



Caring for
your world.

Your
relocation
guide to
Kuwait



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Memb No: A091



TELEPHONE:	Country code (965) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT +3 Hours
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	380/220/127v, 3 phase, 50Hz
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	Inoculation against typhoid, polio and brucellosis recommended
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, 24, Feb 25, 26, Jun 5, Aug 8, Oct 15, Nov 4
OFFICE HOURS:	07.30-14.00 Saturday – Wednesday They do vary between companies
BANK HOURS:	08.00-13.00 Saturday – Wednesday
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	109 – Police, Ambulance and Emergency
UK EMBASSY IN KUWAIT:	British Embassy PO Box 2 Safat 13001 Kuwait Tel: (965) 2259 4320 Fax: (+965) 2259 4359 Web: http://ukinkuwait.fco.gov.uk/en/
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Department of Tourism Ministry of Information PO Box 193, 13002 Safa Kuwait Tel: 243 6644 Fax: 242 9758
KUWAIT EMBASSY IN LONDON:	Kuwait Embassy 2 Albert Gate, Knightsbridge London SW1X 7JU Tel: 0207 590 3400 Fax: 0207 823 1712 Web: http://kuwait.embassyhomepage.com/

Customs

To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household goods and personal effects into Kuwait. However, it is advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.

Household Goods

Documents required to clear USED HHG via sea freight:

- Delivery Order from the Shipping Line
- Packing list
- 2 x Company Authorisation Letters from local sponsor company (consignee will need to arrange will local sponsor) – formats will be provided to client
- Itimad towkia copy from local sponsor company (consignee will need to arrange)
- Passport copy of consignee
- Work permit copy from consignee (in Arabic it's called "Izanamal") – Consignee will need to request their HR contact for this document
- Valid Kuwaiti Residence copy (Stamped in passport) from consignee with minimum one year validity
- Civil ID copy from consignee

Only when each and every document as stated above is available at destination, then only the below document Temp import license will be issued to consignee by the local Chamber of Commerce in Kuwait.

- Temporary Import License

When all of the above documents are available, then only your destination agent can proceed with import approvals at Kuwait Customs.

Documents required to clear USED HHG via air freight:

- Passport copy – picture page
- Packing list
- Airway bill
- Entry visa copy
- Kuwait civil ID if available
- Authorisation letter in Arabic
- Passport copy – picture page
- Temporary Work Entry Visa / NOC Copy (A4 Size Work/ Entry Visa) duly stamped by the Kuwait Immigration upon arrival to Kuwait

Duty free entry is allowed only for a Total Cost and Freight. Value not exceeding \$1,000 on value of shipment as estimated by Customs.

The documents required to Customs clear the shipment have to be provided at least 5 days prior to the arrival of the shipment.

Sea freight: 5% customs duty is also applicable on all non-diplomatic sea imports.

Kuwait customs have decided to charge customs duty on each and every sea import shipment.

Shipment must be consigned direct in the name of the owner on all documentation.

Diplomats removals

Documents required:

- Bill of Lading
- Inventory in Arabic
- Copy of personal identity document or card issued by Embassy
- Packing list
- Copy of Importer's passport
- Copy of Importer's Kuwait personal identity card or diplomatic identity card issued by the Embassy
- Exemption certificate from Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kuwait

Duty free entry.

All types of liquor, wine, beer making kits and pork products are prohibited.

New furniture and household goods

Documents required:

- Import licence
- Certificate of Origin – showing complete name and address of manufacturer
- Invoice
- Packing list (both invoice and certificate of origin to be legalised by Arab Chamber of commerce and visaed by Kuwait Embassy or Consulate at origin)

Customs duty 5% of Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) value on items not manufactured in Kuwait.

On all other items wherein a similar product is manufactured in Kuwait the duty will range from 15 to 22%.

Motor vehicles, motorcycles and caravans

Document required:

- Temporary import permit issued by Kuwait Ministry of Commerce (valid for 30 days)

Only diplomats and Kuwaiti Citizens are allowed to import their cars into Kuwait. Expatriates are not allowed to import the car.

Prohibited to import used motor vehicle more than 5 years old into Kuwait.

Personal Computers

Computer modems are subject to registration and an initial fee levied by the Ministry of Communication of approximately US\$400.00 and a renewable fee of US\$400.00 per annum.

Please note that this is not a Customs requirement but a requirement of the Ministry of Communication administered by the Department of Customs.

Prohibited Items (Including Diplomats)

Liquor, wine, beer making kits, pork products, weapons, antique weapons, pornographic books and magazines, walkie talkies, radios, narcotics, drugs, incitements.

Besides these items being confiscated, owner is liable to be detained pending legal action.

Books, audio/video tapes and music records are all allowed but are censored.

All types of materials and products connected with or manufactured by Israel.

Items manufactured by Companies on Israeli Boycott list such as CBS, RCA, Columbia are confiscated.

Inclusion of medicines and drugs in the shipment invariably cause delays in clearance as a special release order is required from Ministry of Health.

Dogs, Cats and Birds

Document required:

- Health certificate

Food

We strongly recommend that shippers be advised not to ship any commercially prepared and purchased food product with your unaccompanied personal goods.

This includes: wines, spirits, beer, cider, spices, herbs, canned packed or wrapped foods, pet food, pastas, rice, food supplements, vitamins, fruit juices, carbonated / non carbonated drinks, milk, perishable foods, dry foods and any other item intended for human or animal consumption.

If the shipper insists on shipping food items, the specified information below must be gathered and provided for each food item imported. If the information is not provided, the food items may face refusal of entry, requiring segregation / manipulation of the shipment under customs supervision at a bonded facility, at substantial additional cost. Costs could be in the thousands of dollars and can not be anticipated. These costs will be the responsibility of the client.

- Product brand name
- Product classification
- Country of production
- Country of packaging
- Type of product (canned, bottled, packaged)

- Quantity

Ask for **Atlantic form QF565** for completing.

General Information on the State of Kuwait

Background

Kuwait has been ruled by the AL-SABAH dynasty since the 18th century. The threat of Ottoman invasion in 1899 prompted Amir Mubarak AL-SABAH to seek protection from Britain, ceding foreign and defense responsibility to Britain until 1961, when the country attained its independence. Kuwait was attacked and overrun by Iraq on 2 August 1990. Following several weeks of aerial bombardment, a US-led UN coalition began a ground assault on 23 February 1991 that liberated Kuwait in four days. Kuwait spent more than \$5 billion to repair oil infrastructure damaged during 1990-91. The AL-SABAH family returned to power in 1991 and established one of the most independent legislatures in the Arab World. The country witnessed the historic election in 2009 of four women to its National Assembly. Amid the 2010-11 uprisings and protests across the Arab world, stateless Arabs, known as bidoon, staged small protests in February and March 2011 demanding citizenship, jobs, and other benefits available to Kuwaiti nationals. Youth activist groups – supported by opposition legislators - rallied repeatedly in 2011 for the prime minister's dismissal amid allegations of widespread government corruption, ultimately prompting the prime minister to resign in late 2011. Demonstrations, following a short lull, renewed in late 2012 in response to an Amiri decree amending the electoral law to reduce the number of votes per person from four to one. The opposition, led by a coalition of Sunni Islamists, tribalists, some liberals, and myriad youth groups, largely boycotted legislative elections in 2012 and 2013, which ushered in a legislature more amenable to the government's agenda. Since coming to power in 2006, the Amir has dissolved the National Assembly on five occasions (the Constitutional Court annulled the Assembly in June 2012 and again in June 2013) and shuffled the cabinet over a dozen times, usually citing political stagnation and gridlock between the legislature and the government.

Geography

Kuwait is situated northeast of Saudi Arabia at the northern end of the Persian Gulf, south of Iraq. It is slightly larger than Hawaii. The low-lying desert land is mainly sandy and barren.

There are nine islands off its coastline, the largest is Bubiyan on the north coast, which is uninhabited marshland.

The mainland of Kuwait is almost entirely flat desert. Most of the soil is heavily infused with salt, which means that only 9% of the area is good for agriculture. Natural salt-free drinking water is virtually non-existent. Nearly all of Kuwait's drinking water is produced by removing salt from sea water.

Environmental Current Issues

There is limited natural fresh water resources. Some of the worlds largest and most sophisticated desalination facilities provide much of the water. There is air and water pollution and desertification.

International disputes with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are continuing their negotiations for a joint maritime boundary with Iran. No maritime boundary exists with Iraq in the Persian Gulf.

Climate

Intense hot summers, dry desert with short cool winters. The average daily temperature is about 33°C. Temperatures are much higher during the summer months between May and October, while the humidity is very low.

It almost never rains during the summer. Temperatures are more moderate in winter. This is when Kuwait receives its annual rainfall of 25 to 175 mm. Sandstorms are common and can last several days.

Population

This is estimated at 2,418,000 of which approximately 1,291,000 are non-nationals. The population growth rate of 3.52% reflects a return to pre-gulf crisis immigration of expatriates.

Currency

Kuwait Dinar (KD) = 1000 fils. Notes are in denominations of KD20, 10, 5 and 1, and 500 and 250 fils. Coins are in denominations of 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1 fils.

Economy

Kuwait has a geographically small, but wealthy, relatively open economy with crude oil reserves of about 102 billion barrels - more than 6% of world reserves. Kuwaiti officials plan to increase oil production to 4 million barrels per day by 2020. Petroleum accounts for over half of GDP, 94% of export revenues, and 90% of government income.

In 2015, Kuwait, for the first time in 15 years, realized a budget deficit after decades of high oil prices. Kuwaiti authorities have tried to reduce the deficit by decreasing spending on subsidies for the local population, but with limited success. Despite Kuwait's dependence on oil, the government has cushioned itself against the impact of lower oil prices, by saving annually at least 10% of government revenue in the Fund for Future Generations.

Kuwait has failed to diversify its economy or bolster the private sector, because of a poor business climate, a large public sector that crowds out private employment of Kuwaiti nationals, and an acrimonious relationship between the National Assembly and the executive branch that has stymied most economic reforms. The Kuwaiti Government has made little progress on its long-term economic development plan first passed in 2010. While the government planned to spend up to \$104 billion over four years to diversify the

economy, attract more investment, and boost private sector participation in the economy, many of the projects did not materialise because of an uncertain political situation.

Religion

Islam is the official religion of Kuwait and is practiced in the many Mosques throughout the population. Muslims are 85% (Sunni 70%, Shia 30%). There are also churches for Christian residents, Hindu, Parsi and other.

Language

The official language is Arabic. English is also widely spoken especially in business, banking and big shopping centres.

Health

The health services of Kuwait are of high standards and accessible to all citizens.

Education

Kuwait has put large funds into its educational system. The general level of education among the population is high, and this applies to both sexes. Education is free and compulsory for all. Kuwait has one university, with 15,500 students, the Kuwait University. Around 2,000 Kuwaitis study abroad.

Kuwait's level of illiteracy is seriously addressed by the government, and there are centres for schooling of adults, attended by about 2% of the total population.

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date we cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.