

Vanuatu

Citizenship by Investment

Vanuatu is a world apart from the bustle of large economic centres, and even stands in contrast to the cruise ship destinations and flashy resorts of the Caribbean. Vanuatu is a relatively untouched island nation, remote and rugged, a perfect destination for the adventurous traveller. Now Vanuatu is coming into its own as a second citizenship opportunity for international investors, and with its straightforward programme and simple criteria, it is not difficult to see why.

The Republic of Vanuatu is located in the South Pacific Ocean. Vanuatu is an archipelago composed of about 82 islands of volcanic origin, and lies east of Australia, northeast of New Caledonia, east of New Guinea and southeast of the Solomon Islands. There are several active volcanoes in Vanuatu, including Lopevi, Mount Yasur and several underwater volcanoes. There is also extensive rainforest on Vanuatu, and the islands are recognised as a distinct terrestrial eco-region, known as the Vanuatu rain forests. Vanuatu's climate is tropical, with nine

months of warm to hot, rainy weather, and three months of cooler, drier weather. Tourists coming to Vanuatu come to experience the world-class diving, view the active volcanic craters, trek the rugged interior of the islands, and immerse themselves in the ancient culture of the islanders.

For investors, the advantages of a citizenship of Vanuatu are clear. The Vanuatu passport grants visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to over 120 countries and territories, including the European Union. Vanuatu has no income tax, no capital gains tax and no estate taxes. The programme is fast and involves minimal bureaucracy, and dependent family members may accompany the investor to Vanuatu. You are free to enjoy the beauty and serenity of Vanuatu as much as you like, although there is no residency requirement. A citizenship of Vanuatu truly grants the freedom that internationally-minded investors seek.





Core Advantages

- Vanuatu enjoys warm weather and a stunning natural environment perfect for hiking, snorkelling, SCUBA diving, swimming, sailing and all manner of outdoor pursuits.
- There is only a very short period of residency required and investors do not need to visit Vanuatu as part of the application process. Applications are processed quickly, usually in about 2 to 4 months.
- Vanuatu has visa-free or visa-on-arrival agreements with over 120 countries and territories, including the EU member states.
- A spouse and dependent children can accompany the investor on the application. The standard application fee includes a spouse and two dependent children under the age of 18 at no extra charge. Subsequent family members may include children under 25 who are full-time students and parents over the age of 50, as long as they are dependent on the primary applicant and reside with him/her.
- There are no special requirements regarding education or experience, and there is no interview requirement as part of the application process.
- Vanuatu does not levy income tax, capital gains tax or estate tax. There is a well-developed banking sector in Vanuatu.
- Vanuatu recognises dual citizenship and there is no need to renounce any previous citizenship.

Investment Options

The Development Support Programme (DSP) was established in 2017 to replace previous citizenship-by-investment programmes. This new programme streamlines the process, making it more efficient and convenient. The funds raised through the DSP are used to create local jobs, stimulates the economy and keeps the national budget balanced.

Applicants may apply for the Vanuatu Honorary Citizenship by

making a Government Contribution of USD\$130,000. With additional due diligence fees and application fees, the citizenship fee comes to a total of \$195,000 for single applicants. For families with three dependents (a spouse and two children up to the age of 18), the total is \$225,000. Honorary Citizenship is endowed to the applicant by the Vanuatu Commission and grants passport rights. It however disqualifies applicants from holding public office.

Eligibility for Application

- Applicants must be over 18 years of age.
- Applicants must be of good character, possess a valid passport, and have no criminal record. Applicants must submit an original certificate from the jurisdiction in which they have resided during the last 12 months and the jurisdiction of his/her principal nationality, if different. Spouses and dependents over the age of 12 must also submit the police clearance.
- Applicants must be in good health.
- Applicants must have personal assets of no less than \$450,000. Applicants must also possess adequate means to support themselves and any dependent family members in Vanuatu.





Core Government Fees and Charges

	Single Applicant	Family - Spouse + 2 Dependent Children Under 18	Other Families
Contribution	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$130,000 + \$5,000 per additional dependent under 18, and \$10,000 per adult dependent child aged 18-25 or dependent parent aged 50+
Application Fee	\$35,000	\$45,000	\$50,000
Due Diligence Fee	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$30,000 (main applicant) + \$10,000 per spouse aged over 18, \$20,000 per adult child aged 18-25, and \$30,000 per dependent parent aged 50+

More about Vanuatu

Vanuatu culture is quite complex and has been influenced by foreign cultures. Some groups in Vanuatu follow matrilineal descent rules, while others follow patrilineal rules. Leadership on some islands depends on advancement within men's societies, and in others it depends on possession of chiefly titles or personal ability. Most people depend on farming and fishing, although the economy of the coastal areas differs from that of the interior regions.

Vanuatu is a parliamentary democracy with a written constitution. The head of state is the president, who is elected on five-year terms by an electoral college consisting of members of parliament and leaders of regional councils. The parliament is unicameral and has 52 elected members.

The dominant industries in Vanuatu are agriculture, tourism, offshore financial services, and cattle farming. There is substantial fishing activity, although this is mostly for domestic consumption. Exports include copra, kava, beef, cocoa and timber, and imports include machinery and equipment, foodstuffs and fuels. Agriculture, which provides employment for two thirds of the population, is used for domestic consumption and is also exported.

Financial services are an important part of the Vanuatu economy. Vanuatu is a low tax jurisdiction and there is no income tax, withholding tax, capital gains tax, inheritance tax, or exchange control.

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by-investment programmes, and can advise and assist with all concerns inherent in relocation, including legal matters, property acquisition, and access to medical and education services.

Switzerland

+41 (0) 445802159
Bahnhofstrasse 21, 6300 Zug, Switzerland.
switzerland@kylinprime.com

Ireland

+353 (0) 153 14840
97 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland.
ireland@kylinprime.com

United Kingdom

+44 (0) 20 8099 0999
7 Stratford Place, London, W1C 1AY, United Kingdom.
uk@kylinprime.com

Malta

+356 (0) 27 075993
Level 2 East, Mercury Tower
The Exchange Finance and Business Centre
Elia Zammit Street, St. Julian's, Malta.
malta@kylinprime.com

Cyprus

3 Themistocles Dervis Street, Julia House, 1066 Nicosia,
Cyprus.
cyprus@kylinprime.com

Slovenia

10 Kladezna Ulica, Ljubljana, Slovenia.
slovenia@kylinprime.com

China

+86 (0) 400 800 5001
Floor 12, New Media Building, 2 Jintai West Road,
Chaoyang District, Beijing ,China.



KYLIN
PRIME
GROUP