

Caribbean Citizenship by Investment Guide



Citizenship360

SOVEREIGNTY WITHOUT BORDERS



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Introduction to Caribbean Citizenship by Investment Programmes

Overview

Caribbean Citizenship by Investment (CBI) programmes represent some of the world's most established and respected pathways to acquiring a second passport. Dating back to 1984 when St. Kitts and Nevis pioneered the concept, these programmes have evolved into sophisticated options for global investors seeking enhanced mobility, tax planning benefits and political security. Today, five Caribbean nations offer legitimate, government-approved routes to citizenship through qualifying investments.

Purpose

Caribbean CBI programmes serve dual functions: they provide sovereign nations with crucial development capital while offering investors a straightforward path to securing a valuable second passport. These programmes have become essential economic pillars for their host countries, funding infrastructure development, climate resilience initiatives, healthcare improvements and education.

Why They're Popular

The appeal of Caribbean citizenship programmes continues to grow, with applications increasing by approximately 25% between 2022 and 2024. This surge in interest stems from their combination of:

- Accessibility
- Speed of processing
- Minimal residency requirements
- Exceptional value compared to similar programmes worldwide

These programmes attract a diverse applicant pool, from business professionals seeking travel convenience to families planning intergenerational wealth protection.

Benefits of Caribbean Citizenship

Global Mobility

Caribbean passports offer impressive visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to numerous countries:

Antigua & Barbuda

151 countries including the UK, EU
Schengen Area, Hong Kong and
Singapore

Dominica

144 countries including the UK, EU
Schengen Area and Singapore

Grenada

144 countries including the UK, EU
Schengen Area, and uniquely,
China

St. Kitts & Nevis

157 countries including the UK, EU
Schengen Area and Hong Kong

St. Lucia

146 countries including the UK, EU
Schengen Area and Singapore

This mobility facilitates international business, education opportunities and lifestyle flexibility without the constraints of visa applications.

Tax Advantages

Caribbean citizenship offers significant tax planning benefits:

- No worldwide income tax in any of the five CBI countries
- No capital gains taxes
- No wealth or inheritance taxes
- No gift taxes
- Minimal or no tax on foreign income

These advantages create opportunities for legitimate tax optimisation, particularly for internationally mobile individuals and businesses.

Benefits of Caribbean Citizenship

Family Inclusion

All Caribbean programmes extend citizenship benefits to immediate family members:

- Spouse of the main applicant
- Dependent children (typically up to age 25 if in full-time education)
- Dependent parents and grandparents (usually above age 55-65)
- Unmarried siblings in some jurisdictions

This comprehensive approach allows for multigenerational planning and protection.

Minimal Physical Presence

Unlike many residency or citizenship programmes worldwide, Caribbean options generally have no mandatory stay requirements. This flexibility is ideal for global citizens who wish to maintain their current residence while holding additional citizenship as an insurance policy.

Lifetime Security

Caribbean citizenship, once granted, is for life and can typically be passed to future generations. This permanence provides long-term security in an increasingly uncertain world, serving as a plan B for families concerned about political instability or mobility restrictions.



Investment Options and Thresholds

	Donation Options	Real Estate Investment
Antigua & Barbuda	University of West Indies Fund: USD 150,000 for a family of four	USD 200,000 minimum investment in approved projects (5-year holding period)
Dominica	Economic Diversification Fund: USD 100,000 for a single applicant, USD 175,000 for a family of four	USD 200,000 minimum investment in approved projects (3-year holding period, resellable after 5 years)
Grenada	National Transformation Fund: USD 150,000 for a single applicant, USD 200,000 for a family of four	USD 220,000 minimum investment in approved projects (5-year holding period)
St. Kitts & Nevis	Sustainable Growth Fund: USD 250,000 for a single applicant, USD 300,000 for a family of four	USD 400,000 minimum investment in approved projects (7-year holding period)
St. Lucia	National Economic Fund: USD 100,000 for a single applicant, USD 190,000 for a family of four	USD 300,000 minimum investment in approved projects (5-year holding period)

Business Investment Options


Some Caribbean jurisdictions offer additional investment routes:

- **Antigua & Barbuda:** USD 1.5 million business investment or USD 150,000 in an approved business (creating at least 5 jobs)
- **St. Lucia:** USD 3.5 million enterprise project (creating at least 3 jobs) or government bonds (USD 300,000 minimum, held for 5 years)

Current Limited-Time Offers

Programmes occasionally offer special limited-time reductions:

- **St. Kitts & Nevis:** Limited-time offer of USD 125,000 reduction for real estate investors adding dependent children
- **Antigua & Barbuda:** Summer promotion reducing donation option to USD 100,000 until September 2025

A person wearing a brown sweater is holding a blue passport and a document with an Airline Log. The document is partially open, showing the Airline Log section. The background is a plain white surface.

Eligibility Requirements

Who Can Apply

Caribbean citizenship programmes are accessible to individuals who:

- Are at least 18 years of age
- Have no criminal record
- Can pass comprehensive due diligence checks
- Can verify the legitimate source of their investment funds
- Meet minimum net worth requirements (varies by programme)

Documentation

Applicants typically need to provide:

- Passport copies and birth certificates
- Marriage/divorce certificates where applicable
- Professional and educational qualifications
- Proof of address
- Bank statements and financial references
- Medical certificates
- Police clearance certificates from countries of residence

Financial Requirements

Beyond the investment amount, applicants must:

- Demonstrate sufficient net worth to make the investment
- Provide evidence of the legitimate source of funds
- Pay government processing fees, due diligence fees and professional service fees
- Maintain a clean financial record with no bankruptcies (typically within the past 10 years)

Application Process

Step-by-Step Guide

The Caribbean citizenship application process typically follows these stages:



1. Initial Consultation:

Assess eligibility and select the most appropriate programme and investment option based on your specific needs and goals.



2. Document Collection:

Gather and authenticate all required documentation, including passport copies, birth certificates, police clearance certificates and financial records.



3. Due Diligence Pre-check:

Submit your documents for preliminary review to identify any potential issues before formal submission.



4. Application Submission:

File your completed application, including all supporting documentation and initial government fees.



5. Due Diligence Process:

The government conducts thorough background checks, often employing international security firms to verify all information provided.



6. Application Review:

Officials assess your application, with processing times varying from 2-6 months depending on the jurisdiction.



7. Approval in Principle:

Upon passing due diligence, receive conditional approval pending the investment.



8. Investment Execution:

Complete your chosen investment (donation payment or real estate purchase).



9. Certificate of Registration:

Receive your certificate of citizenship.



10. Passport Issuance:

Apply for and receive your new passport, typically valid for 5-10 years and renewable thereafter.

Timeline

Processing times vary between Caribbean programmes:

- **Antigua & Barbuda:** 3-6 months
- **Dominica:** 2-3 months
- **Grenada:** 3-4 months
- **St. Kitts & Nevis:** 2-3 months (standard) or 45-60 days (Accelerated Application Process)
- **St. Lucia:** 3-4 months

Costs

Beyond the core investment, applicants should budget for:

- **Government processing fees:** USD 25,000-50,000 per family
- **Due diligence fees:** USD 7,500-15,000 per adult applicant
- **Professional service fees:** USD 30,000-45,000
- **Passport fees:** USD 350-550 per person
- **Legal fees for real estate transactions (if applicable):** 1-2% of property value



Citizenship Rights and Obligations

Rights Conferred

Caribbean citizenship provides holders with full rights:

- Unrestricted right to live and work in the country
- Full protection under the respective country's constitution
- Right to hold land and property
- Access to public education and healthcare systems
- Political rights (with some limitations in certain countries)
- Consular protection when travelling internationally
- Maintain a clean financial record with no bankruptcies (typically within the past 10 years)

Residency Requirements

One significant advantage of Caribbean citizenship programmes is the absence of mandatory residency requirements. Citizens are not obligated to visit or live in the country to maintain their status, although brief visits are encouraged to develop connections with your new country.

Taxation Obligations

Caribbean citizens who do not reside in their country of citizenship generally have minimal tax obligations:

- No taxation on worldwide income
- No reporting requirements on foreign assets or income
- Simple compliance procedures for any local income
- Various tax treaties providing potential benefits

Dual Citizenship

All five Caribbean CBI countries permit dual or multiple citizenships, meaning you need not renounce your original nationality. This creates opportunities for citizenship portfolios tailored to specific needs.



Comparison of Caribbean Programmes

	Strengths	Considerations
Antigua & Barbuda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Commonwealth membershipExcellent education option through University FundLargest country with the most developed economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5-day residency requirement within first 5 yearsCitizenship renewals every 5 years
Dominica	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Most affordable programmeWell-established processConsistent processing times	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Less developed infrastructureSmaller international airport
Grenada	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unique visa-free access to ChinaE-2 Treaty with USA allowing business investment and residency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Higher due diligence feesSlightly longer processing times
St. Kitts & Nevis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Oldest and most respected programmeStrongest passport in the CaribbeanAccelerated processing option	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Highest investment threshold for donation option
St. Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Modern, transparent programmeGovernment bond optionEntrepreneur option	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Newer programme with less established reputationLimited consular network

Risks and Considerations

Investment Risks

- Donation options carry no financial return but offer certainty and simplicity
- Real estate investments may face liquidity challenges when the holding period ends
- Some approved developments may face delays or quality issues
- Currency fluctuations can affect overall investment value
- Exit strategies should be carefully considered before investing

Programme Stability

While Caribbean programmes have operated successfully for many years, potential changes to consider include:

- Periodic price adjustments (typically increases)
- International pressure on due diligence standards
- Policy changes affecting investment requirements
- Relations with major visa-free destinations

Reputation Factors

- Choose programmes with robust due diligence to maintain integrity
- Consider the international recognition and perception of your selected programme
- Be aware of the citizenship programme's history and government commitment

Citizenship Revocation

Citizenship can potentially be revoked if:

- Application information is found to be false or misleading
- The citizen engages in activities threatening national security
- Specific programme conditions are not maintained

How Citizenship360 Can Help

Our Value Proposition

At Citizenship360, we transform the complex Caribbean citizenship process into a seamless journey by providing:

- Expert guidance on selecting the optimal programme based on your specific needs
- Rigorous pre-screening to identify any potential application issues
- End-to-end application management, from initial consultation through to passport receipt
- Direct government and developer relationships to secure optimal terms
- Transparent fee structures with no hidden costs

Our Services Include



Personalised Programme Selection:

Strategic advisory to determine which Caribbean citizenship programme best meets your specific objectives.



Application Preparation:

Comprehensive document gathering, verification and professional presentation.



Due Diligence Preparation:

Thorough review of your personal and financial background to anticipate and address any potential concerns.



Investment Advisory:

Objective analysis of donation versus real estate options, with specific property recommendations where relevant.



Government Relations:

Direct communication with citizenship units to address questions and monitor application progress.



Post-Citizenship Support:

Assistance with passport renewals, adding family members and addressing any future needs.

Take the Next Step with Us

Contact Citizenship360 today for a personalised consultation to assess your eligibility, clarify your objectives and develop a tailored strategy for securing your Caribbean citizenship.

FAQs

Which Caribbean programme offers the fastest processing time?

St. Kitts & Nevis offers the fastest route through their Accelerated Application Process, with decisions possible within 45-60 days. Standard processing for Dominica and St. Kitts averages 2-3 months.

Can I include my children in my application?

Yes, all Caribbean programmes allow dependent children to be included, typically up to age 25 if they are unmarried and in full-time education. Some programmes also allow inclusion of adult children who are financially dependent.

Do I need to visit the Caribbean during the application process?

Most Caribbean citizenship programmes do not require a visit during the application process or afterwards, though Antigua & Barbuda requires a 5-day visit within the first five years of citizenship.

How secure are these programmes for the future?

Caribbean citizenship programmes have operated successfully for decades and represent critical revenue sources for their governments. St. Kitts & Nevis has offered citizenship by investment continuously since 1984, making it the world's longest-running programme.

What happens if my application is rejected?

If an application is declined, most programmes refund government fees minus due diligence costs. Citizenship360 conducts thorough pre-screening to minimise rejection risks.

Can I travel to the USA with a Caribbean passport?

Caribbean passports do not provide visa-free access to the USA. However, citizenship from Grenada uniquely offers access to the E-2 Treaty Investor visa for the USA, which allows investment and residency opportunities.

Conclusion

The Caribbean Advantage

Caribbean citizenship programmes offer unparalleled combinations of:

- Speed and efficiency of processing
- Reasonable investment thresholds with various options
- Extensive visa-free travel privileges
- Minimal to no physical presence requirements
- Tax-efficient planning opportunities
- Multigenerational security
- These factors make Caribbean citizenships some of the most practical and valuable additions to a global mobility portfolio.

Making an Informed Decision

When considering Caribbean citizenship, focus on:

- Your specific travel needs and which programme best addresses them
- Investment preferences—donation simplicity versus potential returns
- Family structure and inclusion requirements
- Future plans and how citizenship supports them
- Budget constraints and overall value



Take Action Now

Ready to explore Caribbean citizenship?

Start with a simple step:

- **Book a Discovery Call:** Schedule a no-obligation consultation with Citizenship360 to kickstart your journey.
- **Discover Your Options:** Learn about costs, timeframes, and the best programmes tailored to your goals.
- **Understand the Benefits:** Explore how global mobility, tax advantages, and family security can work for you.

Contact us today to take the first step toward Caribbean citizenship





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