# Caribbean Tourism and Hospitality Investment Guide







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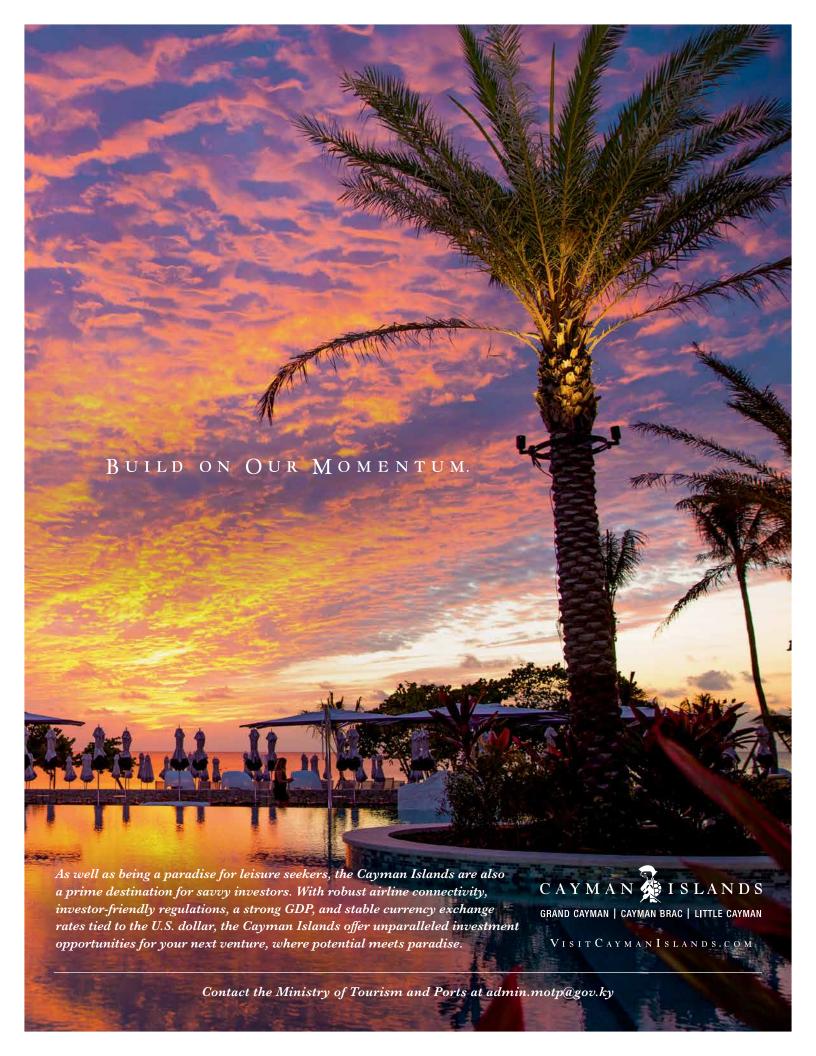
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Top row from left

Wyndham Grand Barbados and The Osprey in The Bahamas

**Bottom row from left** 

Sandals St. Vincent and Six Senses in Grenada

2024 Edition

## **Editorial**



We are presenting this fourth edition of the Caribbean Tourism and Hospitality Investment Guide at a time of a resurgence of growth in the region's key foreign exchange earning tourism industry. The tourism and hospitality sector has once again shown its resilience and is on a growth path for 2024. The region's premier tourism development agency, the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), has reported that Caribbean tourism grew in 2023 with an estimated 14.3% increase in international stay-over arrivals to the region. The Caribbean hotel sector also experienced a "remarkable turnaround" in 2023.

The CTO has described the region's tourism prospects for 2024 as highly promising with anticipated growth of between five and ten percent.

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is forecasting an average growth rate of 8.6 percent for its 19 Borrowing Member Countries in 2024, largely attributable to increased oil production in Guyana and the continued expansion of the region's tourism industry.

Investor confidence in the region is high as evidenced by the number of new properties, either completed or in development, across the region. This includes Sandals' latest all-inclusive resort, its 18<sup>th</sup>, which recently opened in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Wyndham Grand Barbados, Marriott Courtyard, Indigo Hotels, a brand of the Inter-Continental Group (IHG), Best Western and Six Senses.

Both large and globally established resorts as well as smaller boutique hotels are opening in the Caribbean. A distinguishing feature of the new properties is the emphasis on providing memorable culinary experiences, with a wide range of dining options and extensive mouth-watering menus with a focus on local as well as international cuisine.

There is a continuing interest by CTO member states to attract more investment for special niches such as medical and sports tourism. Both segments have tremendous growth potential.

Airports in the region are being upgraded and new ones constructed. Airlift is improving and initiatives have been taken to boost airline capacity to the region.

The CTO has been active on many fronts in 2024 addressing key issues that impact the sector and will once again be hosting the CTO State of the Industry Conference, (SOTIC) its major regional tourism industry forum, in the Cayman Islands from September 4-6.

As you explore this publication, you will see a myriad of projects in our diverse locations that are ripe for investment. You can count on the support of the region's investment agencies. They are eager to engage in mutually beneficial collaboration to facilitate new projects that would expand and upgrade the region's tourism and hospitality sector thereby positioning the Caribbean as the leading warm weather tourism destination.

Sandra Ann Baptiste
Editor

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As Chairman for the Caribbean Tourism Organization Scholarship Foundation, I am indeed appreciative of the opportunity to be a partner in the publication of the Caribbean Tourism and Hospitality Investment Guide. I am particularly proud to be able to use this resource to strengthen and position the Scholarship Foundation and its work in the investment community as well as in the region.

We feel strongly that this important publication that focuses on identifying investment opportunities, is a critical tool for the members of the CTO. Prospective companies interested in the development of the Caribbean tourism and hospitality industry can secure information on infrastructure developments, including airport and seaport upgrades as well as hotel development and expansions. This resource is also very valuable to high-net-worth individuals with a desire to invest in the region.

The CTO Scholarship Foundation is a (501c3) tax-exempt charitable entity established in 1997 with the aim of training and developing future leaders for the Caribbean Tourism Industry by funding studies in tourism and tourism related subjects, hospitality, and language.

I strongly believe that giving back to the region where you do business should be a high priority and the return on this investment creates a much more qualified workforce and those who give become better corporate citizens. We expect that many of our scholars will go on to secure gainful employment in the businesses that are developed because this publication created the opportunity.

We thank all the members who have supported the publication and wish them success in attracting the right investor.

Jacqueline Johnson

CEO, GlobalBridalGroup/MarryCaribbean.com

Chairman, Caribbean Tourism Organization Scholarship Foundation.

## Message from Hon. Kenneth Bryan

## Minister of Tourism and Ports, Cayman Islands Chairman, Caribbean Tourism Organization



Hon. Kenneth Bryan

The Caribbean Tourism Organization, representing 25 member jurisdictions from The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands in the north to Curação and Guyana in the south, and Bermuda in the Atlantic, advocates for the region's vast tourism potential. I am honored to represent the Cayman Islands, a trio of stunning islands encircled by the pristine waters of the Caribbean Sea.

The Caribbean has substantial investment potential. In the hospitality and tourism sector, opportunities abound in areas such as medical and sports tourism, conference hosting, cruise homeporting, ferry services, and yachting. These sectors represent niche or emerging markets ripe for growth.

Our governments ensure a stable political climate and uphold robust legal and financial frameworks. The region features well-developed infrastructure, including advanced transportation networks, dependable utilities, and state-of-the-art broadband and fiber-optic connectivity. These attributes create a favorable investment environment that protects assets and promises sustained returns.

Our skilled workforce, bolstered by partnerships with local and international educational institutions, is well able to meet the labor demands of the industry. Moreover, the Caribbean's connectivity to major global markets makes it an attractive destination for business and leisure, positioning it as the fastest-growing region in tourism.

We are committed to sustainable investment practices and encourage initiatives that incorporate energy-efficient designs, waste reduction, and responsible water management. These eco-friendly practices align with the preferences of contemporary travelers and position investors at the forefront of the evolving tourism landscape.

The Caribbean offers more than breathtaking destinations; it represents a unique investment opportunity that is committed to fostering your success. On behalf of our members, I extend an invitation – not only to explore the limitless possibilities our region offers but also to engage directly with key industry leaders at our upcoming events. Join us for the State of the Tourism Industry Conference in the Cayman Islands from September 4-6, 2024. These events provide a perfect platform to connect with influential figures in Caribbean tourism. Remember, the best time to invest in the Caribbean is now!



## Caribbean Tourism Experiences Strong Growth in 2023 Recovery to Continue into 2024

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (March 15, 2024) – Continuing its positive recovery trend, Caribbean tourism grew in 2023 with an estimated 14.3% increase in international stay-over arrivals to the region, the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) has reported.

Delivering the "Caribbean Tourism Performance Review 2023" in Bridgetown today, Dona Regis-Prosper, Secretary-General of the CTO, shared that last year's growth was in line with CTO's forecast for the year, and attributed the outcome to sustained demand for outbound travel from the United States – the Caribbean's main source market, enhanced tourism-related infrastructure within the destinations, the fulfillment of strategic marketing initiatives, and augmented airlift capacity between the region and its source markets, albeit unevenly distributed among the destinations.

The recovery of global tourism has been resilient, despite variability in the regional performances, according to Regis-Prosper, with the Caribbean surpassing pre-pandemic arrivals by a modest 0.8%, outperforming most of the main global regions in terms of recovery.

"Based on preliminary data provided so far by the destinations in the Caribbean, tourist visits were approximately 32.2 million – about four million more than in 2022," stated Regis-Prosper, who noted that the data showed that each month's arrivals exceeded those of 2022 thus establishing a continuous growth trend over the past 33 months as tourism steadily rebounded toward pre-pandemic levels.

Arrival levels amongst Caribbean destinations either significantly recovered or moderately exceeded the benchmark numbers of 2019, with 11 destinations, Anguilla, Aruba, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Puerto Rico,



Hon. Kenneth Bryan CTO Chairman



Donna Regis-Prosper CTO Secretary-General

St. Maarten, Turks & Caicos Islands, and U.S. Virgin Islands performing better than in 2019. The majority of those recovered greater than 50% of their 2019 arrivals. In addition, multiple destinations registered new record levels for tourist arrivals in a single year.

#### **United States and Canada Markets**

For the Caribbean, only the U.S. market has fully recovered, while the recovery rates of arrivals from Europe and Canada reached 88.2% and 88.1%, respectively. An estimated 16.3 million stay-over arrivals to the region came from the United States, representing an annual growth rate of 12.7%. The performance here established a new record level of arrivals from this market and surpassed the pre-pandemic arrivals by 4.2%. The performance of the Canadian market resulted in an estimated three million Canadian tourist visits by the end of the year, an increase of 46.1% compared to 2022. Increased air service from major Canadian cities to Caribbean destinations played a pivotal role in driving up visitor numbers.

#### **Europe, Caribbean and South America Markets**

Regis-Prosper noted that arrivals from Europe to the Caribbean region were stagnant in 2023.

A total of approximately 5.2 million trips originated from the market. In 2023, travel among Caribbean residents to destinations within the region increased by approximately 3.6%, a total of 1.6 million trips, which was 0.3 million more compared to 2022. This also indicated a recovery of 62.5% from pre-pandemic levels. "Despite this positive outcome, intra-regional travel remained expensive due to fragmented air service and reduced air capacity," said Regis-Prosper. By the end of the year, trips from South America to the region surged by an estimated 14%, totaling 1.7 million trips.

#### **Caribbean Hotel Performance**

The Caribbean hotel sector experienced a remarkable turnaround in 2023, including a surge in the establishment of new hotels and resorts. According to STR, throughout the Caribbean, average room occupancy grew to 65.6% in 2023 from 61% in 2022. The average daily rate (ADR) experienced a considerable increase of 11.8% with the region's ADR reaching US\$329.37 while the revenue per available room (RevPAR) jumped 20.2% to US\$215.97.

#### **Cruise Tourism Performance**

Preliminary data for 2023 showed that Caribbean destinations received an estimated 31.1 million cruise visits, reflecting an increase of 11.3 million visits or 56.8% compared to 2019. This level established a new record for the regional cruise sector, surpassing the previous record of 2019 by 2.4%. Pent-up demand and the resumption of operations drove strong bookings for Caribbean cruises, along with improvements in cruise infrastructure such as larger ships, enhanced facilities, itineraries, and shore excursions.

Projections indicate that the cruise sector will continue its upward track, with an estimated 34.2 million to 35.8 million cruise visits expected in the Caribbean in 2024. This anticipated expansion falls within the range of 10% and 15%.

#### Remarkable Resilience

Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization's Council of Ministers and Commissioners of Tourism, Kenneth Bryan, who also serves as the Cayman Islands' Minister of Tourism and Ports, noted the remarkable resilience of the tourism industry and its ongoing recovery and growth in 2023. However, he emphasized that the industry and the region will continue to face an array of challenges, including the high cost of travel, ongoing conflicts, heightened geopolitical tensions, and their anticipated impacts, in 2024.

"Caribbean destinations remain adaptable and responsive, and the region is still highly desired by travelers for its safety and diversity of tourism products," stated Chairman Bryan, adding that in 2024 the region will also be positively impacted by key developments, including increased air capacity throughout the year, which will facilitate greater access between the destinations and some of their legacy and emerging markets.

Chairman Bryan also pointed to "intensive strategic marketing initiatives" that are being executed to attract visitors to the region to enjoy its culture and heritage, including its carnivals and festivals.

He noted that the CTO is pleased that the ICC (International Cricket Council) Men's T20 World Cup 2024 is being hosted in several destinations bringing not only teams but also their loyal followers to the region and further raising awareness and promoting the diverse offerings of Caribbean destinations to global audiences.

"Hence, the Caribbean's prospects appear highly promising, with more regional destinations poised to either match or surpass the arrival figures recorded in 2019. Anticipated growth is forecast to range between five percent and 10 percent, potentially welcoming between 33.8 million and 35.4 million stay-over tourists," concluded Chairman Bryan.

**Source: Caribbean Tourism Organization** 

## **Barbados Hosting CHICOS 2024**

Barbados will host The 13<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Hotel Investment Conference and Operations Summit (CHICOS), which brings together hundreds of regional and international investors and operators, and leading decision-makers from across the region.

The conference will be held at the Wyndham Grand Barbados, November 13-15.



Wyndham Grand Barbados

"The 2023 event in the U.S. Virgin Islands was a great success, partnering with the U.S.V.I. Department of Tourism to bring together over 300 attendees. This year's event will be in partnership with Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. in order to present the opportunities on the island, along with showing off the hospitality and culture," said Parris Jordan, HVS Executive who is the Chairman of CHICOS.

Over 350 delegates attended the 2023 event in the USVI. Attendees and speakers are governmental representatives, opinion leaders, developers, bankers and other lenders, tourism officials, investment fund managers, hotel brand executives as well as individuals or companies seeking investors for their tourism projects.

Also participating in the Conference are franchise and operations companies, public and private institutions, consultants, advisors, architects and designers. Attendees network and discuss the region's markets and opportunities for investment, while analyzing the most important trends that can impact their investment decisions.

CHICOS is responsible directly and indirectly for significant hotel acquisitions and development

deals since its inception. By bringing together various hotel investors and major decision-makers from hotel owners, developers, government ministers, prime ministers, Presidents, governors, hotel brand executives and lenders, numerous deals have been completed by delegates that conducted business at CHICOS.



Parris Jordan CHICOS Chairman

Participants at the 2023 Conference in the USVI have commented on the value of attending the annual forum.

"I think the HVS, Parris and his team gathered some of the greatest minds in hospitality in the Caribbean region. This event gives us a chance to have unscripted conversations about where the region is heading," said Andre Kelshall, Architect at Design Landscape Architects.

"I think the efficiency of time usage is interesting. In the one space, we have government officials, tourism operators, hotel executives, developers, professional advisors, and so in a day and a half, you get to meet a lot of people that would take you many days or weeks to contact. The networking is outstanding. It gets better and better every year. I don't know how they do it, but they manage to do it," Martyn Bould, Chairman of Bould Consulting stated.

"You could get more information here at this conference than you could acquire in a couple of years so I think it will be a great benefit to come to CHICOS and I intend to make this a common place in my learning and networking experience," remarked Darin Richardson at Diamond Hill Development.

"If you are serious about learning what is happening in the region and how to get a project, or what to expect, you will learn some questions to ask and you will hopefully come back because you will get so much out of it," advised Lilianne Stacishin-Moura, Vice-President of Business Development, VITA Planning and Landscape Architecture.



## SAVE THE DATE - NOVEMBER 13-15, 2024

## WYNDHAM GRAND BARBADOS SAM LORDS CASTLE ALL INCLUSIVE RESORT BARBADOS







STANDARD REGISTRATION (ends October 1): \$1,725 USD LATE REGISTRATION: \$1,925 USD

We are excited to partner with host sponsor Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. for the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of CHICOS that will take place at the Wyndham Grand Barbados Sam Lords Castle All Inclusive Resort in Barbados on from November 13 through 15, 2024. Be sure to reserve your spot early and book your accommodations! Further details, including registration rates and group codes, can be found on the conference website. https://chicos.hvsconferences.com/

HOSTS



# CTO Foundation Continues to Build Skills to Enhance the Tourism Industry

The Caribbean Tourism Organization Scholarship Foundation continues to support Caribbean nationals interested in pursuing studies in tourism and tourism-related subjects who demonstrate high levels of academic achievement and leadership and, who express a strong interest in making a contribution to the development of a sustainable Caribbean tourism industry.

The Foundation was established in 1997 as a not-for-profit corporation, registered in the State of New York, under Section 501c3 of Internal Revenue Code of 1986, primarily for educational purposes. Led by a volunteer Board of Directors, the Foundation's first set of scholarships and study grants were awarded in 1998. Since 1998, the CTO Scholarship Foundation has provided 126 major scholarships and 186 study grants to deserving Caribbean nationals amounting to over U.S. \$1 million.

Students pursue studies within and outside the region including at Florida International University in Florida, the University of the West Indies, Surrey University in the United Kingdom, Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island, Swinbume University of Technology in Australia, Cornell University in New York and Le Cordon Bleu in Paris.

The areas of study include Flight Instruction and Pilot Training; Disaster Risk Management, Management Concepts, Culinary Management; Computer Science, Tourism and Hospitality Management, Human Resource Management, Executive Leadership in Hospitality Management; Hotel Real Estate and Asset Management, and Tourism in Developing Countries. Upon completion of their studies, scholarship holders have worked in positions at the highest levels in Ministries of Tourism, Tourist Boards, Tourism departments at educational institutions and the hospitality sector, and in other areas of the tourism industry.

Major Foundation sponsors include Adya Global, Blue Group Media, American Express, American Airlines, Interval International, Royal Caribbean International, Delta Air Lines, JetBlue, Travel+Leisure, CTO Chapters worldwide and the CTO Allied Members.

The Scholarship Foundation also raises much-needed funds by staging events like Rum & Rhythm, the Travel Industry Marketing Conference, an Awards Luncheon, and the Bridal Showcase. The Scholarship Foundation has also supported other tourism education related initiatives like the Caribbean Students Colloquium held during Caribbean Week in New York and the Caribbean Youth Congress, held at CTO's State of the Tourism Industry Marketing Conferences.

All donations to the CTO Scholarship Foundation are used to fund scholarships.

# The Osprey-Local Bahamas Investment Redesigns Tourism

The Bahamas, an archipelago of 700 islands, many of which are sparsely populated, has become even more sought-after for families now seeking to spend worry-free time away from big cities.

Since Covid, many of the smaller Bahamian islands called 'Family Islands', experienced a boom in property purchases and development. It was during the pandemic that Daphne and John Delaney decided to expand and transform their beachfront vacation home in Great Harbour Cay into a boutique residence hotel. Their vision was born out of their love for the ocean and the natural environment, and desire for comfort no matter how rustic the location.

Although a small and rustic island, Great Harbour Cay has enormous potential due to its close proximity to the United States, access to a new airport, upgraded roads, a marina, and a pristine 7-mile stretch of beach. On a 3-acre parcel with 400 feet of pristine beachfront, their boutique West Indies-styled resort represents the

perfect respite for travelers seeking up-close exposure to nature. Designed for extended stays, each cottage is equipped with kitchens with air fryers, coffee makers, full refrigerators, lounge area, 55-inch televisions and private decks.

On arrival, guests will find their requested pantry items already stored in their suite. Meals include seasonal locally grown fruits, freshly baked local breads and pastries and locally caught seafood. For those seeking an immersive experience, the Delaneys delight in enjoying a glass of wine with guests and sharing stories of the island and The Bahamas generally. Guests can expect an exclusive, highly personalized, luxurious and nature-filled stay. From the balcony, dolphins and stingrays can be seen swimming by, and ospreys, herons, egrets and mockingbirds are among the birds that frequent the property, which is filled with native palms, orchids and other plants.









**Investor Confidence in the Caribbean** 

## Wyndham Grand Barbados Sam Lord's Castle Resort & Spa

The oceanfront, all-inclusive resort, which marks Wyndham Hotels & Resorts' debut in Barbados, is located on the site of the former Sam Lord's Castle, which was once renowned for pirate activities during the 19th century.

The all-inclusive resort, which offers 422 guestrooms, including 37 suites with private balconies, is on the southeastern side of the island, just 15 minutes from the Grantley Adams International Airport.

The property has more than 10 dining venues. Culinary highlights include the Mediterranean Marketplace with flavors from North Africa, Italy, France, Portugal and Spain, pop-up food trucks, poolside dining, and a specialty "farm-to-fork" experience with locally sourced ingredients from nearby farmers, fishermen and purveyors.

For guests seeking to unwind, the hotel has a 13,000-square-foot spa with a pool area and relaxation deck, along with a fitness center and a sunrise yoga center. Other facilities include lagoonstyle swimming pools, a kids center, butler service, tennis and pickleball courses.

The resort has 15,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting and event space that can accommodate up to 1,100 guests and purposefully built landscapes, well suited for staging weddings and special events.



Wyndham Grand Barbados aerial view

"Barbados offers the perfect backdrop for a chic and upscale getaway – lush, tropical gardens, uninterrupted ocean views and an array of opportunities to unplug, unwind and make lasting memories with friends and family," said Gustavo



Wyndham Grand Barbados courtyard

Viescas, President, Latin America and Caribbean, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts.

"Wyndham Grand Barbados brings all of that to life on our legendary grounds, allowing guests to take a step back to practice self-care and immerse themselves in the beauty of the nature around them," the Wyndham Executive added.

The property is committed to improving the environment and supporting the community by developing and implementing sustainable programs.

The eco-hotel brings this concept to life using sustainably sourced wood, a chef's garden integrating food crop production and education as well as eco-friendly alternatives to single-use plastics, LED bulbs, floor-to-ceiling glass doors and windows in guestrooms allow for natural light and ventilation.

The property is the venue for the 2024 Caribbean Hotel Investment Conference and Operations Summit (CHICOS).

The resort will spread tourism further across the country, moving away from the traditional west and south coast tourism belts of the island to the east coast creating deeper linkages across the island and further into the communities.

The Wyndham Grand Sam Lord's Castle project is expected to employ around 1000 persons and is expected to bring over 30,000 guests annually and contribute over US\$70 million to the foreign exchange earnings of the country.

## Sandals Saint Vincent Hailed as a "Little Known Wonder"

Sandals held the grand opening in March for the brand's 18th all-inclusive resort in the Caribbean – Sandals St. Vincent, which offers "an unrivaled sanctuary where guests can commune with nature, foster wellness, and cultivate lasting connections."

The property has 301 rooms and suites across 50 lush-laden acres, including botanical gardens and offers new dining concepts like Buccan, a large-format style dining experience that creates conversation and connection over locally harvested food roasted in an open hearth.

Guests will find Buccan, an immersive family-style, open-air culinary journey and the region's first-ever solid fuel restaurant. The cooking style, done in local clay yabba pots, becomes a centerpiece of the experience, turning local cedar and sustainable sources like coconut husks into coal as chefs rely on ancient culinary techniques to create a menu highlighting local 'Vincy' ingredients with seasonal platters designed for sharing.

"Sandals Saint Vincent unveils a little-known wonder we are proud to bring forward, not only for its show-stopping beauty but for the warmth and grace of its people. There is a joy here that pulses throughout and beyond 32 incredible islands. Sandals Saint Vincent was designed to honor that spirit, encouraging carefree exploration, pampered relaxation, and deep connection," said Adam Stewart, Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts International.

A pioneering concept for the brand, the Vincy Overwater Two-Storey Villas, features expansive spaces spanning two stories above the sea, as well as dedicated villa perks including an exclusive table at Buccan. Beachfront Villas offer a tranquil retreat just steps from the sand. Inside, guests are met with warm neutrals, organic textures, locally sourced volcanic materials, and pops of cool blue to create a harmonious connection with the island's natural surroundings.

Scrimshaw taps into the island's abundant access to fresh seafood from its coveted location on the coastal shelf, starring curry conch fritters with a liquid center; scallops with pickled, locally grown



Poolside view of the property

peanuts; and a vegan roasted pumpkin with lemongrass-tofu puree, spiced pumpkin seeds and red onion relish.

Parisol, an open-air beach club and kitchen, invites guests to salute the morning sun with smoothies that incorporate the viral superfood, sea moss; naturally gluten-free cassava flour pancakes; and locally loved 'Bakes' with salted fish and guava jam. Day time bites are to be savored by the sea: from the tuna & charred cucumber aguachile to snapper, skipjack, conch or lobster – served grilled, steamed or fried – accompanied by lemongrass rice and ginger cabbage slaw.

Imoro, a Sandals First 'grab-and-go' concept, is named after the Arawak term for 'green,' serving up healthy, veggie-focused bowls.

Three Jewels rum bar celebrates a quintessentially local Caribbean spirit, with a selection of 32 rums inspired by the destination's 32 islands within 32 miles.

"Based on continuing demand from our loyal Sandals customers for new places and experiences, we identified Saint Vincent to be a fantastic destination for a Sandals resort. It's an island that has incredible things to offer - volcanoes, white beaches, black beaches, rainforests, and the most incredible dive sites around a collection of islands and cays which extend down to the Grenadines like a string of pearls all the way to the Tobago Keys," Gebhard Rainer, Chief Executive Officer of Sandals Resorts International said.

Caribbean Investment Guide

# Hotel Indigo Grand Cayman Offers Unique Culinary Experiences

The recently-opened Hotel Indigo in Grand Cayman has 288 guest rooms with views across the Caribbean Sea, an expansive pool deck, multiple restaurants, a rooftop bar and boasts a variety of other distinctive features including a 6,700 square-foot ballroom, with large pre-function space.

The Hotel's design is inspired by the pulse and rhythm of the islands and reflects maritime history. The range of accommodations includes suites for those seeking a more luxurious experience and bunk beds for families or groups traveling together.

The property's diverse dining options and unique culinary experiences are likely to enhance the appeal of Grand Cayman as a tourist destination, attracting travelers seeking immersive and memorable dining experiences.

The property's unique restaurant and bar offers fresh and diverse dining experiences. The multi-concept food hall features a range of culinary options from California-inspired cuisine to Asian-influenced sushi and global fare.

The Rooftop lounge offers South American small plates and cocktails with wood-fired cuisine and Latin influences while the Poolside Bata Bar serves Caribbean-influenced cocktails and coastal California-inspired fare, complemented by beachside service with complimentary amenities.

Café Alula, an all-day coffee shop and retail market offers expertly crafted coffee drinks, fresh-pressed juices, baked goods, breakfast sandwiches, and healthy snacks.

Private enclave exhibition kitchen, Rasa, showcases rotating global culinary themes such as Peruvian, modern British, Sicilian, and Polynesian



Hotel Indigo Grand Cayman

gastronomy. Additionally, amenities such as the rooftop lounge and beachside service contribute to the overall attractiveness of the resort, potentially increasing tourism to the area.

The introduction of Pom Pom, a 10-storey rooftop lounge offers a whole new elevated experience that offers panoramic water views.

The novelty of enjoying South American-inspired small plates and cocktails against the backdrop of breathtaking views from the rooftop lounge enhances the island's vibrant nightlife scene and further solidifies its position as a sought-after tourist destination

"Hotel Indigo Grand Cayman represents a winning blend of refined and local flavor, providing guests with an unforgettable experience. Our goal in our culinary program is to create a destination that breaks away from traditional dining formats by offering an explorative and non-linear experience for our guests and locals alike," said General Manager Steven Andre.

# Groundbreaking Held for Hotel Indigo Boutique Hotel in St. Kitts

The groundbreaking was held recently for Hotel Indigo, a 42-suite boutique hotel located at Potato Bay in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Dr. Denzil Douglas, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who also holds the portfolio for economic development, international trade and investment, said the inauguration of Hotel Indigo marks the ushering in of a new era in St. Kitts and Nevis as it is poised to transform the hospitality landscape.



From left at the groundbreaking ceremony are Minister of Tourism, Hon. Marsha T Henederson, Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Terrance M Drew, principal investor Mr. Khaled Al Babtain and Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas, Minister of Foreign affairs, International Trade, Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Economic Development and Investment.

According to the developer, Troy Property Investment Limited, the design of the property will appeal to business people, government officials and diplomats who require a private and luxurious experience while traveling, as well as vacationers looking for a comfortable and fun experience.

The hotel will offer a range of amenities that both the business traveler and the leisure traveler will find useful, including high-speed internet as well as a functional business center and conference/meeting spaces.

Guests on vacation can enjoy a variety of restaurants, a swimming pool terrace bar and bowling alley. A fully equipped gym will also be available to guests. The development will strive to minimize its carbon footprint to be considered a sustainable green hotel, with the utilization of the latest smart technology and energy-efficient equipment.

"As we embark on our sustainable goal initiative, the Hotel Indigo promises to be a fitting example in keeping with our aim towards a sustainable island state," Dr. Douglas said at the sod turning ceremony.

"This is a major investment for us as it brings foreign direct investments of over U.S. \$100 million. It brings the creation of jobs. Approximately 130 persons will be employed during the construction and operational phase," the Minister said.

## IHG's Luxury Brand Six Senses Opens in Grenada

The much-anticipated opening of Six Senses La Sagesse in Grenada, the InterContinental Hotel Group (IHG) brand's debut resort in the Caribbean, took place in April.

The property, which has a beachfront setting, verdant rolling hills and spacious accommodation, offers effortless access to Grenada's shimmering reefs and mystical rainforests.

The resort, which is part of IHG's luxury and lifestyle portfolio, has 56 pool suites and 15 villas, with one to four bedrooms, all with large outdoor terraces and private plunge pools.

"Grenada is divided into six parishes, and La Sagesse, which is in the South-Eastern parish of St. David, has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years. It is filled with vibrant energy, and we are delighted to be opening our doors and welcoming our first guests to discover this unique location," Thomas Fehlbier, General Manager said.

"Our hosts, many of whom were born and raised minutes from the resort, along with the neighboring community, are full of pride and all-embracing. We are immensely grateful to be breaking the mold and inviting the world to experience a side of Grenada that retains an incredible purity and remains somewhat undiscovered," Fehlbier added.

The Experience Center at the resort offers unique experiences to connect guests with Grenada's Spice Island heritage and provides education about its culture and way of life. This includes exciting activities like farm-to-table cooking, Caribbean-style high tea, waterfall dips, rainforest hikes and visits to dramatic coastlines.



Six Senses Villa

Featuring three restaurants, two bars, a bakery and destination dining that incorporates the Eat With Six Senses ethos, Six Senses La Sagesse menus are inspired by Caribbean and South American cuisine while keeping well-being in mind. Led by Executive Chef Jason Miller, every dish is brought to life with bold flavors using local produce grown in the fertile volcanic Grenadian soil.

The spa is designed to leverage the abundance of fragrant spices with medicinal healing properties, along with local community knowledge, age-old traditions, and indigenous plants and herbs, to create innovative wellness programs that focus on sleep, movement, yoga, and longevity. The spa offers high-tech and high-touch therapies, guided by in-house experts and Visiting Practitioners, to help guide guests on a personal path to growth and reconnection.

Six Senses La Sagesse is 35 minutes by car from Grenada's Maurice Bishop International Airport, which is served by year-round flights from North America, Canada, and Europe.

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## Best Western Expands Accommodation Options in Guyana

The opening of the Aiden by Best Western Hotel increases the number and range of accommodation options in Guyana.

The property at Robb and Oronoque streets in Georgetown has 138 rooms, which include 12 suites complete with kitchenettes, 113 King rooms and 13 twin rooms. Each suite is named after iconic Guyanese rivers. The grandest is the "Essequibo" Suite.

Floors 7 and 8 house executive rooms, with private executive lounges for guests seeking exclusivity and privacy.

A restaurant and coffee shop on the hotel's ground floor offers culinary delights while a stunning rooftop bar offers a breathtaking 180-degree panorama of the city. Guests also have access to a state-of-the-art gym, 24 hours a day.

"We see ourselves not only as purveyors of worldclass hospitality but also as integral contributors to the greatness of Guyana. Our commitment to excellence extends beyond our services to embody a genuine dedication to our nation's prosperity and development," General Manager Carlos Achong said. "The hotel invites guests to experience a new standard



**Rooftop Bar:** With its chic ambience and spectacular views, the rooftop bar is poised to become a key attraction for both locals and visitors in Georgetown.

of upper midscale in Georgetown, Guyana," Achong added.

According to the Guyana Tourism Authority, the opening of the Aiden by Best Western Hotel positively impacts the country's tourism sector by attracting more international travellers and creating more employment opportunities for Guyanese.

## Cheddi Jagan International Airport Expansion and Upgrades Continuing

Significant progress has been made on the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) Expansion Project with several upgrades completed, including the runway extension, departures terminal rehabilitation, and a brand-new arrivals terminal to improve passenger flow and capacity.

The main runway has been extended from 7,500 feet to 11,023 feet to accommodate larger aircraft.

The recent expansion and upgrades were completed by China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC).

A modern baggage handling system is currently being installed to enhance efficiency and passenger experience.

Construction on a dedicated office building for airport employees is slated for completion by the end of the year.

Also nearing completion is a new commercial center, which will provide a wider variety of concessions, including food and duty-free shops for passengers. A multi-purpose building is being constructed to house airline offices, law enforcement, airline security

A multi-purpose building is being constructed to house airline offices, law enforcement, airline security conference and training rooms, and duty-free bonds. This project will be completed by February 2025.



The upgraded Cheddi Jagan international airport in Guyana

"The CJIA Expansion Project is transforming Guyana's main gateway. The completed works and ongoing projects will significantly improve the airport's infrastructure, capacity, and passenger experience," Airport CEO Ramesh Ghir said.

He said the Government, which is anticipating continued passenger growth, is exploring the construction of a second terminal building to meet future demand. "This demonstrates the government's commitment to accommodating future growth in the aviation industry."



## **ANGUILLA**

## **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Anguilla offers a diverse range of experiences for visitors, showcasing its vibrant culinary scene with beachfront restaurants and local delicacies. Adventure seekers can explore pristine waters through activities like snorkeling and diving, as well as land adventures such as hiking. The island provides luxurious spa retreats for wellness enthusiasts, coupled with romantic settings ideal for couples.

Anguilla's rich culture is highlighted through local festivals, historic sites, and interactions with friendly locals. The destination is committed to sustainability, offering eco-friendly activities.

Sports enthusiasts can enjoy golf, tennis, and water sports amid breathtaking natural backdrops, while families can find child-friendly resorts and activities.

Anguilla provides excellent facilities for incentive travel and intimate events in a serene environment.

American Airlines' daily direct flights from Miami to Anguilla strengthen the island's accessibility to global travelers.

A new terminal is being constructed at the airport and will be followed by an extension of the runway. The opening of the new CILIA Customs Cargo Facility marks a pivotal step in advancing Anguilla's logistical capabilities. Other infrastructure upgrades include the completion of the Blowing Point Ferry. Work has begun on the expansion of the Altamer, incorporating the construction of a superyacht marina complex.

Savannah Bay Anguilla, being developed on the east coast of the island, will include a marina, marina village, hotels villas and condos.

The hotel sector is poised to grow by close to 23 percent in 2024.

## INVESTMENT **OPPORTUNITIES**

Anguilla is focused on improving the business climate which combine two complementary focuses of nurturing local enterprises and attracting foreign investment.

Among the focal points of investment opportunities are the flourishing field of marine development and Ecotourism initiatives.

Anguilla is strategically fostering investment partnerships across various tourism-related sectors to solidify its position as a premier Caribbean destination.

#### **Investment Opportunities include:**

Marina development - Anguilla is actively seeking strategic investments in marina development to enhance its allure as a premier Caribbean destination. Investors are invited to contribute to the creation of state-of-the-art marinas, leveraging the island's pristine waters and geographical advantages to cater to the growing demand for upscale maritime experiences.

Innovative Eco-Tourism Initiatives -Seeking to bolster its commitment to sustainable and responsible travel experiences, Anguilla is actively

pursuing investments in innovative Eco-Tourism Initiatives. Investment is being sought for projects that harmonize natural beauty with cuttingedge eco-friendly practices, aligning with the vision of becoming a leading destination for environmentally conscious and immersive tourism.

**Hotel Development** - With a vision to expand its tourism infrastructure, Anguilla is actively seeking investments to increase its hotel and villa room offerings. Investors are invited to participate in projects that cater to the growing demand for upscale accommodations, contributing to the island's goal of providing diverse and exceptional lodging experiences.

This comprehensive approach reflects Anguilla's dedication to meeting the evolving demands of the tourism

industry, offering strategic investment avenues for stakeholders to contribute to the island's growth and enhance its reputation as a distinctive and highly desirable travel destination in the Caribbean.

## INVESTMENT **INCENTIVES**

Anguilla is a jurisdiction with favourable tax conditions. The concessions typically extended to investors often include:

- Reduced fees for Alien Land Holding Licenses
- Discounted rates on the importation of essential construction materials and equipment needed for both development and refurbishment projects.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **Trade and Investment Unit**

Ministry of Finance, Health and **Economic Development** P.O. Box 60, The Valley, AI-2640, Anguilla Tel: (264) 497 2547 ext. 1324

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#### **Anguilla Tourist Board**

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# Allure of Anguila An island OF OPPORTUNI



#### **EXPLORE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN:**



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TOURISM



HOSPITALITY



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anguilla

## **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

## **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Antigua and Barbuda, nestled in the heart of the Eastern Caribbean, is famed for its stunning white and pink sand beaches. Rich in history and culture, Antigua and Barbuda's relaxed pace, friendly people, boutique hotels and luxurious resorts make it the perfect escape for travellers. Its unique coastline with charming safe harbours that include the fascinating UNESCO World Heritage Site - Nelson's Dockyard, also makes the destination an ideal hub for sailors.

There are direct services to ten major gateway cities and connections to over 15 regional airports by over 15 carriers, connecting to V.C. Bird International Airport in Antigua.

Antigua and Barbuda projects an increase in its room stock to 1,000 rooms by the end of 2025.

2024 will see several infrastructure upgrades at the V.C. Bird International Airport.

To increase arrivals to the destination, investments have been made to expand into new target markets such as Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia.

Wellness Month is in January, Antigua Sailing Week in April, Restaurant Week and Barbuda Caribana in May, Romance Month in June and Antigua Carnival in July and August.

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Investment opportunities, through stand-alone or joint ventures, are available in a range of areas, including:

- · Hotels, Marinas, Golf Courses
- · Resorts and Boutique Hotels
- Spas
- · Health and Wellness Resorts

Antigua and Barbuda is a compelling destination for respite and rejuvenation. The government welcomes investment for health and wellness facilities and services.

- · High-end Villas
- · High-end Eco-lodges
- · Food and Beverage Establishments
- Mixed-use Tourism, Residential and Commercial Developments
- · Shopping & Entertainment Centres
- Theme Parks, Museums, Soft Adventure Amenities

#### **HIGH-END TOURISM ATTRACTIONS**

The Ministry is actively inviting investors to submit proposals for the development of high-end tourism attractions. These areas include, but are not limited to, water-parks, night entertainment facilities, under-water, aquariums and marine parks.

#### **AGRO-TOURISM ENTERPRISES**

There are several niches within the sector such as spices and condiments, jams and jellies, juices and nectars.

## WORLD CLASS FACILITIES FOR YACHTING

The country has:

- A strong yachting background and reputation
- Superb berthing facilities and firstrate services
- Unique re-positioning services between Saint Maarten and Guadeloupe

## INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda Antigua offers a blend of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives as part of its investment attraction package.

#### Fiscal incentives include:

- Tax breaks depending on the size of the investment and number of jobs created.
- Free repatriation of capital, profits and dividends.
- An exemption from or reduction of the payment on import duty on the importation or purchase of raw materials, building materials, furniture, fixtures, fittings, appliances, machinery, plant and equipment and on vehicles for use in the construction and operation of the business.
- A reduction in the payment of stamp duty payable under the Non-Citizens Land Holding Regulation Act, Cap. 293 and under the Stamp Act, Cap. 410 on land transfers.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

## **Antigua Barbuda Investment Authority**

Sagicor Financial Centre #9 Factory Road P.O. Box 80 St. John's, Antigua, West Indies Tel: 1 (268) 481 1000 Fax: 1 (268) 481 1020 Email: info-abia@ab.gov.ag www.investantiguabarbuda.org

### Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority

1st Floor, Sir John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Centre St John's, Antigua Tel. (268) 562 7600 Fax (268) 562 7602 Email: info@aandbtourism.com https://www.visitantiguabarbuda.com



## THE BAHAMAS

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

The Bahamas welcomed 9.7 million cruise and overnight visitors in 2023 and is poised to boost arrivals in 2024. In 2023, the British Colonial Hotel reopened with 288 newly renovated rooms. The Atlantis Paradise Island has invested substantially in upgrading its property. The Courtyard by Marriott and the Holiday Inn undertook significant investment in upgrading their properties. Baha Mar has announced the development of a new hotel replacing the Meliá, which is expected to add 400-500 new rooms and amenities by 2027. A Six Senses resort property has been approved for construction in Grand Bahama, and 2023 saw the opening of Montage Cay, a 49-acre private island resort and residential community in the Abacos.

New investment has been identified for Grand Bahama Island, the Exumas, Bimini and Cat Island with anticipated development of approximately 1500 to 2,000 new rooms and supporting facilities.

There are new non-stop flights from Los Angeles, California and Seattle, Washington to Nassau and new and increased flight frequencies from key markets in South Florida. New routes are being considered from Europe and the Middle East.

There is a \$200 million infrastructure plan for investment in airports for Freeport, Grand Bahama, Exuma, Abaco and Cat Island as well as a new runway for the Lynden Pindling International Airport in Nassau. The first phase of Carnival's \$600 million cruise port in Grand Bahama (Celebrations Key) will open in 2025.

The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Investments & Aviation is targeting 4 million long-stay visitors by 2030.

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Hotel and Resort Investment**

The Bahamas continues to seek investment in hotel and resort development in Grand Bahama Island. The island is poised for investment in resort, conference, and midrange hotels. The Grand Bahama Development Company is seeking investment for several tourism-related opportunities in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

#### **Eco-Tourism**

The Family of Islands provide investment opportunities for ecoresorts and fishing lodges. Islands ideal for nature-themed retreats include Crooked Island, Acklins, Mayaguana, Inagua and Andros.

#### **Medical Tourism**

The Bahamas is on the cutting edge of medical tourism with the introduction of several globally reputable stem cell medical facilities in Freeport and Nassau. Investments in health and wellness, medical equipment manufacturing and assembly, medical training and education, are being sought.

## INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

The Bahamas Hotel Encouragement Act is available to investors for hotels of ten rooms or more to encourage construction by providing exemptions from customs duties and relief from certain taxation.

The Bahamas Vacation Plan and Time-Sharing Act grants certain customs duties exemptions on materials to be used in the construction of time share units of specified sizes depending on location.

Other concessions may be granted under the Heads of Agreement following discussions between qualified developers and relevant officials with the Bahamas Investment Authority with participation from the Office of the Prime Minister.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

#### **Bahamas Investment Authority**

Office of the Prime Minister 2nd Floor Sir Cecil Wallace-Whitfield Centre

West Bay Street, P.O. Box CB-10990 Nassau, Bahamas

Tel: (242) 327-5826-8 Fax: (242) 327-5806

#### **Key Contacts:**

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## TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

In 2024, Barbados has seen the opening of Wyndham Grand Sam Lord's Castle, an all-inclusive property with 422 rooms on the east cost of Barbados. The facility boasts the largest conference facility in the eastern Caribbean and will further enhance the capabilities of the island to handle the demands of the MICE market.

An additional 400 rooms are currently in the construction phase and are expected to be on the market by 2026. A further 800 rooms are expected to break ground this year to be completed by 2028.

Over the past two years, the country has sought to expand the American market and now services 7 gateways from this market. Efforts have also been in train to service the Caribbean and Latin American markets with flights from the Cayman Islands, Suriname, Panama and Brazil. New routes have also been developed out of the U.K.

An MOU for the Investment, Development and Operation of the Grantley Adams International Airport was signed on 18 July 2023 with international investors, which will see no less than U.S. \$150 million spent on the upgrade and expansion of the major airport facility.

With an expanded airport facility and the introduction of new accommodation plant, Barbados' tourism industry is poised to reach 1 million long stay visitors by 2030.

## INVESTMENT **OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Luxury Resort Development**

The Carlisle Bay Development, which covers over 2 km of beachfront land, is a unique tourism investment prospect. The government is inviting proposals to develop this beachfront land, which sits on a beautiful crescent bay in front of a historic capital. city and UNESCO site. The Carlisle Bay Development, owned by the government and the private sector, will include:

- An iconic performing arts/ conference facility
- 5 new hotels (an additional 1,500 rooms)

#### **Entertainment Facilities**

In order to enhance the entertainment product on the island, the government is currently entertaining proposals from investors with specialty entertainment facilities. These can include water-parks, night entertainment facilities, under-water parks and marine parks.

#### **Medical/Dental Education** Tourism

Barbados is on the cutting edge of medical education and training with over 5 international medical schools on island including ROSS university. Investments in dental, medical facilities and training and education, are being sought.

## INVESTMENT **INCENTIVES**

Investors in the tourism sector are offered an attractive package of incentives that include a tax holiday for up to 25 years and on expiration of the tax holiday period, a reduction of 50% of the applicable rates, and after that concessions for a further 15 years on the prevailing taxes.

Legislation has also made provision for investors in tourism projects to benefit from:

- Tax & financial benefits in relation to capital expenditure & interest expense
- · Exemption from import duty, value-added tax and environmental levy for furniture, fixtures and equipment, building materials and supplies

## CONTACT **INFORMATION**

#### **Barbados Tourism Investment Inc.**

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#### **Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc.**

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## Dominica Getting New International Airport as Current Facilities are Expanded

Dominica's airport development strategy is a comprehensive two-pronged approach to enhance the current infrastructure parallel to the development of new infrastructure and capabilities.

This initiative is designed to make Dominica more accessible to visitors by facilitating direct flights and enabling shorter, same-day connections. The improvements are expected to increase tourist arrivals in both the short and long term, positioning the island as a prime destination for travelers seeking natural beauty and cultural richness.

The first phase of the initiative focuses on upgrading the Douglas-Charles Airport. Key enhancements include expanding the departure lounge, adding a new Executive Lounge for a more comfortable waiting area, and streamlining the processes for departures and immigration. These upgrades, along with aesthetic improvements through upgraded landscaping and interior design, aim to create a welcoming atmosphere for travelers starting with their arrival.

Operational enhancements, including the development of Category C instrument landing systems and the improvement of air traffic control



Dominica's airport development

processes, are also underway. The runway extension to 6,351 feet (or 1936 meters) and the addition of grooving for better wet condition performance are part of these upgrades, promising a safer and smoother travel experience for Dominicans and visitors.

Concurrently, a new international airport is being constructed to accommodate larger aircraft such as the Boeing 777 or Airbus A350, enabling direct flights from Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

## Top 10 Reasons to Invest in The Caribbean

- Projections of Continued Economic Growth Across the Region
- Stable Political Climate
- Robust Performance of the Tourism and Hospitality Sector
- Ideal Location easy access to markets in north, south and central America and a bridge to Europe

- Openess to Trade
- Generous and Flexible Investment Incentives
- Excellent Air and Sea Accessibility
- Modern and Expanding Infrastructure
- Skilled Labour
- Supportive Investment Agencies

#### TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

The Belize Tourism industry has demonstrated success and commitment to maintaining the authenticity of its attractions, fostering an attractive platform for investors looking to cater to the growing number of experience seeking tourists. Belize's natural resources and strong cultural heritage allow for eco-tourism, adventure, and cultural tourism to flourish as its main tourism focus. Secondary tourism attractions include nautical, cruise, and leisure & entertainment.

In 2023, overnight tourist arrivals were 408,962, an increase from 372,614 in 2022. The United States of America continues to be the dominant source of visitors followed by Europe and Canada. Overnight tourist arrivals will continue to increase with the recent addition of airlift by JetBlue and Alaska Airlines, and WestJet direct flights from New York.

Tourism is the largest GDP earner, and it is forecast to contribute 54% by 2028. Developments in branded resorts and boutique hotels continue to be the trend for tourism investments. The recent success story is Margaritaville in Ambergris Caye. There are ongoing discussions to upgrade the international airport and to attract additional airlift from Europe.

The Tourism Master Plan for Belize 2030 establishes the framework for tourism development and necessary reforms to catapult the industry.

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Ecotourism and adventure tourism: themed natural and man-made nature-based concepts structured into integrated recreational ecotourism and adventure sites and centers.
- Nature tourism: Trail systems and national caving trail systems.
- Branded resort & hotel development: with luxury and pristine themes.
- Leisure and Entertainment: commercial centers for shopping, restaurants, cafes, bars and attractive facilities and entertainment centers.
- Nautical tourism: structures for a system of marinas, ports and services aimed at attracting tourists journeying in vessels (yachts, sail boats, and charter boats).
- Cultural tourism: development of centres or museums elaborating the history, heritage, and living cultures of Belize.

## INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

Fiscal Incentive Program – there are three programs under the Fiscal Incentive Scheme, which offer exemption from Import Duty, Revenue Replacement Duty and/or Excise Duty.

- Regular A company investing more than BZD \$300,000 can benefit for a maximum duration of twenty-five years issued in five-year intervals.
- 2. Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) - A company or business requesting an import value of items not exceeding BZD \$1 million dollars over a four-year period with an option to renew for an additional four years. The benefit may also include business tax.
- One-Off A company or business requesting an import value of items not exceeding BZD \$1 million dollars for one year.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE)

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#### **Belize Tourism Board (BTB)**

Belize Tourism Board (BTB) #64 Regent Street, Belize City Tel: (501) 227 2420

Email: info@belizetourismboard.org

www.belizetourismboard.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ BelizeTourismBoard

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## **BERMUDA**

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Bermuda is a sunshine state with pink-sand beaches and island vibes all within easy reach of the U.S., Canada or Europe. By air, Bermuda is just 90 minutes from New York, 2-3 hours from most major U.S. East Coast and Canadian cities, or a 7-hour flight from London. 21 square miles of breathtaking beauty, blended cultures, and a hint of mystery are easily accessible from the new L.F. Wade International Airport which opened in 2020. Bermuda's air capacity is projected to exceed 2019 levels in 2024 with the successful launch of BermudAir and the expansion of services by JetBlue, United, and American Airlines. More direct routes are being added, and previous routes are being restored, including Fort Lauderdale, Westchester County, Washington D.C., Baltimore, Orlando, and the Azores.

Bermuda's newest luxury property, the St. Regis Bermuda Resort, has 102 beds. The island boasts 43 hotels, guest houses, and registered vacation rental units dotted along the azure shoreline, providing 2,541 units or 6,222 beds. The Bermudiana Beach Resort, a Tapestry Collection by Hilton, is scheduled to open in November 2024 with 110 rooms. The Fairmont Southampton redevelopment project will begin in 2024 and will provide 593 hotel rooms and the critical meeting and event space required for attracting large groups.

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Bermuda, which has a business-friendly environment with a skilled workforce and robust regulatory ecosystem, is a prime investment destination for companies and entrepreneurs seeking to develop ideas before scaling up. With one of the highest per-capita GDPs and internet penetration rates globally, this creates an ideal environment for testing new digital technologies.

#### **Hotel Investment Opportunities**

For decades, Bermuda has been a destination of choice for tourists and International Business. Bermuda currently has a number of hotel properties available for investment, including waterfront and private beach properties.

## Real Estate Investment Opportunities

Bermuda has spectacular properties available for private residential use including some linked to hotel developments. Real estate firms operating on the island can provide full-scale services.

## Blue Economy Investment Opportunities

Bermuda envisions its oceans as avenues for sustainable economic development, seeking local and international investments in renewable energy and marine-centric businesses. Bermuda is working to diversify the economy, emphasizing environmental sustainability and maximum benefit for citizens. There is a blue energy fund and a blue bond, as well as a green fund to champion local renewable energy initiatives and other economic prospects.

## INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

The Government of Bermuda offers an attractive blend of incentives for investors in the tourism industry to stimulate investment to deliver an authentic Bermudian product for visitors. The Tourism Investment Act 2017, amended in 2023, provides a scale of tax relief for five types of tourism products:

#### For an attraction (small and medium businesses, catering to visitor experiences), the Act provides relief from:

· Customs duty

## For new restaurants, the Act provides relief from:

- Customs duty
- The employer's share of payroll tax

## For an existing restaurant, the Act provides for relief from:

· Customs duty

## For new hotels, the Act provides relief from land tax and 15 years relief from:

- Customs duty
- The employer's share of payroll tax
- Hotel occupancy tax
- · Land-holding charges

## For refurbished hotels, the Act provides relief from:

- Customs duty
- The employer's share of payroll tax
- Hotel occupancy tax
- Land-holding charges

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### Bermuda Business Development Agency (BDA)

A. Maxwell Roberts Building 6th Floor, 1 Church Street Hamilton HM 11 Bermuda

Tel: 1-877-697-6228 Email: info@bda.bm

#### **Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport**

3rd Floor, Government Administration Building 30 Parliament Street Hamilton HM 12 Bermuda

Tel: (441) 295-5151 Email: tcs@gov.bm

# 330 WORL CENTRA Perfectly balanced between East and West, Bermuda is just ninety minutes from New York, with direct flights to London and Toronto. Stable, long established and highly entrepreneurial, the island is a unique business ecosytem

where established and emerging industries connect with a deep talent pool of professionals in finance, insurance and the law. In Bermuda gold-standard compliance meets blue-chip transparency to create the natural home for global businesses, professionals and private clients.

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## **BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS**

#### TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

An archipelago of 60 islands, the BVI, is renowned as the Sailing Capital of the World. Each island has its own unique charm, and local dishes featuring abundant freshly caught seafood highlight the territory's culinary excellence. Friendly residents, amazing natural and historical attractions, cultural, sporting, and festive events, all add to the allure of the islands.

Peter Island Resort is scheduled to reopen in October 2024 with a re-envisioned luxury hotel and marina while Bitter End Yacht Club is adding 12 new rooms.

World leading yacht charter company Moorings has added 78 new yachts to their BVI fleet.

Biras Creek Resort has opened a brand-new exclusive Japanese-Caribbean restaurant, Ikigai, which represents the first phase of redevelopment.

Other resort projects are in the pipeline to significantly increase room stock and marina capacity.

American Airlines recently introduced non-stop flights from Miami and fly 3 to 4 flights daily while Tradewind Aviation launched services between San Juan and Virgin Gorda, BVI.

Winair launched their ATR 42 aircraft and expanded service between the BVI and St. Maarten, Antigua and St. Kitts.

Plans are currently underway to expand the runway of the Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport.

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### **Accommodation**

An investment partner is being sought for a hotel facility and mixed-use development for approximately 11 acres of land on the southern coast of Tortola, situated on the outskirts of the capital, Road Town, on the waterfront.

BVI also offers many opportunities for the purchase of existing or development of new resort properties ranging from small niche and boutique hotels to medium and large-scale resort properties.

#### **Health and Medical Tourism**

The BVI's proximity to the United States, which is currently the largest market for medical tourism, is ideal and wth the recent expansion of the Peebles Hospital in Road Town, the BVI is well positioned to attract the best doctors and services to enable more residents and visitors to access quality care.

This emerging market will open doors for investment opportunities that cater to the client's needs as well as the rehabilitation needs of recuperating patients, all of which are expected to generate additional revenue.

#### **Sports Tourism**

This emerging market will open doors for investment opportunities that would cater to the athletes needs as well as entertainment and cultural exchange opportunities, all of which are expected to generate additional revenue.

#### **Nature and Wellness Tourism**

Wellness tourism is a global growing trend that aims to improve well-being in mind, body or spirit; encompassing discovery, connectivity, transformation and fulfillment promoting positive engagement between people, cultures and nature. The BVI is uniquely poised to enter this market space and welcome investments in this new growing sector.

## Investment is also welcome in the following areas:

- · Tourist attractions
- National parks and historical sites

- Museums
- Research investment projects
- Alternative energy
- Conference centres and meeting room facilities
- Hospitality centres
- · Sports facilities

## INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

There is considerable scope and opportunities for investments in areas such as Tourism Research and Development, Tourism Infrastructure Development and Tourism Services.

The Hotel Aid Ordinance provides import duty exemption for up to ten years for new hotel properties and those undergoing renovations and other improvements.

There are no taxes levied on business income, thereby significantly reducing construction and development costs.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

## Permanent Secretary Premier's Office

Government of the British Virgin Islands Road Town, Tortola British Virgin Islands, VG1110

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#### **BVI Tourist Board and Film Commission**

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## **CURAÇAO**

### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Curaçao distinguishes itself within the Caribbean not just through its quintessential offerings of sea, sun, and sand, but also through its rich tapestry of history and culture. The European vibe of its downtown, a UNESCO world heritage-listed city center, coupled with a plethora of activities, ranging from water sports to high-quality scuba diving, sets it apart from other destinations.

The World Tourism Organization (WTO) placed Curação ninth on its list of top performers from January to September 2023. The island also recorded the remarkable milestone of welcoming over half a million visitors in a single year - a first for the destination.

2023 also saw an unprecedented number of flights with Delta, United, JetBlue, and American Airlines increasing their service frequency.

The island is experiencing an accommodation boom, with the number of hotel rooms expected to increase from 1,107 to over 9,000 by 2026. This expansion will cater to the influx of land-based visitors from major markets - the United States, Brazil, Canada, and Colombia.

The extensive hotel upgrades and renovations include the reopening of the renovated Marriott. The introduction of renowned brands like Dreams Curaçao and Zoetry Curaçao, has also cemented the island's reputation for quality accommodation. The launch of Sandals Curaçao has escalated North American interest, with monthly visitors from the U.S. increasing from 6,000 to up to 12,000.

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Tourism and Hospitality**

The tourism sector plays a crucial role in the island's economy, with a focus on luxury resorts, boutique hotels, cruise tourism, and eco-tourism. Investment opportunities exist in hotel development, resort expansion, recreational facilities, and eco-friendly tourism initiatives.

#### **Blue Harbour Village**

The Blue Ocean Pearl is a precious development consisting of a 214-key hotel.

- 261 luxury residences (branded and unbranded).
- An environmentally responsible 120-berth yacht haven.
- A multilevel artificial beach with almost half a kilometer of running water as a swimming pool.
- A full-service luxury spa and fitness center, a cigar lounge, elegant seaside dining in 5-star restaurants, stunning green spaces, and a highend shopping area.
- Project development timeframe: 3 to 6 years
- Investment of U.S. \$ 175 million will generate between 300 to 500 local new jobs.

The hotel will be the ultimate gem for the traveler looking for an experience rather than just a destination visit. The secured and luxurious residential area will be the first of its class on the island of Curação.

#### Waves Curação DIVE INTO THE NEXT WAVE OF SUSTAINABLE LEISURE!

Tucked in lush tropical vibes, we've created a family-friendly hotspot with a beach club feel. This spot can provide the ultimate vacation for tourists and locals alike.

#### **Port San Nicolas**

San Nicolaas Estate is 297 hectares (733 acres), officially approved and designated "Tourist and Permanent Residential Development Land" by the local Government, in accordance with Curaçao's "Island Development Plan".

#### A Master/Land Use Plan was previously conceived for Nicolaas Shores Real Estate N.V. consisting of:

- Several hotel facilities (beachfront/ boutique/marina hotel including yacht club and apartments)
- · Casino facilities
- · A marina village
- Two 18-hole championship golf courses (designed by Jim Fazio).

## INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

Curação offers various investment incentives to investors including:

- Favorable corporate tax rates
- Tax Holiday for investment in most businesses
- E-zone Regime
- Preferential Access to the EU (OCT) and USA (CBI)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

## Curação Investment and Export Promotion Agency (CINEX)

c/o The Park Pietermaai Abraham de Veerstraat 2 ground floor Willemstad, Curaçao

Tel: (599) 9 46CINEX (4624639)

Email: info@cinex.cw Website: www.cinex.cw.

#### **Curação Tourist Board**

19 Pietermaai Willemstad, Curaçao Tel: (599) 9 461 8200

Email:info@curacao.com

Website: www.Curacao.com



Curação is a Unique island situated in the Southern Caribbean Sea. As an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, it boasts an open, market-driven economy that welcomes foreign investment and property ownership.

Curação's economy is highly diversified. With the government focused on expanding both investment and exports, there is particular emphasis on the following sectors:





**Financial Services** 



Medical and Wellness Tourism



Creative Industries



Port and Maritime Services



Blue Bioeconomy



(Transnational) Education Services



Renewable Enegry





## **CAYMAN ISLANDS**

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Home to world-class accommodations, premier culinary offerings and a myriad of experiences on-land and below the sea, the Cayman Islands was recognised by Forbes Travel Guide as the top destination for 2024.

The Cayman Islands is one of the few destinations in the region with its own national airline, which offers inter-island service to Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, as well as international service to Miami, Tampa, New York, Los Angeles, Barbados, Jamaica, Panama, Cuba and Honduras.

A U.S. \$91 million airport redevelopment plan is underway to lengthen the runway, modernize the air traffic control system and construct a new General Aviation Terminal facility at Grand Cayman's Owen Roberts International Airport. The project also includes upgrades to the airports in Little Cayman and Cayman Brac.

The tourism sector continues to demonstrate remarkable resilience. Stayover tourism arrivals have shown a strong post-pandemic recovery. The United States continues to be the primary originating market for visitors, accounting for over 82% of visitor arrivals, followed by Canada, the U.K., Europe and Latin America. Cruise passenger arrivals are recovering at a slower pace, currently standing at 70% of pre-pandemic levels.

With a diverse array of natural attractions and seven new hotel properties in the development pipeline, the Cayman Islands is well placed to remain a leading business and leisure travel destination.

GDP growth in The Cayman Islands, one of the world's leading financial centres, is forecast to be around 2% between 2024 and 2026.

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The government is open to receiving proposals on tourism-related infrastructure and recreational activities.

Proposals are welcome to develop a Convention Centre on Grand Cayman, specifically within a short distance of the Seven Mile Beach area.

## Investment opportunities also exist in the following areas:

- Creation or enhancement of tourism experiences that integrate heritage arts, culture and nature that are aligned with the National Culture and Heritage Policy.
- Development of boutique hotels, vacation homes and other non-hotel accommodations in the Eastern districts of Grand Cayman and on the island of Cayman Brac.
- Expansion of the port facilities on Cayman Brac to attract cruise visitors and servicing of small cruise ships and luxury yachts.
- Development of facilities that support the growth of cruise tourism on Cayman Brac including the addition of commercial centres featuring retail, restaurants, cafes, bars and entertainment activities.

## INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

The Cayman Islands typically offers import duty concessions on construction materials, equipment and furnishings for hotels with 10 rooms or more. Other incentives are issued on a case-by-case basis following a value-added analysis. Additionally, entrepreneurs investing at a predetermined level in an employment-generating business along with their families, qualify for renewable immigration-based incentives which enable them to stay and work on the island for 25 years or more.

#### · Importation of Materials

Incentives for foreign companies can include waiver, reduction or deferral of customs duties on the importation of materials and machinery.

#### No Corporation Tax

The Cayman Islands are a taxneutral jurisdiction and a popular choice for investors given that businesses are not subject to tax on their profits. Additionally, there are no corporate taxes imposed on multinational corporations; and no income, property, inheritance, withholding or capital gain taxes.

#### Sister Islands Incentives

- Offers additional incentives for investment in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman
- Up to 75% reduction on work permit fees for staff located in the Sister Islands
- 50% reduction in Trade & Business Licensing fees for businesses
- Up to 100% concessions on building materials

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Ministry of Tourism and Ports** 

**Government Administration Building** 

PO Box 109, 133 Elgin Avenue George Town Grand Cayman KY1-9000 Cayman Islands

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www.gov.ky/tourism-transport/

## **DOMINICA**

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Dominica, the "Nature Island" is a unique and majestic gem located 1,300 miles south of Miami and between the French territories of Martinique and Guadeloupe, making it an accessible European gateway. It is blessed with an abundance of diving sites, hot springs, freshwater lakes, waterfalls, tropical forests and a rich culture and history.

In 2022 and again in 2023, Travel and Leisure Readers voted Dominica the No.1 Island Caribbean destination in its World's Best Awards reinforcing the destination's exceptional allure and captivating tourism product delivering a unique vacation experience. Dominica promotes an outstanding eco-tourism product based on nature, culture, and adventure. The island offers diving, whale watching, hiking, farm-to-table dining, water sports adventure, boutique hotels and luxury eco resorts.

The heightened awareness of the destination has triggered the need to increase hotel room stock. Additionally, one year ago, the Government of Dominica began the construction of a new international airport to increase air access which will provide more direct flights from North America and Europe.

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Dominica, which has a sound and developed regulatory system, is focused on sustainable investments.

The island is actively seeking investors who can generate a return on investment by developing luxury ecoresorts, spas and wellness retreats, boutique hotels, water and adventure parks and other adventure tourism facilities. All of these investment projects will incorporate Dominica's natural resources and be supported by green energy.

## Dominica welcomes investment in the following areas:

- · Luxury Eco-Resorts and Lodges
- Up-market boutique-style hotels and villas
- Sites and Attractions, particularly in areas such as bio-park development, adventure parks and other types of facilities that would utilize the island's distinctive natural appeal and resources.
- Medical Tourism the abundance of natural spas, hot springs, and herbs makes the island a perfect choice for investment in medical tourism, such as a medical and rejuvenation center.
- Medical Research, tapping into the wealth of biodiversity on the island.

 Production of bottled water for the hospitality industry and export. The island is renowned as the land of 365 rivers.

Dominica also has eco-oriented projects for joint ventures, sale or greenfield investment. The Invest Dominica Authority facilitates these projects.

## INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

- The Hotels Aid Act and the Income Tax Act allow for the waiver of import duty on hotel furniture, fixtures and building materials and the granting of a tax holiday of up to 20 years for approved hotel and resort developments.
- Foreign investors are allowed to repatriate 100% of profits.
- Withholding tax exemptions are allowed through the Income Tax Act. Approved projects are allowed exemptions from payment of withholding taxes on dividends, interest payments, and other relevant external payments.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **Invest Dominica Authority**

Invest Dominica Authority 1st Floor, Marpin House 5-7 Great Marlborough Street Roseau, Dominica

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E-mail: info@investdominica.dm www.investdominica.com

#### **Discover Dominica Authority**

1st Floor, Marpin House 5-7 Great Marlborough Street Roseau, Dominica

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US Toll Free: (866) 522-4057

E-mail: tourism@dominica.dm

www.discoverdominica.com

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## **GRENADA**

## **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

As 2023 came to a close, Grenada welcomed the opening of a new luxury boutique hotel, Beach House by Silversands. This 30-room resort, with each room uniquely designed to create an exclusive guest experience, is located on a cliff behind Grenada's Portici Beach and has amenities to include a beachfront eatery and a spa.

Grenada has also welcomed the Six Senses resort, a custodian of sustainable luxury with 56 two-level pool suites and 15 villas with natural, renewable, and repurposed materials. The resort is located in the parish of St. David.

The construction at the Kawana Bay project site is also highly anticipated. On completion, this resort will offer lavish living with views to the renowned Grand Anse Beach from every room.

The island has experienced impressive growth in tourism, which is reflected in the huge increase in tourists' arrivals. In 2022, the island welcomed a total of 172,255 visitors, which rose to more than 300,000 by the end of 2023.

Grenada is investing approximately U.S. \$67 million for the expansion of its international airport to provide effective and modern facilities to cater to the increasing number of arrivals.

There has been an increase in air connections, with more flights connecting Grenada to the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom thus establishing Grenada as a highly sought-after destination for global travellers looking for an authentic Caribbean experience.

The number of hotels rooms in Grenada also grew to 2,500. However, there is still a need to increase the island's room stock

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Boutique Hotels and Villas**

Grenada's demand for accommodation is growing faster than rooms being added. A golden opportunity exists for investors to add more rooms and participate in the country's hospitality landscape.

- There are several potential hotel sites with beach front and scenic views available for purchase.
- Opportunities also exist for the purchase and further development of existing hotels.
- Grenada welcomes equity investment, joint venture/ partnership and share purchase for several hotel developments.
- There is a continuing need for a family brand flagship hotel.

Grenada continues to be recognized for its robust Citizenship by Investment (CBI) programme. This programme is instrumental in stimulating the development of many hotel development projects which afford investors' return on investments made into approved tourism projects.

## Agri-Business and Auxiliary Tourism Services

A flourishing tourism industry presents viable investment opportunities within the Agri-business sector. Spice tours, garden tours and tours to processing plants, all complement the tourism product.

Opportunities exist to increase the supply of organic produce to hotels and restaurants as well as to add value to products, including essential oils, candles and soaps to be used within the tourism industry.

Grenada offers many auxiliary tourism support services to its visitors: hiking, diving, snorkeling, river tubing, turtle watching, ATV, bicycle tours and water sports. There is potential for more investments in adventure auxiliary tourism services.

## INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

Doing business in Grenada is simple.

- There are minimum entry requirements
- · No restriction on foreign ownership
- No restrictions on foreign currency transactions
- Easy movement of capital, profit and dividends.
- Incentives include investment allowances, deductible expenditure and customs duty exemptions.

Fiscal incentives for investment within Grenada's priority sectors is facilitated by the Grenada Investment Development Corporation (GIDC)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

## **Grenada Investment Development Corporation**

Frequente Industrial Park St. George, Grenada W.I.

Tel: (473) 444 1033-35 Fax: (473) 444 4828

E-mail: pureinvestment@gidc.gd www.investingrenada@gidc.gd

### **Grenada Tourism Authority**

P.O. Box 293 St. George, Grenada

Tel: (473) 440 2279/2001 Fax: (473) 440 6637

Email: info@puregrenada.com www.puregrenada.com





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#### CONTACT US, LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

- (473) 444-1033
- pureinvestment@gidc.gd
- in GIDC Investment Promotion Agency



www.investingrenada.gd





pureinvestmentgrenada

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean, Venezuela and Suriname, Guyana is every adventurer's dream. Travellers can experience interior lodges and resorts and, of course, the majestic Kaieteur!

Through a U.S.\$1 billion investment, more than 1000 world-class rooms will be added to the current room stock by the end of 2024. These rooms will be added through internationally branded hotels, including the AC Marriott and Four Points Sheraton.

Ongoing marketing initiatives are underway in North America (U.S. and Canada), Europe (U.K., Germany, Netherlands, Scandinavia) and the Caribbean region. Potential new markets in the Caribbean include Saint Lucia, the Dominican Republic and Cuba.

Work continues on the expansion and modernisation of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport and the East Bank Corridor (stretching from Georgetown to Timehri).

The tourism sector is poised for substantial growth, focusing on sustainable tourism and responsible development. Since 2020, the country has launched 50 new and diverse tourism experiences.

Guyana, the world's newest Petrostate, is expected to record an increase in GDP of just over 26 per cent in 2024.

# INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

- Upscale/Luxury Eco-Lodges, Resorts and Villas: luxurious amenities, private pools, and stunning views of Guyana's natural beauty. Emphasise privacy and exclusivity to attract high-end travellers seeking a tranquil escape.
- Campgrounds: eco-friendly campgrounds that allow travellers to experience the thrill of camping while minimising environmental impact.

#### **RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

- Amusement and Theme Parks:
   to enhance the authenticity of
   these sites, in collaboration with
   local communities and artisans to
   incorporate cultural features (craft,
   music).
- Golf course and ancillary facilities: Guyana's lush landscapes and natural beauty provide a perfect backdrop for scenic golf courses.

#### **BUSINESS SERVICES**

- Convention Services: state-ofthe-art conference facilities with modern amenities are needed.
- Catering Services: Investing in catering services that showcase the diversity of Guyanese cuisine can provide a unique selling point, giving travellers a true taste of Guyana.

#### TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

- More scheduled and charter air services, overland and river transportation providers are welcome.
- Cruise Ship Terminal & Marina: This
  is needed to attract the cruise sector
  and take advantage of its location
  outside of the hurricane belt.

## POTENTIAL LOCATIONS FOR INVESTMENT

- Pomeroon-Supenaam (Region 2) & Essequibo Islands-West Demerara (Region 3): There is potential to invest in beaches, resorts, falls, lakes and historical sites in this region.
- Soesdyke-Linden (Region 10):
   Riverfront investment opportunities are worth considering.
- The Rupununi (Region 9): Investment into the gateway to the Savannahs is encouraged.

# INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

Tourism businesses approved for investment incentives enjoy a range of concessions, including:

- Flat business tax rate, unlimited carryover of losses from previous years and accelerated depreciation on plant and equipment.
- Full and unrestricted repatriation of capital, profits and dividends.
- New hotels and interior lodges and resorts are eligible for exemption

- from customs duty and zero rate of Value Added Tax on building materials, equipment, furniture and appliances of up to 50% of the value of the total investment.
- Existing hotels, interior lodges, and resorts are eligible for fiscal concessions of up to 50% of the additional investment. Other items that are eligible for duty-free purchase in the tourism sector include vehicles for transporting guests (at the discretion of the Guyana Revenue Authority).

#### **Eligibility for concessions:**

- New guesthouse/hotel with no less than 15 rooms.
- Expansion of hotels and resorts with no less than 5 rooms.

# **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Tel: (592) 227 0653 or 225 0658 Email: goinvest@goinvest.gov.gy www.goinvest.gov.gy

**Guyana Tourism Authority** 

National Exhibition Centre, Sophia, Georgetown, Guyana Tel: (592) 219 0094-6 Fax: (592) 219 0093 Email: info@guyanatourism.com www.guyanatourism.com



For more on investing in Guyana please check the website: www.guyanainvest.gov.gy

## JAMAICA

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Jamaica is globally acknowledged for its high volume of stopover arrivals and cruises. The island houses world-renowned attractions coupled with a large variety of hotel and Airbnb options, making it convenient for various types of travellers to experience paradise!

In 2023, Jamaica's Tourism Minister announced a significant boost in arrivals with over 4 million visitors travelling to the island. This accounted for an estimated \$4.2 billion in earnings. In 2022, when there were 3.3 million visitors, the industry's size directly contributed U.S. \$51 million to the country's GDP and visitor spend was estimated at U.S. \$3.6 billion.

Demand to experience Brand Jamaica is also increasing in new markets such as Latin America and Japan. These growing demands have spurred investments in small and large properties, catering to adventurous, eco-friendly and luxury travellers alike. With over 60 airlines flying directly to the country, the island is home to three international airports and six major seaports, facilitating easy airlift and gateway access to major markets. In addition, citizens from 96 countries globally enjoy visa-free access to Jamaica.

# INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Jamaica is actively expanding and diversifying its tourism sector, with plans to introduce over 8,500 new rooms by 2025. Noteworthy among the island's development initiatives are the opening of the first 1,000 rooms of the Princess Grand Jamaica in 2024, as well as the 753-room Riu Palace Aquarelle, the 450-room Unico Hotel in Montego Bay, the expansion of Grand Bahia Principe and Secrets, among others over the next two years.

#### **Llandovery Estates**

The entire property, situated on Jamaica's major tourism belt on the north coast is being offered for sale. The property comprises 1,000 acres and is 50 minutes' drive from Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay.

- Natural water features include a fresh spring, a river running through the property and a waterfall.
- The oceanfront property boasts a 1km long beachfront
- Preliminary approval for the development has been obtained from the National Environmental Planning Agency of Jamaica.
- It is 15 minutes from the major resort town of Ocho Rios and even closer to attractions such as the world-famous Dunn's River Falls, Green Grotto Caves, and Dolphin Cove.

## Eco-tourism Attractions and Resorts:

Jamaica's lush biodiversity provides the opportunity for investments in attractions with soft adventure, hiking trails and zip-line rides.

## Accommodations and Convenience

Potential investors can explore opportunities that exist for the development of boutique and large scale city hotels. The island's strong and diverse linkages network also supports the need for these developments for greater convenience.

# INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

Under the Government of Jamaica's Omnibus Incentives framework, investors can benefit from:

- Employment Tax Credit up to a maximum of 30% of the statutory payments
- 2. Reduced GCT rate of 10% for the tourism enterprise

- 3. Capital Allowances that cover industrial buildings including hotels
- 4. Duty-free imports for a list of eligible products needed in the construction phase
- 5. Tourism Attraction projects can also benefit under the Income Tax Relief (Mega Projects and Pioneer Industries) Act, where they qualify for an added reduction in corporate income tax.

The Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO) facilitates investors who want to engage with Brand Jamaica and ensures adequate assistance in site selection and reliable buyer-to-supplier agreements through a strong and diverse domestic linkages network that maintains the authentic taste, feel. look and sound of Jamaica.

JAMPRO's investment team helps investors navigate the regulatory environment in Jamaica, to obtain permits, licenses, approvals and other regulatory requirements.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

## Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO)

18 Trafalgar Road Kingston 10, Jamaica W.I.

Tel: +1 (876) 978 7755; 978-3337

Email: info@dobusinessjamaica.com

Local Toll Free: 888 INVESTJA

#### **Jamaica Tourist Board**

64 Knutsford Boulevard Kingston 5, Jamaica Tel: (876) 929-9200; 952-4425 Email: info@visitjamaica.com www.visitjamaica.com

## **MONTSERRAT**

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Located in the Eastern Caribbean, Montserrat is a British Overseas Territory offering serene landscapes, lush green mountains, pristine beaches, and the iconic Soufrière Hills volcano. Visitors can enjoy a diverse range of activities, from hiking through the exotic Centre Hills to exploring the vibrant underwater world while snorkeling or scuba diving.

Montserrat's tourism industry is undergoing revitalization efforts following the pandemic. Despite challenges, the island welcomed 12,300 visitors (Jan-Nov) and aims to return to pre-pandemic levels by 2025.

The renowned St. Patrick's Festival is expected to significantly boost visitor numbers and the resumption of several cruise visits, following the completed Port Facilities later this year. Montserrat has forged a partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority for mutual tourism benefits. Over 380 individuals have received training in hospitality, enhancing service quality. Infrastructure improvements include upgraded trails and attractions, with plans to open St. George's Hill as a new visitor attraction.

Construction at Little Bay Port, featuring a 130m pier and dolphin, which will accommodate larger ships safely, is slated for completion by mid-September 2024. Moreover, the island now boasts high-speed broadband, courtesy of fiber optic installation, catering to remote workers, locals, and tourists, enhancing connectivity and visitor experience.

#### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Marina Facilities**

The Little Bay Port Development project opens opportunities for marina facilities, boat-cleaning, laundry services, mooring services, and entertainment spaces.

#### Accommodation

The island's arrival reports, consistently show a steady influx of stay-over visitors, up to 10,000, with a positive trajectory. Projections indicate a return to the pre-pandemic figures of more than 20,000 visitor arrivals, particularly with enhancements to port and access facilities. In light of these developments, there is a critical need to augment the accommodation capacity.

Given that stay-over visitors constitute the largest percentage of arrivals, opportunities are available for the development of boutique hotels (with 20-40 rooms) and villas featuring pools, emphasizing sustainability and high-end amenities.

#### **Vue Pointe Hotel For Sale**

The Vue Pointe Hotel, once Montserrat's leading resort, is available for sale, offering beachfront property with 28 cottages, 12 motelstyle rooms, a restaurant, a conference center, and a spa.

#### **Belham Valley Resort**

Montserrat's serene setting is ideal for a high-end eco resort, enhancing the destination's appeal for health and wellness retreats. The proposed Belham Valley Resort aims to embody a 'tropical modernist' style using local materials, prioritizing airflow and movement. It will seamlessly integrate with its natural surroundings, offering views of the sea and mountains. The architecture will blend indoor and outdoor spaces, utilizing landscape features like pools and running water to enhance the unique environment.

#### **Golf Course**

There's an opportunity to develop a beach front 9-hole golf course, catering to the Residential Villa Tourism market and providing additional services at the clubhouse.

#### **Outdoor Facilities/Entertainment**

Montserrat's topography supports ventures like zip-lining and canopy tours, glamping, mountain biking experiences, and the creation of a Central Plaza in Salem Village for entertainment spaces. Opportunities are also available to upgrade existing restaurants or start new ones.

# INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

#### **Hotel Aids Act:**

- Exemptions from customs duties on hotel construction materials and equipment.
- Income tax holidays of up to 10 years for hoteliers.

#### **Micro and Small Businesses Act:**

- Registered businesses may apply for exemptions including import duty and consumption tax on building materials, furniture, etc.
- Income tax exemption for up to 5 years.
- · Stamp Duty exemptions.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **Investment Information**

Office of the Premier
P.O. Box 292
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## **SAINT EUSTATIUS**

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Sint Eustatius, affectionately known as Statia, is located 178 miles east of Puerto Rico and 35 miles south of St. Maarten, Statia's main hub.

St. Eustatius is clean, unhurried and unspoiled with pristine living reefs teeming with fish, gentle trade winds and an abundance of greenery.

The Makana Ferry Service, which started its service a few years ago, connects Statia with Saba, St. Maarten and St. Kitts.

Golden Rock Dive & Nature Resort, a 5-Star luxury property, has rooms, suites and cottages, designed with an emphasis on comfort and luxury. All accommodations have ocean views and an outdoor terrace.

Papaya Inn, a quaint hotel recently added 4 extra suites and Country Inn, an affordable property added 6 new rooms.

The government has begun a major upgrade of infrastructure on the island, which includes a new airport building and tower, and the upgrading of the local harbor. The first set of upgrades saw the completion of all electrical, telephone and water connections underground.

The second phase involves reconstructing roads around the island, including the Harbor Road, Jeems Road and the airport road (Max Pandt Boulevard) which are the major roads connecting both sides of the island.

# INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Venus Bay: Located in the northeast of the island, the property is owned by the government. It is situated in a valley, surrounded by the protected Signal Hill/Little Mountain (or Bergje), Boven Mountain and the Venus Bay (Atlantic Ocean). Its approximately 525 acres of land have possibilities for mix-use development such as hotels, restaurants, spas and other amenities. The property provides a spectacular view of neighboring Saint Barts.

#### **Lower Town**

Located in the southwest, it is the tourism center of the island. The three-quarter mile (1100 meters) strip is on the coastal waterfront. There is still land available for the development.

#### Investments are needed for:

- · Small to medium size hotels/inns
- · Coffee Shop
- Souvenir Gift Shops
- Convenience Stores (especially for yachters)
- · Gas Station
- Marina
- Water Sports

- · Cultural Center
- · Recreational Space
- Nightlife entertainment facilities/ centers

#### **Agro-Tourism**

There are several niches within this sector such as honey/honey-derived products, hydroponics farming, herbal gardens, herbal oils and local fruit juices.

# INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

#### **Dutch Caribbean tax system applies:**

- · No profit tax
- No import duties
- 5% revenue tax

- 0.8% property tax (0.4% for hotels),
   U.S. \$70,000 deductible, first
   payment 10 years after investment
- 30.4% income tax (34.4% above U.S. \$250,000), includes social premiums and healthcare insurance; 18.4% social premiums for employers
- 5% transfer tax
- 6% ABB tax for imports, 4% ABB tax on services.
- Incentives include a waiver of import duty on hotel furniture and fixtures, and building materials.

#### Non-fiscal incentives include:

- Granting of government-owned waterfront long-term lease land at very attractive rates for hotel development projects.
- Expeditious processing of required permits for approved projects.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Saint Eustatius Tourism Development Foundation

Market Place #1 St. Eustatius, Dutch Caribbean

Tel: +599 318 2107/ +599 318 2433

Email:

charleslindo@statia-tourism.com

## **SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS**

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

The twin-island nation is known for its natural beauty with sloping mountainsides, warm tropical climate, turquoise waters and white sand beaches.

The tourism sector in Saint Kitts is built on five pillars: Romance/Honeymoon, Cultural Exploration, Culinary Experiences, Adventure Travel and Sustainable Tourism.

Passenger arrivals have been on the upswing since 2022 following two years of decline in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The upward trajectory in visitor arrivals is expected to continue.

The government's initiatives to increase airlift to the country has yielded significant results. With the addition of JetBlue in 2023, the country now has significant airline operators such as American Airlines, Delta, United, Air Canada, LIAT, InterCaribbean Airlines, Caribbean Airways, Seaborne, Winair and British Airways.

In January 2024, developers broke ground on the 42-room boutique Hotel Indigo which is part of IHG Hotels & Resorts (InterContinental Hotels Group).

Saint Kitts and Nevis was named the leading Caribbean Dive Destination two years in a row by World Travel Awards. The diving tourism market is expected to grow significantly in the near term.

Plans are in the pipeline for the expansion of the R.L. Bradshaw International Airport, the build-out of the Port Zante Cruise port and refurbishment of the main sea port.

#### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Investment Climate**

Inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is expected to remain strong for 2024 and beyond. The St. Kitts Investment Promotion Agency is collaborating with existing developers, through its "Discover the Opportunities" campaign, a marketing initiative that is designed to attract investment funds to complete unfinished projects.

## Project: Hillsboro Suites & Residences

Hillsboro Suites & Residences is a real estate development comprising 180 condos with amenities of a fourstar hotel.

Seeking: U.S. \$3.2 Million for Completion

Type of Investment: Equity or Loan Entity: Hillsboro Limited.

## Project: Embassy Suites St. Kitts, by Hilton

The 232 suites Pelican Bay Hotel & Condominium Project is located in Frigate Bay, St. Kitts.

Seeking: U.S. \$45 Million for Completion

Type of Investment: Equity or debt financing

Entity: Pelican Bay Limited

#### **Project: Brimstone Village**

Brimstone Village is a luxury condominium community comprising 30 units situated at the foot of Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Seeking: U.S. \$5.5 Million for Completion

Type of Investment: Equity or Joint Venture

Entity: Brimstone Village Ltd.

#### **Other Investment Opportunities**

There are also investment opportunities for a hospitality school, high-end stores, high-end restaurants and manufacturing of local craft.

#### **Real Estate Investment**

 Applicants may qualify for citizenship through an investment in a preapproved real estate project, which may include hotel shares, villas, and condominium units. The minimum real estate investment required by law is U.S. \$400,000. The real estate unit must be held for a minimum of seven years before it can be resold.

# INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

- The Hotel Aids Act provides relief from customs duties on items brought into the country for use in the construction, extension and equipping of a hotel of not less than 10 bedrooms.
- The Income Tax Act provides special tax relief benefits for hotels of more than 30 bedrooms. These hotels are exempt from income tax for 10 years.
- If the hotel contains less than 30 bedrooms, gains or profits would be exempt from income tax for 5 years.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **SAINT LUCIA**

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Saint Lucia's tourism industry continues to be the main economic driver in the growth and development of the economy. The island is strategically positioning itself as an award-winning destination for honeymoons, adventure, and nature tourism with a total of 882,937 visitors from January to November 2023, representing a 54% increase from 2022.

The strategic vision for 2024/2025 seeks to strengthen Saint Lucia's sustainable tourism practices by using authentic marketing programmes and revitalised community tourism initiatives, ensuring access to the tourism industry's benefits at the community level. In addition, the industry is expected to see the implementation of a new policy that will seek to streamline the overall industry with a key focus on sustainability and community development.

A vital component of the overall tourism industry is connectivity and airlift. Saint Lucia is poised for an increase in airlift capacity in 2024 due to the shift in international airline schedules and improved connectivity from major carriers such as American Airlines, Delta, and JetBlue.

Saint Lucia remains a competitive destination for cruise arrivals, and this is evident by the projected 400 cruise calls and 600,000 cruise passengers expected to visit the island. Moreover, significant strides are being made in the short to medium term to transform and enhance the island's cruise tourism product through infrastructure development and visitor experience.

# INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Saint Lucia's growing economy supports businesses, and the stable political environment is ideal for investor and citizens alike. The tourism industry is the nation's main source of income and the biggest employer on the island. Invest Saint Lucia promotes the island's strategic location, efficient infrastructure and a wide range of sectors to facilitate the development of businesses and encourage a friendly business environment.

#### Fond d'Or

Fond d'Or spans approximately 346 acres of land in a pristine and rugged area. It offers unique topography and 15 acres of sandy beach bordered by lush forests and wildlife. This unspoiled beachfront provides spectacular views of the horizon coupled with adjacency to a heritage park, making it ideal for an eco-tourism/nature project or hotel development.

#### **River Doree**

Identified as a location ideal for a boutique resort or ecotourism venture, River Doree is in the district of Choiseul, on the South-West Coast of Saint Lucia. With clifftop views of the breathtakingly pristine Caribbean Sea and backdropped by unmatched scenes of Gros Piton, the 70 acres of relatively flat land extends along the coastline spanning over 1520m/5000ft.

# INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

The island offers comprehensive knowledge of the processes to set up a business; a keen understanding of investor needs, including site identification; facilitating new investors and existing businesses to navigate the official approval process.

#### **Incentives include:**

- Exemption from Corporate Income Tax for up to 15 years
- Exemption from import duty on building materials, articles, furnishings and equipment

- Limited Liability Corporation entitled to distribute profits as capital free of tax for two years after the end of the tax holiday
- Exemption from duty on imports of alternative energy and energy saving equipment
- No Value Added Tax (VAT) on building materials and locally produced art and craft

The Tourism Stimulus and Incentive Act provides investors with exemptions on taxes from interest, custom duties on specified imports, duties on imports of alternative energy and energy saving equipment, among others. An investment tax credit is granted to an approved development based on the qualifying expenditure incurred during the incentive period whilst percentage tax credit for financial institutions is based on the quantum of investment.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **Invest Saint Lucia**

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#### **Saint Lucia Tourism Authority**

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## SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a captivating Caribbean destination, entices tourists with its diverse offerings, from lush landscapes and historic sites to vibrant local culture. The tourism sector is experiencing significant growth, marked by an increase in room stock with the establishment of new hotels such as Sandals, Holiday Inn, and Myah Suites, enhancing accommodation options for visitors.

Infrastructure upgrades, including improvements to the airport and the new state-of-the art port facilities, facilitate smoother travel and have improved the destination's accessibility.

Recent milestones in tourism performance and arrivals have led to the country's prominence on the global travel map. As St. Vincent and the Grenadines continue to attract attention, especially from emerging markets, the tourism industry is becoming a vital contributor to the country's economic growth. Projections indicate a positive impact on the GDP, with the tourism sector poised to play a pivotal role in the overall economic development, affirming the destination's status as a promising and sustainable player in the Caribbean tourism landscape.

#### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

St. Vincent and the Grenadines offers a favorable investment climate, characterized by political stability and a commitment to sustainable development. The government actively encourages foreign investment, particularly in the burgeoning tourism sector.

## Tourism Projects Available for Investment:

- Luxury Resort Development: A
   prime opportunity to invest in the
   establishment of a high-end luxury
   resort, taking advantage of the
   destination's pristine beaches and
   captivating landscapes.
- Eco-Tourism Initiatives: Explore investments in eco-friendly resorts and nature-based tourism projects, tapping into the growing demand for sustainable travel experiences.
- Marina and Yachting Facilities:
   Invest in the development of state-of-the-art marinas and yachting facilities, capitalizing on the region's popularity among sailing and yachting enthusiasts.

# INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

- Tax Incentives: Enjoy attractive tax breaks and incentives, including reduced corporate taxes, to encourage investment in tourismrelated projects.
- Customs Duty Exemptions: Benefit from customs duty exemptions on imported goods and equipment directly related to tourism development projects.
- Infrastructure Support: Access government support for infrastructure development, with assistance in upgrading and establishing facilities that contribute to the overall tourism experience.
- Investment Protection: Enjoy legal frameworks that safeguard foreign investments, providing a secure environment for prospective investors.
- Fast-Track Approvals: Expedited approval processes for permits and licenses, streamlining the commencement of tourism projects.
- Partnership Opportunities: Explore collaborative ventures with the government and local communities, fostering partnerships that align with sustainable and responsible tourism practices.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

#### **Invest SVG**

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## Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Tourism Authority (SVGTA)

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## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Trinidad and Tobago is a twin-island Republic situated at the southernmost end of the Caribbean archipelago that prides itself as being a cosmopolitan nation where people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds live and work in harmony.

As a tourism destination, Trinidad and Tobago has much to offer – from traditional sun, sea and sand holidays in Tobago, including excellent diving, to adventure and eco-tourism, festivals and events on both islands. Trinidad is well known for its business tourism, meetings and conferences, sport, and vibrant nightlife.

The booming energy, manufacturing and financial services sectors in Trinidad and Tobago have resulted in a steady growth in business arrivals to the island of Trinidad. With a stable, democratic political system, dynamic economy, diverse and abundant resources and a harmonious multicultural society, Trinidad and Tobago is truly a land of unmatched opportunity.

There has been significant growth recently in private investment in the hospitality space. These include:

- The BRIX Autograph Collection (Port of Spain, Trinidad) -165 Rooms
- · Comfort Inn & Suites (Scarborough, Tobago) -74 Rooms

There are also three internationally branded hotels currently under construction:

- · Radisson Blu (Port of Spain, Trinidad) -72 Rooms
- Four Points by Sheraton, Port of Spain (Piarco, Trinidad) -154 Rooms
- · Hampton Inn by Hilton, Piarco (Piarco, Trinidad) -103 Rooms

# INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Trinidad**

## Mayaro (South-East Coast) – Sites are available for

- Two 150-300 room hotels inclusive of one or more major amenities like a golf course (Lagon Doux Estate)
- Two boutique hotels with private beach frontage (Pt. Radix)
- 60-80 room Hotel with beach club including restaurant and beach bar facilities.
- 20-30 room Eco Lodge on the banks of the river.

## San Fernando (main city in southern Trinidad)

 Two sites for a 80-100 room business hotel

#### **Tobago**

Six regions on the island of Tobago have been designated as tourism-related development areas:

Arnos Vale and Culloden Estate; Bacolet Estate; Buccoo and Golden Grove Estate; Englishman's Bay; Lowlands (including the Tobago Plantations Development) and Diamond Estate; Mount Irvine and Grafton Estates.

# INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

The Tourism Development Act identifies Qualifying Tourism Projects in three categories for incentives:

Tourism Accommodation Projects,

Tourism Ancillary Facilities and

Services and Tourism Infrastructure.

#### **Incentives include:**

- Tax exemption on profits not exceeding seven years
- Tax exemption on profits from the initial sale of villas or condominiums, which form part of an Integrated Resort Development
- A carry-over of losses from a tax exemption period

- Exemption from customs duties on building materials or articles of tourism equipment not being manufactured locally
- Tax exemption on the dividend received by a non-resident shareholder if the recipient is not liable to tax on the dividend in his country of residence
- Accelerated depreciation on eligible equipment
- A capital allowance in respect of approved capital expenditure incurred by the owner or operator in the creation of a new tourism project or in the expansion of an existing tourism project.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **Tourism Trinidad Limited**

Investment and Business Development Department Level 18, Tower D International Waterfront Centre 1A Wrightson Road Port of Spain Trinidad

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#### **Tobago Tourism Agency Limited**

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## **TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS**

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Turks and Caicos, a tropical paradise in the Caribbean, offers pristine white-sand beaches, crystal-clear turquoise waters, and a vibrant coral reef system. Known for its luxury resorts, world-class diving, and untouched natural beauty, the destination is a sought-after haven for tourists seeking a premium and exclusive experience.

With an eye on expanding its tourism infrastructure, Turks and Caicos is projected to witness a surge in room stock and the development of new hotels. Notable additions include upscale resorts and boutique accommodations, catering to the growing demand for high-end, eco-friendly lodging.

Turks and Caicos is investing in significant infrastructure upgrades, including the expansion and modernization of its international airport. The enhanced airport facilities aim to accommodate the growing influx of tourists and provide a seamless travel experience, further boosting the destination's appeal.

Recent milestones include impressive growth in tourist arrivals, showcasing the destination's resilience and attractiveness. Strategic marketing efforts and a focus on sustainable tourism have contributed to positive trends in performance, making Turks and Caicos a standout performer in the Caribbean.

With the ongoing developments in tourism infrastructure and the influx of investments, the destination anticipates robust GDP growth. Projections indicate a steady economic expansion, driven primarily by the tourism sector and related industries.

# INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The proximity of the TCI to the United States and Canada, and direct flights to the U.K. and many Caribbean countries, are encouraging rapid growth in tourism numbers with visitor arrivals surpassing 1 million. The privacy and anonymity that people can enjoy here, coupled with the opportunity to qualify for Permanent Residency status, has also encouraged the purchase of homes by high-net-worth individuals. There is, therefore, a real need for more hotel rooms, villas, condominiums and private homes of a very high quality. New resorts on Providenciales and other islands are at various stages of development but there is a need for more in the sister islands.

#### **Niche Tourism:**

While the main island of Providenciales is the most popular destination for visitors, TCI's other islands offer excellent opportunities for smaller resorts and niche tourism development:

Adventure and Eco Tourism: With some of the best dive sites in the world, visitors come from all parts of the world to experience the thrill of snorkeling and diving in crystal-clear waters. The waters around the island also attract kite surfers, sailors, and sports fishermen.

Many of the 40 islands are uninhabited and stunningly beautiful. Opportunities exist for the island's first eco-lodge and resorts.

Marina Development: Some of the world's most beautiful yachts, and the finest sport fishing vessels visit TCI. Providenciales has a number of marinas but other islands offer an excellent opportunity for resort/villa/condo development around a marina.

Medical Tourism: Where better to recuperate than the most beautiful islands and beaches in the world! TCI has two hospitals with space for private patients. Excellent opportunities exist for facilities that provide cosmetic and other surgical procedures.

#### **INVESTMENT INCENTIVES**

The Turks and Caicos administration is committed to cutting the cost of doing business

#### Incentives available include:

- Alleviation of essential "fixed investment costs" (capital and labour costs) for qualified investments.
- Projects in Grand Turk, Salt Cay, South Caicos, North Caicos, Middle Caicos will be eligible for up to 100% import duty concession.
- Projects in Providenciales and West Caicos will be eligible for up to 50% import duty concession.
- Reduced stamp duty for land purchases in the family islands and for new developments across the Turks and Caicos Islands for qualified investments and new industries
- \* Some restrictions apply

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **Invest Turks and Caicos**

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#### **Experience Turks and Caicos**

The Regent Village, No 3 Grace Bay Road, Providenciales, TKCA ZZ, Turks and Caicos

# THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

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## **UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS (USVI)**

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY OVERVIEW**

Nestled in the crystal blue waters between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), a United States territory, is positioned 1,100 miles southeast of Miami, 4,100 miles from London, and 1,200 miles north of Panama. Comprised of three primary islands - St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas, along with more than 50 smaller isles, this unincorporated territory enjoys all the protections under the U.S. flag while boasting richly diverse cultures and a distinctive island economy.

St. Croix, the largest of the three islands and location of Point Udall, the eastern most point of the United States, is filled with historical landmarks, gorgeous beaches, limitless recreational activities, fine dining, and golf courses. St. John, which is home to the Virgin Islands National Park boasts world-class beaches, scenic vistas, and an abundance of villas and hotels. St. Thomas, characterized by numerous bays and steep slopes, serves as a hub for tourism and a nexus for commerce, trade, finance, and government. The territory's magnificent overlooks, temperate year-round climate, and the islands' natural beauty combined with the warmth and productivity of its people serve as invaluable assets helping to bolster economic development endeavors, particularly in the hospitality sector including hotels.

Visitor arrivals in 2023 totaled almost 2.4 million, an increase from 2022.

# INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Tourism is the main economic driver of the USVI. The Territory is ripe with plenty of opportunities within that sector, as well as in other sectors that may depend upon or support tourism and hospitality.

## Investment is available in the following areas:

- VI-Style Tourism: Eco-resorts, boutique hotels, resorts/spas, heritage and culture activities, sports tourism, adventure, health and wellness resorts/retreats, conference centers, casual-elegant lodging, and dining.
- Coastal & Ocean Resources/Marine: Water sports and adventures, sustainable harvesting, marine/ maritime, shipyard development, and alternative energy.

 Tourism- Related Agribusiness: Specialty foods, farm-to-table operations.

# INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

#### Economic Development Commission ("EDC") Tax Incentive Program (can be used on any of the three islands)

- 90% reduction in corporate and personal income tax.
- 100% exemption on excise, gross receipts, and business property taxes.
- Reduction in customs duty from 6% to 1%.

#### South Shore Trade Zone ("SSTZ") Program (specifically for the special economic zone of St. Croix)

- 90% reduction in corporate and personal income tax.
- 100% exemption on customs duties and excise, gross receipts, business property taxes.

#### **Hotel Development Program**

Assists with the development of new hotels, resorts and other related tourism facilities by allowing developers to use a portion of their hotel occupancy and casino taxes to repay long-term loans, which can help in obtaining financing for projects.

Can be combined with either EDC or SSTZ.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority

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#### St. Croix:

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#### **Virgin Islands Department of Tourism**

Website: www.visitusvi.com Email: info@usvitourism.vi

#### **St. Thomas:**

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#### St. Croix:

321 King's Street Ste. 7 Frederiksted, St. Croix, 00840 Telephone: (340) 772-0357



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