Checking Out Campaign – June 2019

If you’re a British National and leaving Bahrain soon, there are a few things you may need to consider

Bank Accounts, Credit cards and loans
Remember to clear all your debts before you leave Bahrain. Non-payment of a debt is a criminal offence and could result in arrest and a possible prison sentence. If you have outstanding debts you may not be able to leave the country or you may be stopped and arrested if you try to come back to, or even transit through.

- Cancel any credit cards, loans and overdrafts with the bank. It can take up to 2 months to complete all the paperwork
- Close any bank accounts if no longer required
- Request a bank clearance letter for your employer
- Leave a forwarding address for any future correspondence

Employment & Visas
If your contract is coming to an end, you will need to hand over your passport temporarily to your employer who will cancel your residence visa.

- Failure to do so could delay your departure or mean you are marked on the immigration system as an absconder
- Request your gratuity payout statement and payment from your employer. The Embassy does not get involved in employment disputes. Please contact the Ministry of Labour and refer to our website for a list of Lawyers should you need one https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bahrain-list-of-lawyers
- Return medical cards

Accommodation
- Give notice to your landlord in accordance with your lease
- Request and collect utilities clearance certificates
- Collect any deposits outstanding from the utility or phone companies
- Cancel your contracts with your mobile phone, internet and TV providers
- Cancel any newspapers or other services delivered to your door
- Cancel your home contents insurance policy

Cars and possessions
- Sell your car before you leave or leave a Power of Attorney with a friend or colleague to sell it for you. If you do use a Power of Attorney, you will need a local lawyer to advise you on this. Please refer to our website for a list of Lawyers https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bahrain-list-of-lawyers
- Check for any outstanding traffic fines https://www.bahrain.bh
- Your insurance company may offer a rebate when the car is sold
- Get quotes for removals. It can take 6 weeks or longer to ship your belongings to the UK
Decide what you are taking and either organise a sale to dispose of the rest or contact one of the companies that offer a house clearance service.

Journey back to the UK

- Book departure flights as far in advance as possible and make sure your passport is valid.
  [https://www.gov.uk/overseas-passports](https://www.gov.uk/overseas-passports)
- Find out what your airline’s excess baggage limits are, as excess baggage charges can be expensive.
- If you have children enrolled in a school in Bahrain, ensure you give sufficient notice in accordance with the school’s admission policy and so that they are able to prepare a transfer letter or certificate for your onward base.
- If you are a pet owner, make sure you leave enough time to complete all of the necessary preparations and have all the correct paperwork to take your pets with you. For the UK, check out the documents required on the Gov.uk website [https://www.gov.uk/pet-travel-information-for-pet-owners](https://www.gov.uk/pet-travel-information-for-pet-owners). If you are not able to take your pet with you, leave sufficient time to re-home your pet, especially as charity organisations in Bahrain are not able to foster or find a new home for every unwanted pet.

How to keep in touch with us:

Tel: 00973 17574100 (Option 2 consular)

Webform: [www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-manama](http://www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-manama)

Embassy’s website: [www.gov.uk/world/bahrain](http://www.gov.uk/world/bahrain)

Travel Advice [https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)

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