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## Immigration Regulations • Bermuda



### RETURN OR ONWARD TICKET



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.

### PASSPORTS



Passports are the preferred document for entry into Bermuda and are required of all visitors from countries that require a passport for re-entry purposes or for entry through another country to which the passenger has right of entry.

### 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 concerning children who are travelling with an adult other than a parent and/or are in the process of adoption.

**Visitors from the USA** must present any one of the following items of identification (including photo ID):

- U.S. Passport (if expired it should be of sufficiently recent vintage so that the photograph resembles the bearer);
- Birth Certificate with a raised seal or official stamp, together with photo ID issued by a competent municipal authority, or certified copy, with photo ID (photo ID is often not available for children aged 16 years or under who are travelling with their parents);
- U.S. Re-entry Permit;
- U.S. Naturalisation Certificate;
- U.S. Permanent Resident Card (refer also to Visas later in this document).

**NOTE:** From 31st December, 2005, U.S. citizens returning to the U.S. must have valid passports. From this date, passports will be the only recognised travel document for American travellers returning to the U.S.

**Visitors from Canada** must present any one of the following items of identification:

- Valid Canadian Passport;
- Birth Certificate or certified copy, together with photo ID; or
- for people born outside of Canada, a Canadian Certificate of Citizenship, or Canadian Permanent Resident Card.

**Visitors from the U.K. and Western Europe** must present a valid passport from their country.



Whatever the visitor's country of origin, three things should be stressed:

- Driver's licence is not acceptable as proof of citizenship;
- Foreign citizens not bearing one of the listed documents may be refused entry into Bermuda (specific requirements can be obtained from your own Immigration Department);
- Neither Bermuda nor US Immigration Authorities accept a notarised copy of a hospital 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 on previous page)

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.

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.

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 bona fide 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 length of stay, for example, passengers arriving with an open return ticket will have a time limit imposed upon them. An application to extend the length of stay must be made in person either at the Secondary Immigration Control on arrival, or by appointment with an Immigration Inspector at Immigration Headquarters in the City of Hamilton.

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.

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**Visiting Yachts and Their Crews.** H.M. Customs may give permission for a vessel to remain in Bermuda waters for an extended period. Yachtsmen are advised not to confuse this permission with the separate and specific permission required, from the Department of Immigration, by each individual to remain in Bermuda beyond the usual 21 days.

During the Hurricane Season, from 1st June to 30th November, visiting yachtsmen may be given permission to stay in Bermuda for up to five months so as to provide safe haven.

A yachtsman wishing to avail himself or herself of this privilege must submit, to the Department of Immigration, proof:

- of citizenship
- of the means to repatriate himself or herself by air, should the need arise
- of health insurance
- in writing, that he or she will not seek or take up employment in Bermuda.

VISAS



Nationals of the following countries require Bermuda entry visas. Signed into policy by the Minister of Labour, Home Affairs and Public Safety with effect from 15th September, 2004, this list replaces that which was issued on 15th January, 2003.

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

\* 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 a Canadian 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.

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Visas to enter Bermuda may be obtained from the Visa Section of a British Embassy, British High Commission, Consulate or other British Foreign Service establishment abroad.

STATELESS PERSONS

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Stateless Persons (persons who have no national status) should be in possession of a document and visa allowing them to return to the country from which they departed, or to another country willing to accept them on a residential basis.

RESIDENT NON-BERMUDIANS

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Resident non-Bermudians who are employed in Bermuda must use their "Confirmation of Re-entry" document to get back into Bermuda. Family members who live in Bermuda without a work permit, must obtain a re-entry permit through the permit holder's employer before leaving.

EMPLOYMENT

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Employment in Bermuda of non-Bermudians is prohibited without the permission of the Minister of Labour, Home Affairs and Public Safety, and possession of a Work Permit. Visitors to Bermuda are not allowed to take any form of employment, nor are they allowed to look for employment and/or permission to work while they are on the Island.

DOMESTIC HELP

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Those who wish to import their own domestic helpers may not do so without first advertising the vacancy three times in local newspapers. If no Bermudian can be found to fill the vacancy, then the prospective employer must apply to the Chief Immigration Officer in writing in advance of arrival .

SALESMEN ENTERING BERMUDA

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Refer to the section on Salesmen's Permits in the Information Sheet entitled "Customs Regulations - Bermuda".

NON-BERMUDIAN ENTERTAINERS



The hotel, nightclub or other organisation importing such people for temporary employment must apply in advance and in writing to the Chief Immigration Officer. If non-Bermudian entertainers wish to bring with them photographs, recordings or other materials for sale, they must obtain Immigration permission to do business in Bermuda and must also pay a non-refundable duty on the items involved.

The foregoing gives a general outline of Bermuda Immigration procedures. There are a number of exceptions under the Immigration Act, for example, in relation to Civil Servants and their dependants. In case of doubt, applicants should refer to:

**Department of Immigration**

Ministry of Labour, Home Affairs and Public Safety

P.O. Box HM 1364

Hamilton HM FX

Bermuda

Tel: (441) 295-5151

Fax: (441) 295-4115

Email: [mbrewer@gov.bm](mailto:mbrewer@gov.bm)

Web: [www.immigration.gov.bm](http://www.immigration.gov.bm)

NOTE: All fees and conditions are subject to change without notice. Information was correct at the time of production, May 2005.

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