



Importing Personal Property Into Djibouti

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Used household goods and personal effects may be imported but are subject to duty. The client does not need to be physically present during clearance; however, he/she should be in the country should any issues arise. Goods must be imported within six months of arrival. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay. Documents must be received by the Destination Agent at least 15 days prior to arrival of the shipment. Customs clearance takes 10 – 30 days. Consult the Destination Agent to ensure all requirements have been met, particularly the differences regarding air/ocean shipments.

Returning nationals without diplomatic status are subject to pay duty and taxes.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport & Visa - copy
- ✓ Residence Permit – applicable if staying beyond 1 year
- ✓ Evidence of Yellow Fever vaccination
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – dated & signed by client
- ✓ Pack list
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Employer Letter – Contract of Employment or Letter of Transfer
- ✓ Change of Residence – for Returning Nationals

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted duty free entry of their personal effects and household goods. This applies to one ocean and one air shipment. Subsequent shipments will incur duty. All documents must arrive to the Destination Agent 15 days prior to arrival to obtain free entry from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport & Diplomatic Card - copy
- ✓ Pack List – values in Euros (suggest to undervalue goods for Customs purpose)
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter of Request – once approved, grants duty free entry

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – consult destination agent, must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Prescription medications – consult destination agent
- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco; in excess of these amounts incurs duty
- ✓ Perfume – 50g, eau de toilette 250ml; in excess of these amounts incurs duty

- ✓ Alcohol – 1L of spirits over 22%, 2L of spirits under 22% 2L of wine per person over 17yrs of age; in excess of these amounts incurs duty

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Firearms, knives, explosives, ammunitions and any other weapons
- ✓ Photography equipment – may lead to confiscation and/or arrest

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Consult Destination Agent for required documents and processes.

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Consult Destination Agent for required documents and processes.

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: Visas obtained prior to travel are one year, multiple entry visas. Evidence of Yellow Fever vaccination is required. The validity of the Djiboutian visa is also the amount of time one may stay in the country without a residency permit. Residency Permits are required if one is staying over one year. U.S. citizen contractors affiliated with Camp Lemonnier are not required to obtain an entry visa. U.S. citizen journalists or any U.S. citizen connected with the media must contact the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs section prior to travel to facilitate entry into Djibouti. U.S. citizens are encouraged to carry a photocopy of their U.S. passport with them at all times to prove identity and U.S. citizenship if questioned by local officials. Airport, visa and customs fees must be paid in cash.

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Safety & Security: US citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, to stay current with the latest safety and security announcements dispersed by the Embassy in your area. Your enrollment can also help the Department of State reach your family and friends in case of emergency. Djibouti's international borders are porous and regional terrorist groups pose serious dangers in east Africa, especially Somalia. Regional al-Qaeda affiliate al-Shabaab, poses a particular threat to U.S. citizens in Djibouti. U.S. citizens traveling in East Africa should be aware of the potential for indiscriminate attacks on civilian targets in public places, hotels and tourist sites where Westerners are known to congregate. Kidnapping of Westerners for ransom is a growing concern in the region. Pirates and other criminals have specifically targeted and kidnapped foreigners working in Somalia. Even the measure of hiring security is not failsafe as there is evidence some of these security agencies work with the terrorists. Seaborne travel near Djibouti is extremely dangerous. There have been hundreds of incidents of armed attacks and robberies at sea by pirate groups on ships transiting around the Horn of Africa. In the event that seaborne travel is unavoidable, vessels should convoy in groups and maintain good communications contact at all times. And travel in trafficked sea-lanes when possible.

Crime: the majority of crimes are petty theft and crimes of opportunity. Anecdotal evidence suggests an increasing frequency of violent crimes against Djiboutian citizens and burglaries of residences in established neighborhoods. Foreigners are frequent victims of snatch-and-grab robberies and price gouging by unscrupulous taxi drivers.

Currency: The Djiboutan franc is the local currency Djibouti is a cash-based economy and credit cards are not widely accepted. Automated teller machines (ATMs) are limited. Changing money on the street is legal, but be aware of possible scams as well as personal safety considerations if people observe you carrying large amounts of cash. The exchange rate on the street will be similar to that at a bank or hotel. U.S. banknotes printed before 2003 may not be accepted at many currency exchanges.

Health: Yellow fever, malaria, and dengue fever are prevalent. Tuberculosis is a serious concern along with polio, which was documented in Somalia and Ethiopia. Proper precautions should be taken prior to arrival. Ambulance service is limited in effectiveness, must be scheduled and paid for in advance and is only a means of transportation. One should purchase medical evacuation insurance. Hospitals in Djibouti require up-front cash payment for services and do not have service agreements with U.S. insurance companies. Cash payment will be requested in-full before one is allowed to depart the hospital – reimbursement may then be requested by the U.S. citizen through their insurance company in the states.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: As of this posting Djibouti does not impose ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

US Embassy Djibouti: <http://djibouti.usembassy.gov/>

Department of State: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/djibouti.html>

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

IATA Travel Centre

Visa HQ.com

The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of publishing and is frequently subject to change without notice. It is the responsibility of the owner or importer of the household goods to comply with the current customs restrictions, regulations, and duties of the country to which the goods are imported. We strongly advise customers to contact the consulate or embassy of the destination country for the most current information on customs regulations, restrictions and duties for importing household goods, personal effects and vehicles.