

VANUATU

SPECIAL EDITION

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#1

CITIZENSHIP
PROGRAM

DSP and VCP schemes

Fastest Citizenship

Vanuatu has the fastest citizenship by investment program in the World in 2020



PLUS

Quick facts
you should
know about
Vanuatu

An aerial photograph of a coastal town in Vanuatu, showing a mix of modern buildings and traditional structures nestled among lush greenery. The town is situated on a peninsula or near a bay, with the ocean visible in the foreground. A large, bright yellow rectangular box is superimposed over the middle of the image, containing the word 'VANUATU' in bold, black, uppercase letters.

VANUATU

THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

Vanuatu is a pacific island nation with a string of more than 80 islands inhabited. Vanuatu is mountainous active volcanoes and much of it is covered with tropical rainforests.

VANUATU

WHERE YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS



BECOME A NI-VANUATU CITIZEN

Vanuatu Citizenship Investment

Vanuatu operates two investor citizenship programs:

1. Development Support Program (DSP)
2. Vanuatu Contribution Program (VCP)

Both the programs have USD 130,000 one time donation requirement to the Government.

QUICK SUMMARY

VANUATU PASSPORT PROGRAM

5000

PASSPORTS ISSUED

40

VANUATU PASSPORT
RANKINGS 2020

Sources:

Henley
Best Citizenships
Wikipedia

135

VISA FREE COUNTRIES

7.9

BILLION REVENUES
(VUV)

30

PROCESSING TIME
(DAYS)

50

PASSPORT TIME
(DAYS)

2

CBI PROGRAMS
(DSP/VCP)

10

BEST CBI RANKINGS



Citizenship by Investment

Vanuatu first operated citizenship by investment scheme along with other pacific islands in the 1990s until 2001. These schemes provided 'passports for convenience' which carried several benefits including tax benefits, overcoming visa restrictions, alternative second passport, and avoiding military service. Between 1996-1997 Vanuatu sold 300 passports collecting \$3.3m equivalent to 1.5% of GDP at that time.

In 2014, Vanuatu government revived the new economic citizenship programs to boost revenue. Vanuatu Economic Rehabilitation Program (VERP) was introduced after Cyclone Pam to raise additional fund for recovery activities. The Capital Investment Immigration Plan (CIIP), which was originally introduced in 2014, was replaced by Vanuatu Real Estate Option Program (REO Program) in November 2016, and VERP by Vanuatu Development Support Program (VDSP) and Vanuatu Contribution Program (VCP) in March 2017.

In March 2018, Vanuatu reduced prices of VCP/DSP schemes from \$220,000 to \$150,000 to compete with other caribbean countries, since then this program has become most popular around the world.

CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT LEGISLATION

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Laws are provided by the Citizenship Act [Cap 112] itself. The Act was enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Vanuatu and came into force in 1980. It was amended in 2013 and twice in 2014.

Republic of Vanuatu Citizenship Act [Cap_112]

Citizenship ACT NO. 34 OF 2018 (Amendment)

Citizenship ACT NO. 39 OF 2013 (Amendments)

Citizenship Amendment Act Order No. 18 of 2014 (Amendments)

Citizenship Amendment Act Order No. 40 of 2014 (Amendments)

Citizenship regulations Order 91-95 of 2018

Citizenship Regulations (Order 32-33) of 2019

Citizenship Regulations (Development Support Program) Order No. 39 of 2020

Citizenship Regulations (Contribution Program) Order No. 38 of 2020

Dual Citizenship Amendment Act 2014

The Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu

Order No. 39 of 2020

Order No. 38 of 2020

WHATS NEW IN 2020?

The Vanuatu Government has announced a number of changes related to the economic citizenship program making it very attractive for international investors

The following new rules apply

1. Due diligence fee increased by \$3000 per person (now costs \$5000 per person) Due to Covid-19 situation all applications now accepted online or by email.
2. Oaths can be taken online (video) or by written declaration
3. FIU processing time increased to 4 days from 2 days.
4. Applications will now be vetted through third party due diligence firms (before only FIU did the checks).
5. No personal visit required due to Covid
6. Passport validity increased from 5 years to 10 years





Vanuatu is a Haven for Economic Citizenship in South Pacific

CIP POPULARITY SOARS WORLDWIDE

The Popularity of Economic Citizenship program (ECP) has made Republic of Vanuatu, a new haven for passports in the South Pacific.

Located geographically at at one of the riskiest locations for natural disasters, Vanuatu has been battling disaster after disaster and revenues from citizenship for sale program has been providing much needed lifeline against such potential risks.

Vanuatu is one a few covid free countries in the world and

has managed to stop the spread of virus closing all ports of entry.

Vanuatu ECP program has been a significant contributor to GDP of Vanuatu. IMF reported in 2018, the revenues of 5.7 billion Vatu revenues from the economic citizenship programs (ECPs) was used for unexpected expenses (Ambae disaster relief, and the mandated restoration of public benefit cuts) and early debt repayments (about 3.2 percent of GDP).

Caribbean VS Vanuatu

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

What makes Vanuatu different from Caribbean CBI

The Citizenship by Investment Programs (CIP) in the Caribbean and Vanuatu are quite different with prices and fees. They also work different.

The biggest difference between the Caribbean CIP's and the Vanuatu DSP/VCP schemes is the contribution fees. Unlike other Caribbean programs, Vanuatu citizenship program has **Lawyer/Agent fees** already included in the contribution.

For Caribbean CIPs agent fee is extra

Vanuatu CIP

US\$ 130,000 for one person (\$80K goes to Govt and \$50K goes to Lawyer and agent) plus \$5000 due diligence fee. This is the minimum price set by Vanuatu citizenship commission. It can't be cheaper than this, it goes against govt rules. Application forms can be downloaded for free. New rules simplify Oaths now can also be taken through video conferencing

Caribbean CIP

Take for example Saint Lucia: \$100K donation, plus \$7500 due diligence fee plus Lawyer/Agent fee(\$10K to \$15K) one person





STEP 1

Pay USD 5000 due diligence fee

STEP 2

Wait for Letter of Approval from Citizenship Commission

STEP 3

Pay the remaining contribution to receive your certificate of citizenship

STEP 4

Take an oath online to collect your passport issued in 2 weeks





VANUATU

CITIZENSHIP

VANUATU CITIZEN

ONE TIME INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Vanuatu offers one of the exciting possibilities to become a citizen by investment. It is one time opportunity for international investors.

CBI programs come and go. Due to changing political landscape, governments and international regulations may only run for few years. We tell clients to make use of this window of opportunity.

- Global mobility comes with travel freedom
- Second citizenship in a stable neutral country
- Access to best education and healthcare
- Visa free movement to visit UK, Russia, Schengen etc.
- Freedom to buy home investing in real estate
- Fast track citizenship with not personal visit.
- Alternative citizenship is a life saver (Plan B) for families during political unrest, civil war, terrorism and other situations.
- Easy application procedure
- No language test, residence or military service.
- No taxes unless you live in Vanuatu.
- Private citizenship not reported anywhere
- Confidential application process.
- Passport issued in just under 60 days

CITIZENSHIP

What makes Vanuatu interesting?

VANUATU
MAINTAINS
CLOSE
RELATIONS
WITH
AUSTRALIA
AND NEW
ZEALAND

BACKGROUND CHECKS

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) is Vanuatu's national agency, operating within PM office responsible for verifying financial information of applicants to counter money laundering, terrorism financing and suspected proceeds of crime.

The FIU was established in 2020, regulates all financial institutions in Vanuatu as required by the AML&CT

FIU checks for criminal conviction, FIU utilises several globally reputable screening databases in its due diligence process including checking INTERPOL database or past criminal conviction records, global blacklisting, sanctions, financial disqualification, corporate solvency, terrorism, individual bankruptcy and political-affluent persons.

FIU also monitors of all successful applicants in the Program with screening of checks and provides reports to Vanuatu citizenship commission (VCC) for adverse reports. VCC recommends the applicant to Prime Ministers office, for honorary citizenship

Upon confirmation from the FIU that the person has no criminal record, the TWG submits the name of the person to the Citizenship Commission for due diligence checking. Next, the Commission submits the name of the person to the Prime Minister who then advises the President on the name of the person to be conferred Citizenship under the VERP.

Nationals from these 5 countries, may apply for Vanuatu DSP/VCP citizenship by investment scheme with some exception Afghanistan, Iran, North Korea, Somalia, Yemen. Vanuatu may accept nationals on case by case basis from restricted country if they have not resided in restricted countries for more than 5 years and can provide evidence of permanent residence abroad. For example those with permanent residence status in EU schengen, USA, UK, UAE etc.

The Vanuatu Citizenship Office is responsible for administering Development Support (DSP) and Citizenship Contribution Program (VCP). The Vanuatu Immigration and Passport Office is responsible for issuing passports.



BUNGEE JUMPING

INVENTED IN VANUATU

Bungee jumping was first invented here in Vanuatu. When the yam crop emerges in early April on Vanuatu's Pentecost Island, the locals begin to build high wooden towers (around 20 to 30 meters). Once completed, and until about the end of May, village men and boys dive from these rickety structures with vines attached to their ankles.

Vanuatu is widely recognised as one of the premier vacation destinations for scuba divers wishing to explore coral reefs of the South Pacific region.

Quick Facts about Vanuatu

Vanuatu is a pacific island country with just a population of 300,000 people. Here are some of the quick breathtaking facts you you dont know about Vanuatu.

Vanuatu Origins - Vanuatu's name derives from the word vanua ("land" or "home")

Happiest country in the World - Vanuatu is the world's fourth happiest country. Vanuatu to be the most ecologically efficient country in the world in achieving high well-being

Pacific Holiday Destination - Vanuatu is a premier vacation destinations for scuba divers exploring spectacular coral reefs, shipwrecks and canyons

Vanuatu discovered first by Europeans - Vanuatu was first inhabited by Melanesian people. The first Europeans to visit the islands were a Spanish expedition led by Portuguese navigator Fernandes de Queirós

English - English is widely spoken language besides Bislama and french.

Bungee Jumping - Bungee jumping was invented here in Vanuatu

Y shaped Islands - Vanuatu is made of Y shaped 80 islands with intense volcanic activity. Efate Island - Efate island was named by Captain Cook. Efate is an island in the Pacific Ocean which is part of the Shefa Province in Vanuatu. It is also known as Île Vate. Captain James Cook named it Sandwich Island "in honour of my noble patron, the Earl of Sandwich" on his 1774 voyage on HMS Resolution

Agriculture - Only 9% of land is used for agriculture

Offshore Tax Haven - Vanuatu remained tax haven until 2008 providing offshore financial services and secret bank accounts. Vanuatu has history of operating citizenship for sale schemes along with other pacific islands in the 1990's

National Dish -The National dish of Vanuatu is the Laplap. Laplap is prepared by grating breadfruit, bananas, taro or yam roots into a vegetable paste. The paste is then wrapped in banana leaves and cooked in an underground stone oven, with fresh coconut cream. Meats like pork, beef, chicken or flying fox can be added

High Risk Country - Vanuatu is the world's most riskiest country for natural hazards, according to World Risk Index. Vanuatu is often hit by natural disasters such as earth quakes, cyclones and other natural disasters.

Ni-Vanuatu - About 98% of the population are ethnic Ni-Vanuatu citizens. The local people are known as Ni-Vanuatu and Vanuatuans.

Independence & Sovereign state - Vanuatu became an independent country founded on 30 July 1980 from France and United Kingdom. Vanuatu was accepted as sovereign state by UN on 15 September 1981

CIP is Biggest Revenue Earner - Citizenship for investment has been an increasingly significant revenue earner for Vanuatu in recent years. So far as of 2020, a total of 7,9 billion Vatu collected as source of revenues by government.



HISTORY

Portuguese explorer Pedro Fernandes de Queirós was the first European to arrive in Vanuatu, in 1606. He named Espiritu Santo, the largest island in Vanuatu.

In July-September 1774 the islands were explored extensively by British explorer Captain James Cook, who named them the New Hebrides, after the Hebrides off the west coast of Scotland, a name that lasted until independence in 1980.

James Cook managed to maintain generally cordial relations with the Ni-Vanuatu by gifting them presents and refraining from violence



VANUATU PASSPORT IN 60 DAYS

FASTEST CITIZENSHIP

Vanuatu has the fastest CBI program in the world with efficient application process and 3 Oday processing times. Once the application is approved, and citizenship certificate issued it takes another 2 weeks to apply for passport. You can collect it from consulates abroad or through DSP agent.

FIU due diligence check – 2 days

Letter of Approval – 2-3 weeks

Citizenship certificate – 1 week

Passport – 2 weeks (after approval)



PASSPORT

CIP PRICES

DSP and VCP

\$130K

Single Applicant

\$150K

Applicant +
Spouse

\$165K

Applicant +
Spouse + 1 child

\$10K

Additional
dependants

\$180K

Applicant +
Spouse + 2 child

Important

These are the minimum prices set by Vanuatu citizenship commission. We offer the cheapest prices for our clients. We do not charge agent or lawyer fee.

LAWYER FEE INCLUDED IN ABOVE CONTRIBUTION.
ADDITIONAL DUE DILIGENCE FEE \$5000 PER PERSON APPLY.

HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH

VANUATU IS 4TH IN THE WORLD

One of the happiest places on Earth sits in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Vanuatu, a slingshot-shaped country that comprises more than 80 islands nearly 2,000 km east of Australia, ranked fourth happiest nation in the world according to the Happy Planet Index

The rankings take into account a nation's well being, life expectancy and inequality levels, along with its ecological footprint.





VANUATU REAL ESTATE

WHERE TO BUY PROPERTIES IN VANUATU

How to Invest in Real Estate

Vanuatu does not offer citizenship based on direct real estate investments. You can either apply for permanent residency or buy real estate after becoming a citizen

Lands in Vanuatu are not freehold. Properties can be leased for up to 50 years for residential lots and 75 years for commercial ones. There are no restrictions on foreigners buying property.

Vanuatu property prices still remains the lowest in the world. Property prices have been steadily increasing over the years, especially due to increase in tourism, especially tourist arrivals combined with influx of chinese, australians and other expats.

PROPERTY PRICES

Residential property prices are around US\$800 – US\$970 per sq. m. (VUV 92,250 to VUV 111,850). A 100 sq. m. property could be bought for VUV 11.2 million (US\$97,000), according to Global property guide.

To build your house, you should appraise around \$850 – \$1250 per sq.m

Port Vila, coastal and harbour locations are good areas to buy a residential property. Efate is Vanuatu's main island, politically, economically, industrially and in terms of population and tourism.

These are best areas to buy residential property: Port Vila, Tassiriki, Elluk, the Harbourfront, First Lagoon, Second Lagoon, Bellevue, Malapoa and the oceanfront subdivisions near town such as Dream

Property transfers take 2-3 months.

PROPERTY TAXES

2% Stamp Duty

5% Title Transfer Registration If the buyer is purchasing an existing company, the Stamp Duty is 4% on the Share Transfer Value, and because the shares in the lessee company are transferred, not the title itself, there is no 2% Stamp Duty fee.

Legals costs are usually between 0.5% - 1% of the purchase price.

VAT (currently 15%) is not payable by the purchaser on residential property. VAT is payable by a builder or property developers. VAT is payable by the purchaser on the sale of commercial property. Insurance will cost about 0.5% to 0.7% (cyclone, earthquake, volcano eruptions etc)

NO CITIZENSHIP FOR REAL ESTATE

Buying a real estate will not make you eligible for Vanuatu Development Support Program (DSP) or Vanuatu Citizenship Contribution Program (VCP). Both programs have only donation option and does not have a real estate option.

The Vanuatu Citizenship Office advises all persons who are interested in its Citizenship Programs that there is no Real Estate Option Program attached to any of its Citizenship Programs.

Vanuatu offers permanent residency if you buy a property for \$100,000 (known as investor visa) or for retirees who can receive at least \$2500 monthly income.

Vanuatu also offers Land Owner Visa. If you wish to settle in Vanuatu and lease real estate, you can apply for a Land Ownership visa.



Visa

F R E E C O U N T R I E S

List of visa free countries for vanuatu passport holders

Asia

Bangladesh *
Cambodia *
Hong Kong (SAR China)
Indonesia
Laos *
Macao (SAR China) *
Malaysia
Maldives *
Nepal *
Philippines
Singapore
Sri Lanka **
Thailand *
Timor-Leste *

Europe

Andorra
Austria
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Faroe Islands
Finland
France
Germany
Gibraltar
Greece
Greenland
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Kosovo

Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russian Federation
San Marino
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
Vatican City

Africa

Botswana
Cape Verde Islands *
Comores Islands *
Egypt *
Eswatini (Swaziland)
Gambia
Guinea-Bissau *
Kenya
Lesotho
Madagascar *
Malawi *
Mauritania *
Mauritius
Mozambique *
Rwanda *
Senegal
Seychelles *

Sierra Leone *
Somalia *
St. Helena *
Tanzania
Togo *
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Oceania

Cook Islands
Fiji
French Polynesia
Kiribati
Marshall Islands *
Micronesia
Nauru *
New Caledonia
Niue
Palau Islands *
Papua New Guinea *
Samoa *
Solomon Islands *
Tonga *
Tuvalu *

Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda
Bahamas
Barbados
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Grenada
Haiti
Jamaica
Montserrat
St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Lucia

St. Vincent & Grenadines
Trinidad and Tobago

Americas

Belize
Bermuda
Bolivia *
Costa Rica
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Nicaragua
Panama
Peru

Middle East

Armenia *
Iran *
Israel
Jordan *
Palestinian Territory

* Visa on arrival ** eTA

Source: Henley passport index 2020



VANUATU

TAXES

TAXATION IN VANUATU

Vanuatu has no corporate tax, no capital gains tax, no estate tax, no wealth tax, no withholding tax, no gift tax

On 26 June 2018, Vanuatu joins OECD international efforts against tax evasion and avoidance. Vanuatu implemented CRS tax reporting standard with banks sharing the tax details of customers in 2018.

- Corporate Tax - 0.00%
- Personal Income Tax - Upto 17%
- Wealth Tax - 0.00%
- Capital Gains - 0.00%
- Inheritance or Estate Tax - 0.00%

Double Tax Treaties - 19 countries

Australia, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Greenland, Grenada, Iceland, Ireland, Korea (Republic of), New Zealand, Norway, San Marino and Sweden.

FATCA - No

Personal Income Tax

Personal income tax will be imposed at a 'progressive' rate (meaning that tax paid as a proportion of income rises with income). Only individuals earning income above a tax-free threshold will pay income tax.

People earning less than 750,000 vatu (US\$6,000) a year (or 28,846 vatu a fortnight with 26 pay periods a year) will not pay income tax.



Our platforms
makes it cheaper,
faster and easfor
clients.

We are one family of startups for the CBI industry.

Our online platforms directly connects clients to Govt authorized law firms and property developers without intermediaries, making it cheaper and faster for clients.

We do not provide immigration or property advice to clients. We rely on law firms to provide these services

Our platforms are **free of charge**. We do not charge any fee to clients. We work with law firms and property developers in 15 countries world.

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