is no quarantine facility in Bermuda.

Do not import plants, fruits, vegetables or animals without an import permit from the Department of Environmental Protection.

- Bermuda's fisheries laws prohibit the importation of all live marine animals by private individuals – they will be seized on arrival by Bermuda Customs.
- Only prepared fresh, frozen or cooked fish or shellfish can be brought into the Island providing the packaging is free of algae or seaweed.

**Note:** Clearance of merchandise and sales materials for use by conventions must be arranged in advance with the Bermuda Department of Tourism. For more information visit [www.customs.gov.bm](http://www.customs.gov.bm).

## Currency

Legal tender is the Bermuda dollar, which trades equivalent to the US dollar. US currency is accepted at shops, restaurants and hotels at equal (face) value. Other foreign currencies are not accepted, except at local banks where they can be exchanged at rates that are set daily.

**Cash (US)** Accepted island-wide.

**Cheque Cashing** Personal cheques drawn on US banks may be used for purchases at over 200 establishments on the Island. US cheques may be cashed at some hotels or local banks by arrangement. The Bermuda Financial Network will cash US\$ cheques for a 3% fee at its Hamilton location, tel (441) 292-1799.

**Credit Cards** MasterCard, VISA and American Express are accepted at virtually every store, restaurant and hotel and VISA and MasterCard may be used for cash advances at all local bank branches. In addition, the Bank of Bermuda and the Butterfield Bank provide ATMs located island-wide for MasterCard, VISA, Cirrus and Plus cash advances, most of which are available 24-hours a day. Enquiries about American Express should be directed to the Bermuda Financial Network, tel (441) 292-1799.

**Travellers' Cheques (US)** Accepted island-wide.

**Western Union** The Bermuda Financial Network allows you to send or receive money in minutes via Western Union money transfer services located on 133 Front Street in Hamilton, tel (441) 292-1799.



## *Misuse of Drugs Act*

Importation of, possession of, or dealing with unlawful drugs (including marijuana) is an offence. Anyone contravening this Act may be imprisoned or fined heavily, or both. The Government of Bermuda is very concerned about the scourge of drugs and the negative impact it can have on its community. The laws in Bermuda pertaining to the importation of drugs are designed to protect the local people as well as the visitor. We urge visitors not to try to import into these islands any drugs, or any uncustomed goods for that matter, as such action could cause embarrassment at the Bermuda airport or seaports and ruin what should be the start of a very enjoyable holiday. The penalties for smuggling are severe.

**Note:** Under the Revenue Act Customs Officers may, if they have reasonable cause to suspect the importation of drugs, conduct personal body searches for drugs and other uncustomed goods. Under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act every medically prescribed drug or medication must be voluntarily declared to a Customs Officer.

## *Firearms Act*

The importation of any firearm, part of a firearm or ammunition into Bermuda is forbidden, except under the authority of a licence granted by the Commissioner of Police. Such a permit will not ordinarily be granted except to visiting rifle club members attending a sports meeting. Spearguns and a variety of weapons are treated as firearms, but antique weapon manufactured over 100 years ago can be imported if the importer can show they are antique. For yachtsmen, under the terms of this Act, a Very pistol or signal gun are classed as firearms.

It is a serious criminal offence to import firearms or ammunition into Bermuda without a licence, and anyone seeking to do so may be imprisoned or fined.

## *General Information*

**Baby Sitters** Enquire in advance from the management of your visitor accommodation for sitters and special services.

**Beaches** Between May 15 and October 31, lifeguards are stationed at Horseshoe Bay; May 24 to Labour Day life guards are stationed at John Smith's Bay, Clearwater Beach and Turtle Bay, daily, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. All other public beaches unattended. There are no nude or semi-nude beaches in Bermuda.

**Communications** Bermuda provides state-of-the-art telephone, fax, internet, wireless and wireless roaming services. Check with your cellular provider to see if your wireless phone will work in Bermuda. Direct dialling is possible to and from the Island. Worldwide and international prepaid calling cards can be purchased locally. To call Bermuda, dial: 1 - 441 and the phone number.

**Daylight Savings Time DST** is from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November (in effect since 2007).

**Electricity** 110 volts, 60 cycles AC.

**Hay Fever** Bermuda's climate is relatively favourable to hay fever sufferers. Ragweed is non-existent and pollens of other weeds are quickly blown out to sea.

**Hotel Check-out Time** is generally 12 noon. Hotel Check-in Time is generally 3 p.m.

**Hotel Occupancy Tax** All room rates, regardless of meal plan chosen, will be subject to 7.25% Bermuda Government Tax, to be paid in Bermuda on check-out from your hotel.

**Legal Drinking Age** for consuming alcoholic beverages in Bermuda is 18 years.

**Standard Time** in Bermuda is Greenwich Mean Time minus four hours.

**Tipping** In cases where the gratuity is not included in the bill, 15% is the generally accepted amount for most services. A large number of the hotels and guest houses add a percentage or set amount per person per day in lieu of tips to the accommodation bill.

## Transportation in Bermuda

There are no 'drive-yourself' cars for hire but visitors get about easily by taxi, bus, mini-bus, ferry and motor-scooters (no driver's licence is required).

Bus passengers must have exact change in coins. Ask about bus tokens or books of bus/ferry tickets at your visitor accommodation, the Central Terminal in Hamilton or the GPO and sub-post offices. Take advantage of the very popular and convenient Transportation Pass available for 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 consecutive days unlimited use on the buses and ferries (sold at the Central Terminal and some Visitor Information Centres).

Children under 16 years may not drive motor-scooters. All cycle drivers and passengers are required by law to wear safety helmets securely fastened.

We drive on the left-hand side of the road.

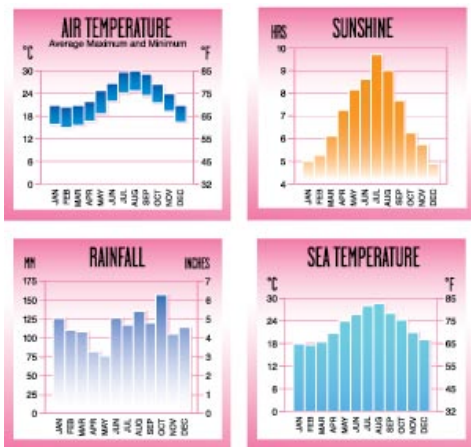
Speed limit is 20 mph (35 kph). Cyclists should note that gas stations are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, with several open until 11 p.m. or later.

Taxis may be hired by the hour, day or mile (full day = 6 consecutive daylight hours). Rates per cab same for 1 person up to a maximum of 6 for normal transportation and general sightseeing. Special all inclusive pre-sold tours vary in price per person. All taxis are metered and the tariff fixed by law. Certified "Blue Flag" taxi tour guides are available on request for touring.

## Climate

Bermuda is a sub-tropical island about 650 miles (1046 kilometres) east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. The Gulf Stream which flows between Bermuda and the North American continent provides the Island with two seasons, Spring and Summer, neither being too hot or too cold.

**Weather Observations** Average conditions. Source: Bermuda Weather Service.



Bermuda has no rainy season as such and there is no normal month of excess rain. Showers may be heavy at times but the skies usually clear quickly. The weather does not often interfere with the enjoyment of outdoor sports and recreation. Summer temperatures prevail from May to mid-November, with the warmest weather in July, August and September.

The thermometer rarely rises above 85° F (29.5°C) – perfect for swimming and all water sports. The monthly average relative humidity ranges between 70% and 85%. There is nearly always a cool breeze at night and all accommodations have air-conditioners or ceiling fans. Spring-like temperatures give us cooler weather from mid-December to late March, with average high temperatures near 68° F (20°C). Very often the months of December and January provide ideal conditions for scuba diving and golf.

Changes of season: mid-November through December, and late March through April; either Spring or Summer weather may occur and visitors should be prepared for both.

The threat of hurricanes cannot be discounted, but since Bermuda is a small target most storms brush by and only bring highwinds and some surf. For climatological information visit [www.weather.bm](http://www.weather.bm).

## *Clothing*

The atmosphere in Bermuda visitor accommodations, and indeed of Bermuda itself, is one of British reserve and dignified informality. Therefore, there are certain 'customs of dress' which you will want to know.

**Dress Code** As a rule of thumb, dress conservatively. Bathing suits, abbreviated tops and short shorts are not acceptable except at beaches and pools. There are no nude or semi-nude beaches. In public (including public areas of hotels) beach wear must be covered. Bare feet are not acceptable anywhere in public.

**Casual sportswear** is acceptable in restaurants at lunch time but some restaurants and nightclubs in and out of hotels may request gentlemen to wear a jacket and tie in the evenings. It is best to check on dress requirements when making reservations as most places do have casual evenings periodically.

**Formal Dress** not necessary except for specific personal needs. Tuxedos, morning suits, evening tails may be rented, but accessories must be purchased.

**Warmer Months** May to mid-November. Summer-weight sports clothes, swimsuits, a raincoat or light weight wind breaker. Evenings – casual elegant cottons: ladies, light dressy sweater or wrap and cocktail-type outfits; gentlemen, a sports jacket and tie.

**Cooler Months** December to late March. Light woollens or fall-weight casuals, sweaters, raincoat and warmer jacket, wind breaker or coat, with swimsuit for warmer days. Evenings – casual elegant lightweight woollens; ladies, dressier sweater or wrap and cocktail-type outfits; gentlemen, a suit or sports jacket and tie.

**Changes of Season** Mid-November through December and late-March through April. Either Spring or Summer weather may occur and a combination of the two above suggestions should be ideal.



## *Shopping*

Shopping is excellent and interesting in Bermuda. You'll find a great variety of imported merchandise such as French perfumes, English bone china, Swiss watches, Danish silver and jewellery, cameras, Irish linen, Scottish tweeds, Italian silks, cashmere sweaters, leather goods, liquor and liqueurs, and dozens of other intriguing values.

There are lots of Bermuda-made articles including handcrafts, pottery, cedarware, blown glass, fashions and paintings by local artists. Browsing through picturesque shops will bring surprises, good values and many souvenirs. Bathing suits, sports clothes and sun straws are other good buys and perhaps more fun to get while you're in Bermuda.



## Visitors' Duty Free Allowances: USA, Canada and UK

Visitors to Bermuda are permitted to take back merchandise, duty free.

**US Customs and Border Protection** has a preclearance facility in the L. F. Wade International Airport. All passengers departing to the US must fill out written declaration forms in Bermuda before clearing US Customs and Border Protection. These forms are available at travel agencies and airlines in Bermuda.

**US Citizens' Allowance** (visit [www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel)) \$800 after 48 hours and every 30 days (exemption includes 200 cigarettes, 100 non-Cuban cigars).

**Canadian Citizens' Allowance** (visit [www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)) \$50 after 24 hours any time, \$400 after 48 hours any time or \$750 after 7 days any time.

**UK Citizens' Allowance** (visit [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)) £145 – Full value will be charged on goods over this value.

**Note:** Plant materials which will propagate are not permitted entry without prior permission from your own country. Also, it is advisable to check your own liquor laws before coming to Bermuda.

Remember, there is nothing to stop anyone from buying more than their duty free allowance. The duty you pay is often very reasonable and makes it worthwhile.

## Public Holidays & Calendar of Events

**Public Holidays** observed by Bermuda:

- New Year's Day, Good Friday, Labour Day, Remembrance Day and Christmas Day

There are also public holidays on:

- |                        |               |               |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| • Bermuda Day          | May 25, 2009  | May 24, 2010  |
| • Emancipation Day     | July 30, 2009 | July 29, 2010 |
| • Somers' Day          | July 31, 2009 | July 30, 2010 |
| • National Heroes' Day | Oct 12, 2009  | Oct 11, 2010  |
| • Boxing Day           | Dec 26, 2009  | Dec 26, 2010  |

**Note:** On public holidays and Sundays in Bermuda all businesses, some shops and restaurants close. Buses and ferry boats operate on limited schedules. Entertainment, sightseeing and sporting activities are available, however.

**Calendar of Events.** In addition to our signature events, Bermuda has something to offer her visitors all year. There are many events that are vacation highlights, some spectator events while others welcome visitor participation. Visit our website [www.bermudatourism.com](http://www.bermudatourism.com) for a complete listing.



**Bermuda's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** An historically significant milestone for Bermuda in 2009: 400 years of continuous habitation. In honour of this anniversary, special events are planned all year long that will showcase Bermuda's people and culture. Visit [www.bermuda2009.com](http://www.bermuda2009.com).

**Tall Ships 2009.** The Tall Ships will be in Bermuda to help celebrate Bermuda's 400th Anniversary. The 'Atlantic Challenge 2009' begins from Vigo, Spain and ends in Belfast, Northern Ireland and includes Bermuda, June 11 - 14, 2009. The Tall Ships will create a colourful spectacle in Hamilton Harbour for four days and also on their departure on June 15 in the Parade of Sail. Visit [www.tallshipsbermuda.com](http://www.tallshipsbermuda.com).



The Bermuda Department of Tourism has done its best to ensure and verify that details herein are correct at the time of printing (October 2008), however, terms of reference and information are subject to error and changes without notice.

## *Bermuda*

**Bermuda Department of Tourism**  
Global House, 43 Church Street  
Hamilton HM 12  
Bermuda  
Tel: 441 292 0023

## *North America*

**Tel:** 1 212 818 9800 or 1 800 223 6106 (USA)  
**E-mail:** [travel@bermudatourism.com](mailto:travel@bermudatourism.com)

## *Europe*

**Tel:** (0) 800 883 0857 (UK)  
**E-mail:** [ukEurope@bermudatourism.com](mailto:ukEurope@bermudatourism.com)

For more information, additional brochures or to book a Bermuda vacation you are welcome to call or visit:

[1.800.bermuda](tel:1800bermuda)  
[www.bermudatourism.com](http://www.bermudatourism.com)



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