



**Section 1 of this document gives a brief overview of the country, whilst section 2 contains the customs requirements.**

**Section 1 – BAHRAIN OVERVIEW**

Bahrain is the Arabic term for “two seas”, referring to the freshwater springs that are found within the salty seas surrounding it. The Pearl of the Gulf, Kingdom of Bahrain is a small island-nation located just off the Arabian Peninsula. Bahrain is considered by the ancient Sumerians to be an island paradise for the wise and the brave were transported there to enjoy eternal life. Bahrain’s strategic location in the Arabian Gulf has brought rule and influence from the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, and the Arabs, under whom the island became Islamic. The Kingdom of Bahrain is an archipelago of 33 islands in the Arabian Gulf, situated between Saudi Arabia’s east coast and the Qatar peninsula. At the centre of the island is the highest point, Jebel Dukhan. The majority of Bahrain’s oil wells are to be found in this area. The main island has the valuable asset of an adequate supply of fresh water, unique in the region, both on land and offshore. There are extensive date gardens to the north with irrigated vegetable and fruit gardens. The strategic 24km- (15-mile-) long King Fahad Causeway links Bahrain with Saudi Arabia, and shortly the new future Qatar-Bahrain causeway will be completed in 2014.

To find out more about the Kingdom of Bahrain why not visit <http://www.bahrain.bh/wps/portal>

**Section 2 - REQUIREMENTS FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY OF HOUSEHOLD AND RELATED EFFECTS IMPORTED BY THE OWNER**

**IMPORTING PERSONAL EFFECTS**

Shipments of used household and personal effects may be imported duty free provided the shipper has owned and used them prior to shipment. Returning Bahrain citizens will pay duty of 5% on the value of the shipment. Your local Simpsons partner will be able to provide you with detailed customs regulations. All necessary documentation must be completed and submitted when requested, before your shipment is dispatched. Please note that you must be in the country in order to successfully complete all customs clearance procedures when the shipment arrives. All consignments will be inspected by Bahrain Customs during the clearance process.

**DOCUMENTATION**

Simpsons and our agents will assist you with completion of the customs formalities. To assist us with this please let us have:

- a colour copy of your passport
- a colour copy of your residence permit (unless you are a returning Bahrain citizen). Duty will be charged if you do not have a residence permit for 2 years min
- a copy of your property lease agreement
- proof of employment ( not mandatory but preferred)

All other required documentation will be supplied to you on arrival and to avoid any potential additional charges and delays, it is advisable all the forms are completed and returned promptly to our Agents.

**PROHIBITIONS**

You should not attempt to import the following items (fines and imprisonment are the norm if you do):

- Firearms & ammunition
- Weapons such as swords and large knives and including spear guns
- Military uniform and equipment including decorative or toy items
- Products of Israeli origin or anything relating to Israel
- Inflammable or explosive goods & substances
- Plants & plant material, fresh fruit and flowers

- Pearls
- Foodstuffs, perishables or otherwise in large quantities including spices
- Alcohol, narcotics, psychotropic drugs and dangerous goods
- Offensive or pornographic material (all cd's, dvd's, videos, books, magazines and photos are screened by the Ministry of Information for any defamatory reference to Islam and usually take 14-28 days to be returned to the owner if all clear)
- Religious books (except those dealing with Islamic faith) and political literature offensive to the Bahrain government
- Large quantities of medicines (medication will be retained by Customs and checked by the Ministry of Health)
- Radio transmitters and communications equipment including radio controlled toys
- Statues or carvings of the human body
- Statues and figures of animals with religious undertones
- Packages suspected of containing prohibited items will be kept by Customs for further scrutiny

### **TRANSIT TIMES**

Groupage or shared containers usually take an average of 7-11 weeks door to door. However, this can vary depending on volumes being shipped, customs or immigration delays and prevailing weather conditions. Sole use container loads take on average 6 weeks door to door. Please note Bahrain Customs offices are closed every Friday and Saturday.

### **MOTOR VEHICLES**

The import of Motor Vehicles is subject to duty being at the time of importation. Duty will be charged at 5% of the landed vehicle value but is at the discretion of the local customs office. Examination is mandatory.

### **USEFUL CONTACTS**

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