



## St. Kitts & Nevis Citizenship Program

### ABOUT ST. KITTS & NEVIS

#### Overview of St. Kitts (also known as St. Christopher) and Nevis

- 45 minutes by plane from Puerto Rico
- Direct flights from neighboring islands and from London, New York, Miami, Charlotte and Philadelphia
- English-speaking Caribbean nation
- No income taxes, no estate taxes, and no net wealth taxes
- Member of the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the British Commonwealth
- Democracy based on the British parliamentary system, with the Queen of England as its Head of State

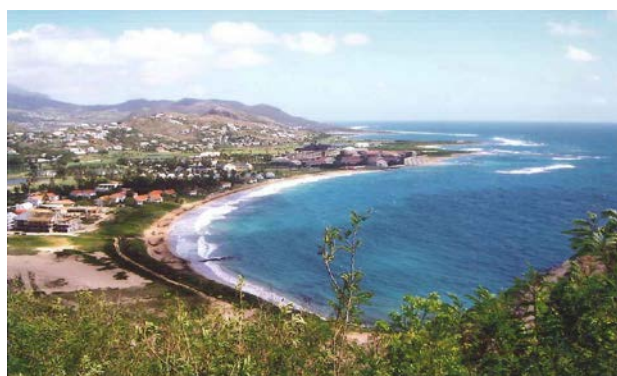
#### The St. Kitts & Nevis Passport

- A first-rate passport which offers visa free access to over 100 countries worldwide, including Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Switzerland, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, and the Philippines
- Visa free privileges also granted by the 26 member countries in the EU's Schengen area: Portugal, Spain, France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Austria, Greece, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Malta, Cyprus, Romania and Bulgaria - for up to 3 months in any 6-month period without a visa



### THE ST. KITTS & NEVIS CITIZENSHIP-BY-INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The St. Kitts & Nevis Citizenship Program rests on a sound legal basis and is quite popular with high net worth clients from the People's Republic of China, Taiwan and the United States. Americans who may wish to renounce their U.S. citizenship are usually very comfortable with St. Kitts and Nevis as they are often very familiar with the Caribbean, having vacationed or taken a cruise trip stopover there.



## Property Investment

The Citizen-by-Investment Program has been in operation since 1984, making it one of the more reputable and oldest citizenship programs in existence.

If one is considering acquiring citizenship without having to fulfill prior physical residential requirements, this is an attractive option. In addition, the applicant is not required to physically travel to the country to be interviewed before being approved for citizenship.

## Government Fees & Requirements

To qualify, the applicant has to make a minimum investment of **US\$200,000** in a Government-approved real estate project which may include hotel shares, villas, and condominium units. The investment must be held for 7 years before it can be resold but an investment of **US\$400,000** or more in approved real property is resalable after 5 years. In addition, the applicant has to pay Government registration fees of **US\$35,000** for the main applicant (plus **US\$20,000** for spouse and **US\$10,000** per dependent family member), “scale” legal fees payable to St. Kitts’ legal counsel for the real estate conveyancing work and our firm’s professional fees to prepare the application and supporting documents, which fee is inclusive of the fees to retain local counsel in St. Kitts to physically submit the application and to follow up on the citizenship application with the government once lodged.

Please note that the government policy also allows the main applicant’s spouse, children (between the age of 18-30), and parents (over 55 years of age) to qualify as dependents if they can be shown to be totally financial dependent on the main applicant and part of the main applicant’s household. In these cases, an additional fee of **US\$10,000** per applicant is payable in Government registration fees.

There is also a due diligence fee of **US\$7,500** to cover the government’s due diligence / security check of the main applicant over the age of 18 (US\$4,000 for a dependent applicant aged 16 and above) in addition to the normal Interpol clearance.



## Timing

A smooth case will take about 3-4 months to be approved in principle from the time of the submission of the application, assuming the applicant can pass the very vigilant Interpol and government due diligence background checks to confirm that the source of the money for the investment and the applicant is “clean”.

Thereafter, the citizenship certificate and passport can be issued in another 2-4 weeks.

## Property in St. Kitts & Nevis

After the required holding period of five or seven years from the date of acquisition of their citizenship, successful applicants can sell their property to anyone, including to buyers interested in applying for citizenship through the purchase of real property.



The Marriott group has a resort in St. Kitts, where many US corporations hold company conferences or conventions. In addition, the five-star Park Hyatt resort hotel, which opened in November, 2017, joins the high-end Four Seasons, which has had a hotel property in Nevis, the other island in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, since 1991. The Park Hyatt was primarily financed by investors in the citizenship program and was nominated by CNN as the best new hotel in the Caribbean in 2018 and has won accolades from The New York Times, Vogue, Forbes, People as well as many other media.



## “Sustainable Growth Fund” Donation

Instead of investment in real property, the other alternative to become a citizen is by making a donation to the “Sustainable Growth Fund” - “SGF”, which has been designated a special approved project for the purpose of Citizenship by Investment.

Donations to this fund will go toward healthcare, education, alternative energy, heritage, infrastructure, tourism and culture, climate change and resilience, and the promotion of indigenous entrepreneurship.

Persons making contributions at prescribed levels to this Fund, will also be eligible to apply for citizenship by investment.

### Fees & Requirements

The prescribed minimum contributions to the SGF are as follows:

- A) Single applicant: US\$150,000
- B) Main Applicant and Spouse: US\$175,000
- C) Additional contribution for each dependent: US\$10,000 (qualified dependents up to the age of 30 and parents 55 or older)

Our firm’s fees for applying under this option are the same as for the real estate option, but there are no legal fees for the real estate conveyancing work if there is no real property purchase.

