



# Macau (Macao SAR)

**CAPITAL**

—

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**

—

**CURRENCY**

—

**Guide version:** V2 draft**Disclaimer**

This Country Guide reflects information believed to be correct at the time of publication. Regulations, procedures and charges are subject to change. IAM does not accept liability for errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misinterpretations in this guide. The information provided should not be considered as having been provided or sanctioned by the customs authorities of the country or territory concerned.

## Important Note

Current requirements are among the most complex in Asia: microchip must be implanted at least 6 months before entry, a rabies titer test is required for pets from high-rabies countries and must be completed more than 3 months before entry, pets from high-rabies countries must route through Hong Kong first (with separate HK permit), and five breeds are banned. The restricted items section has been updated with current duty rates. The motor vehicle section (used cars cannot be imported; new cars require a professional importer and attract substantial tax) is retained from the baseline as it remains accurate.

## Documents

### Required Documents

- **Copy of passport**
- **Detailed inventory**

- **Packing list with a detailed inventory including quantity, brand name, unit price, and CIF (cost, insurance, freight) value — required before the shipment's arrival**
- **Original OBL or AWB, with name matching exactly that in the passport**

## Household Goods — Specific Information

---

**Air Shipments:** All air shipments are physically inspected by Customs at the air terminal. Average clearance time after arrival is approximately 1 to 2 days.

**Sea Shipments from within Asia:** Will normally undergo a physical Customs inspection. Average clearance time is 2 to 4 days for FCL and 4 to 6 days for LCL.

**Sea Shipments from outside Asia:** Will not normally undergo Customs inspection and are typically available for delivery within 2 to 3 days for FCL and 3 to 5 days for LCL.

**Macau's Customs Status:** Macau is a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China with its own customs territory, separate from mainland China and Hong Kong. Goods entering Macau from mainland China, Hong Kong, or any other origin are treated as imports subject to Macau customs procedures.

**ISPM 15:** All wooden packing materials must comply with ISPM 15 phytosanitary treatment standards.

## Prohibited / Restricted Items

---

### Prohibited Items

- Illegal drugs and narcotics
- Knives and deadly weapons (without authorization)
- Endangered species of animals and plants **[CITES]**
- Radioactive substances
- Counterfeit goods
- Pornographic materials

### Restricted / Dutiable Items

The following items are subject to duties or special requirements when imported into Macau. Personal-use allowances apply to accompanied traveler baggage:

**Tobacco:**

- Cigarettes: 200 duty-free; MOP 0.20 per cigarette plus 10% of FOB value for amounts above the allowance
- Cigars (each not exceeding 3 g): 50 duty-free; MOP 280 per kilogram plus 10% of FOB value for excess
- Cigarillos: 100 duty-free
- Pipe tobacco: 250 g duty-free
- A detailed inventory including quantity, brand name, unit price, and CIF value is required before shipment arrival

**Alcohol:**

- Grape wine and beverages with alcohol content not exceeding 30% ABV: 1 liter duty-free; wine and liquor at or below 30% ABV is duty-free
- Beverages with alcohol content exceeding 30% ABV: 1 liter duty-free; excess is charged at MOP 20.00 per liter plus 10% of FOB value
- A detailed wine inventory with quantity, brand name, volume, price per bottle, and total value is required; FOB value must be verified by the Economic Department in Macau

**Firearms, explosives, and ammunition:** A firearm certificate from the Macau Police Department is required. **[PERMIT REQUIRED]**

**Drugs and medicines:** May only be imported as accompanied personal baggage. Commercial pharmaceutical imports require separate authorization.

**Personal computers (including laptops):** May only contain original software under copyright law. Software piracy is strictly enforced.

## Vehicles

---

**Vehicle Documents**

- **Original purchase invoice**
- **Certificate of insurance**
- **OBL / AWB**

## Specific Information

Used automobiles cannot be imported into Macau. New vehicles — both left-hand and right-hand drive — may be imported, but must be handled by a professional automobile importer. New vehicles are subject to a substantial government tax. Confirm current tax rates with the destination agent before any vehicle shipment is arranged.

## Pets

---

### Requirements

- **Dogs: distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, influenza, Lyme disease, parvovirus**

3. Additional vaccinations:

- **Cats: feline viral rhinotracheitis, panleukopenia, feline leukemia**

3. Additional vaccinations:

### Specific Information

Planning for a move to Macau with a pet from a high-rabies country requires a minimum of 6 months of advance preparation.

1. ISO 11784/11785-compliant 15-digit microchip — must be implanted **at least 6 months** before entry into Macau; if the microchip cannot be read, the pet will not be allowed to enter; tattoos are no longer accepted
1. Rabies vaccination (inactivated vaccine only) administered **after** the microchip is implanted; if the pet was vaccinated before microchipping, it must be vaccinated again; pets must not be vaccinated before 3 months of age
1. Rabies antibody titer test — required for pets from any country **except** those where there have been no incidents of rabies in the past 2 years; test must be administered no sooner than 30 days after the rabies vaccination, and results must be obtained **more than 3 months before entry** into Macau; samples must be sent to an approved laboratory
1. Parasite treatment (recommended but not required); record on health certificate
1. International health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian and endorsed by a government veterinarian in the country of origin, completed shortly before entry
1. Import permit from the Division of Animal Control and Inspection — must be applied for in Macau by the owner, owner's representative, or a local agent; valid for 30 days from date of

issuance

**Quarantine:** Pets from rabies-free countries or countries with a low incidence of rabies are not quarantined if all requirements are met. Pets from high-rabies countries must enter via Hong Kong and meet Hong Kong import requirements first (see below).

**High-Rabies Country Routing:** Pets from high-rabies countries cannot enter Macau directly. They must first meet the pet import requirements for Hong Kong, then continue to Macau. When transiting through Hong Kong to Macau, the Macau import approval must be submitted to the Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to obtain permission for the pet to transit. This process takes more than 3 months and must be planned well in advance.

**Total Lead Time:** For pets from high-rabies countries, the minimum preparation timeline is approximately 6 months: microchip implanted, followed by rabies vaccination, followed by titer test (at least 30 days post-vaccination), followed by more than 3 months waiting before entry. Begin planning no later than 6 to 7 months before the intended move date.

**Banned Breeds:** The following dog breeds and their crosses are prohibited from import into Macau: Tibetan Mastiff, Fila Brasileiro, Dogo Argentino, Pit Bull Terrier, and Japanese Tosa.

**Entry Airport:** Pets must enter Macau via Macau International Airport. Dogs and cats may arrive in the cabin, as checked baggage, or as air cargo, according to airline policies.

**Advance Notice:** Importers must notify veterinary officials at the airport before arrival to ensure inspectors are available, particularly for arrivals outside normal business hours.

**Exporting Resident Pets:** All resident pets leaving Macau must be presented to the Macao Municipal Kennel for inspection before departure. The export health certificate is valid for 10 days.

**CITES:** Import of wildlife species requires CITES permits. **[CITES]**

## Consignment Instructions

---

Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences between air and sea shipments and between shipments originating within and outside Asia.

**Detailed Pre-Arrival Inventory Required.** A detailed inventory including quantity, brand name, unit price, and CIF value must be provided before the shipment arrives — this is a Macau Customs requirement, not just good practice. Late inventories delay clearance.

**Asian-Origin Shipments — Inspection.** All air shipments and sea shipments from within Asia are subject to physical Customs inspection. Allow for inspection time in delivery estimates.

**Pet Lead Time — 6+ Months.** For clients moving to Macau with pets from high-rabies countries, a minimum of 6 to 7 months of advance planning is required. Begin the pet process immediately upon confirming the move.

**New Vehicles Only.** Used vehicles cannot be imported. Clients expecting to bring a used vehicle will need to purchase locally in Macau or within mainland China.

**Separate Customs Territory.** Macau is a separate customs territory from both mainland China and Hong Kong. Goods moving between any of these jurisdictions are treated as imports.

## Cultural & Other Information

---

Macau (officially the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China) is located on the western side of the Pearl River Delta, connected by land to the Zhuhai Special Economic Zone of mainland China, and separated from Hong Kong by the Pearl River Estuary. It consists of the Macau Peninsula and the islands of Taipa, Coloane, and the reclaimed Cotai Strip. Macau has a population of approximately 680,000. The official languages are Chinese (Cantonese) and Portuguese, reflecting its history as a Portuguese colony until 1999. The currency is the Macanese pataca (MOP), pegged to the Hong Kong dollar at 1.03 MOP per HKD.

Macau has the world's highest gambling revenue per capita and its economy is heavily dependent on gaming and tourism. It operates under "one country, two systems" with a high degree of autonomy until at least 2049. Macau's legal system retains elements of Portuguese civil law alongside Chinese administrative law.

**Time Zone:** China Standard Time (CST), UTC+8. Macau does not observe daylight saving time.

### Useful Links:

- [OpenFactBook — Macau](#)
- [Wikipedia — Macau](#)
- [Macau Government Portal](#)
- [Macau Customs Service](#)
- [PetTravel.com — Macau Pet Import Requirements](#)

## Quick Links & Resources

---

- [Find Movers](#)

<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Macau&lat=22.19&lng=113.54&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Macau>

- [Foreign Embassies / Consulates](#)

<https://www.embassypages.com/macau>

- [Macau Government Portal](#)

<https://www.gov.mo/en/>

---

**IAM Country Guide:** Macau (Macao SAR)