

ECONOMIC CITIZENSHIP

# VANUATU

CITIZENSHIP BROCHURE 2024

DSP/VCP

30

DAYS

Processing Times

Fastest  
Citizenship

Enjoy Visa Free Access to 95 destinations.



**REO**

Invest in Real  
estate





## VANUATU

# THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

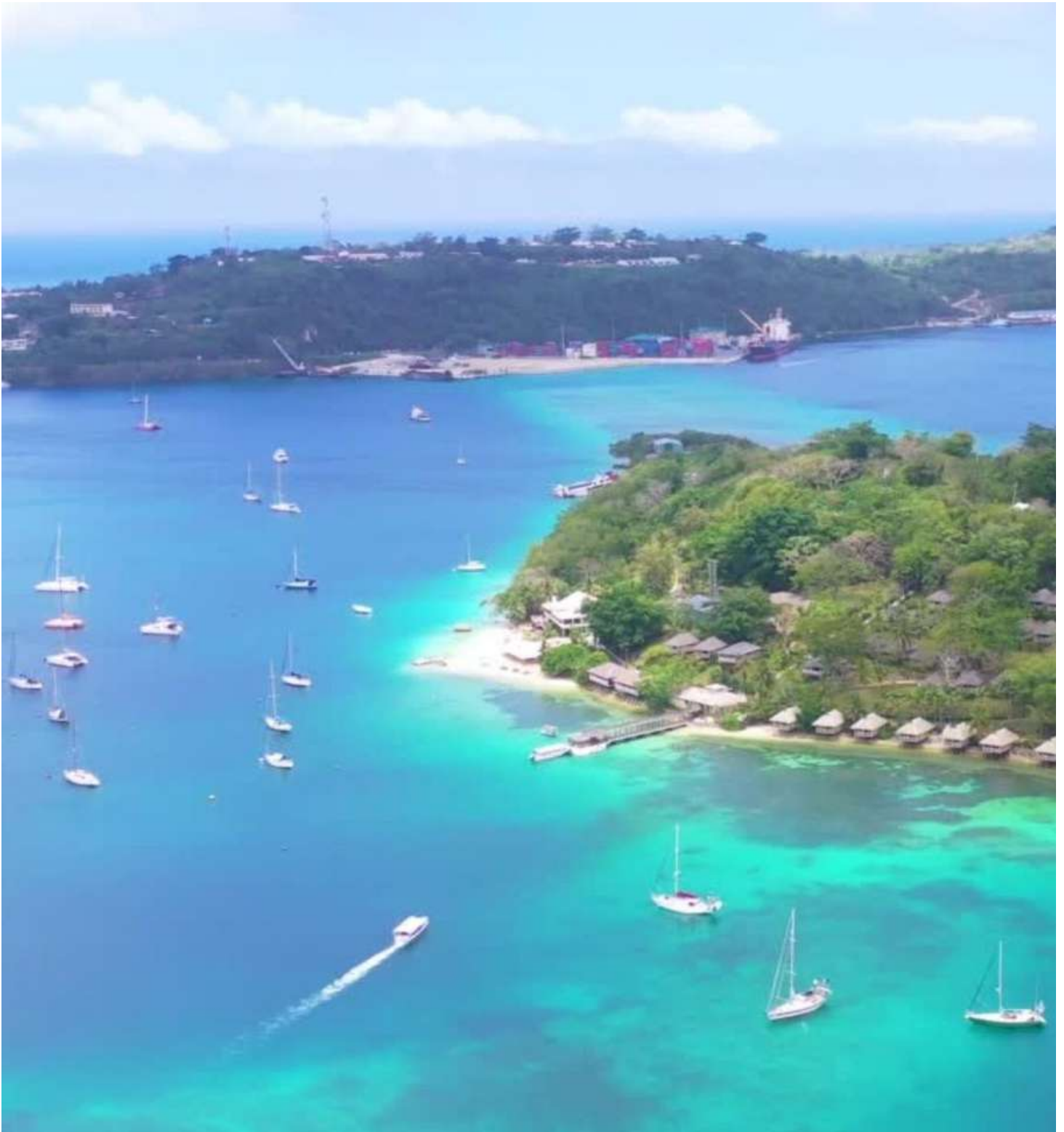
Vanuatu is a pacific island nation with a string of more than 80 islands inhabited. Vanuatu is mountainous active volcanoes and much of it is covered with tropical rainforests.





# VANUATU

WHERE YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS



BECOME A NI-VANUATU CITIZEN

# Vanuatu Citizenship Investment

Vanuatu operates four investor citizenship programs:

1. Development Support Program (DSP)
2. Vanuatu Contribution Program (VCP)
3. REO (Real Estate)
4. Government Bonds (IGBO)

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

## QUICK SUMMARY

### VANUATU PASSPORT PROGRAM

**10500**

PASSPORTS ISSUED

**40**

VANUATU PASSPORT  
RANKINGS 2020

Sources:

Henley  
Best Citizenships  
Wikipedia

**99**

VISA FREE COUNTRIES

**7.9**

BILLION REVENUES  
(VUV)

**30**

PROCESSING TIME  
(DAYS)

**40**

PASSPORT TIME  
(DAYS)

**4**

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

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

Vanuatu Citizenship Act [Cap 112] Consolidated 2021

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 2024?

**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 (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 10-14 days.
4. Applications 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.
7. Visa restrictions apply to all Vanuatu citizens traveling to United Kingdom and Schengen Area







# 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 FIU  
due diligence fee

## STEP 2

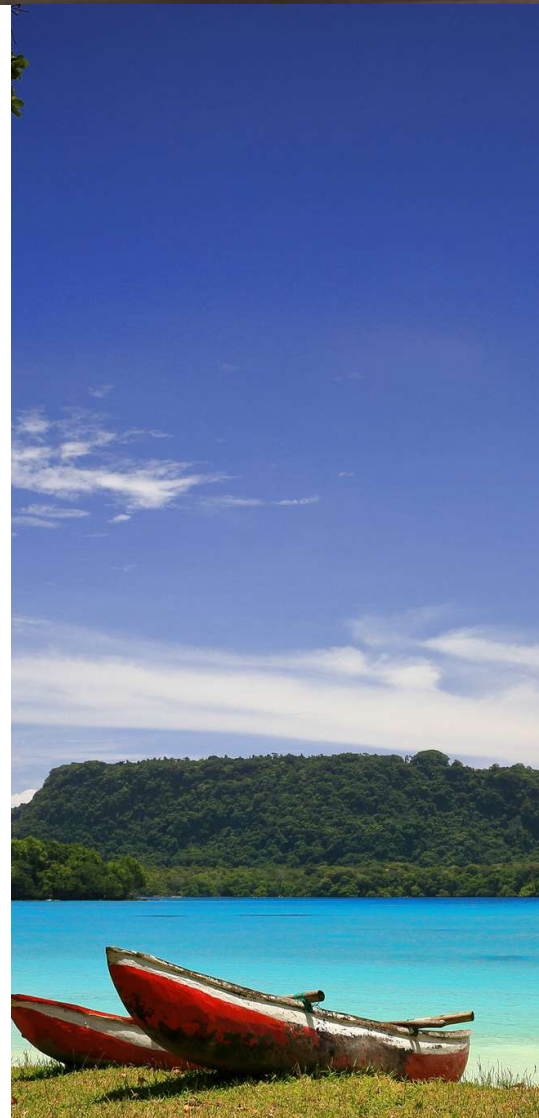
Wait for Letter of Approval  
from Citizenship Commission

## 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 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 a 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 breathtaking nature island, a Pacific island country with just a population of 300,000 people. Here are some of the quick breathtaking facts you don't 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<sup>8</sup>. 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 earthquakes, 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 Vanuatians.

**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

## VANUATU PASSPORT IN 30 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)



# DSP - DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

## Citizenship by Donation

**\$130K**

Single Applicant

**\$150K**

Applicant +  
Spouse

**\$165K**

Applicant +  
Spouse + 1 child

**\$180K**

Applicant +  
Spouse + 2 child



One time non refundable  
contribution to state fund

**\$10K**

Additional  
dependants

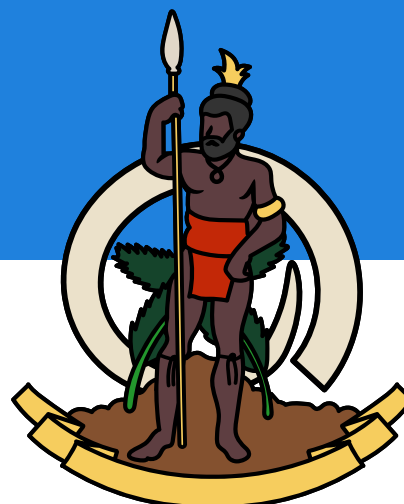
### Important

No hidden costs. 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.

# GOVERNMENT BONDS (IGBO)

Refundable upon maturity



The Vanuatu Government has introduced Investment Government Bonds Option (IGBO) issued in Australian dollars (AUD) as the third investment option for the citizenship by investment scheme to make Vanuatu CBI more competitive among other countries. The Amendments to the Citizenship act (Investment government bond regulation – Order 44 of 2023) were gazetted on March 27, 2023. According to the order, 500 units of bonds will be issued for the citizenship purpose with each unit eligible for one application.

## Bond Subscription

According to the Order, the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu (RBV) will issue 500 units of zero interest government bonds for this option, ranging from AUD 150,000 to AUD 180,000, depending on the time to maturity:

- Bonds maturing in 2 years (24 months) — AUD 180,000
- Bonds maturing in 2.5 years (30 months) — AUD 170,000
- Bonds maturing in 3 years (36 months) — AUD 150,000

The applicant must pay 100% of the bond money and the bond investment is fully refunded upon maturity (Note: no interest paid). Vanuatu will issue government bond certificate within 7 days after payment by the investor. The Vanuatu citizenship commission will issue citizenship certificate after reviewing the application within 60 days.

## Bond Issue Fees

Non refundable fees payable by investors

- Single applicant — AUD 20,000
- Couple — AUD 30,000
- Couple and one Child — 45,000 AUD
- Couple and two Children — 60,000 AUD

## Application Fees

- Application fee — VT 5000
- Certificate fee — VT 10,000
- Due diligence check — AUD 7,50

**THE BOND ISSUE IS NOT YET COMMENCED BY GOVERNMENT. PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



# 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.





# REO

## R E A L E S T A T E O P T I O N

The REO program commenced 23 July 2021. The Citizenship (REO) Program was enacted under section 13F of the Citizenship Act [CAP. 112] and Citizenship (Real Estate Option Program) Regulation Order No. 93 of 2021. The REO scheme aims to maximize economic growth, attracting retired investors or wealthy individuals in the real estate option sector with a focus on providing the necessary infrastructure to cater for growth of the tourism industry, the major investor will only be allowed to sell constructed houses, apartments and condominiums and will be prohibited from selling vacant land.

# GAP

## GOVERNMENT APPROVED PROJECTS

Applicants for citizenship under the REO must invest in a property in a Vanuatu Government Approved Project (VGA Project) in addition to payment of the prescribed fees.

There are 4 currently approved VGA Projects as follows:

- "Pacific Springs" situated at Rentabao on the island of Efate;
- "Narpow Point Coral Bay" situated at Narpow Point on the island of Efate;
- "FPF Rainbow City Project" situated at Narpow Point on the island of Efate;
- "Milai" situated on the island of Espiritu Santo.



# Visa

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

As of 2024, Vanuatu citizens have visa free access to 94 world countries and territories according to Henley Index



# 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

Belarus  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Kosovo  
Russia  
Montenegro  
Moldova



The EU authorities imposed full visa requirement for all nationals of Vanuatu is suspended from 4 February 2023 to 3 August 2024. This effected all Vanuatu citizens visiting the Schengen area for tourism, business and visiting family and friends.

## Africa

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

## Caribbean

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

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 \*

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



United Kingdom - Effective 19 Jul 2023, The [UK government has further imposed a visas on Vanuatu nationals](#) visiting the UK, canceling the existing visa waiver agreement. All Nationals of Vanuatu now require to [apply for a UK visa](#) instead of traveling visa free. A four-week, visa-free transition period was offered for those who hold confirmed bookings to the UK made on or before 1500 BST 19 July 2023.



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.





**CIP  
Journal**

SINCE 2017



**WORLD  
CITIZENSHIP  
COUNCIL**

**BEST CITIZENSHIPS**



**CITIZENSHIP  
SHOP**

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.

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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