

# Live and work in **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

The twin-island paradise woos families to its shores and investors to its globally competitive citizenship by investment program



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# Antiguan and Barbudan citizenship: The gateway to a Caribbean lifestyle

The idyllic islands offer an unbeatable Citizenship by Investment Programme that opens up a world of potential for successful applicants



**Visa-free access**  
To over 150 countries



**Rapid decision**  
60-80 days in most cases



**No restrictions**  
On dual nationality



**Citizenship for life**  
Once residency requirement is met



**Simple process**  
No net-worth or skillset requirements



**No tax**  
On income, inheritance, capital gains or investment returns



**Diverse options**  
A wide and dynamic range of investment possibilities



**Stable democracy**  
With well-established legal and regulatory frameworks



**World-class**  
Health and education systems



**Well-educated workforce**  
With skills and talent for the modern workplace



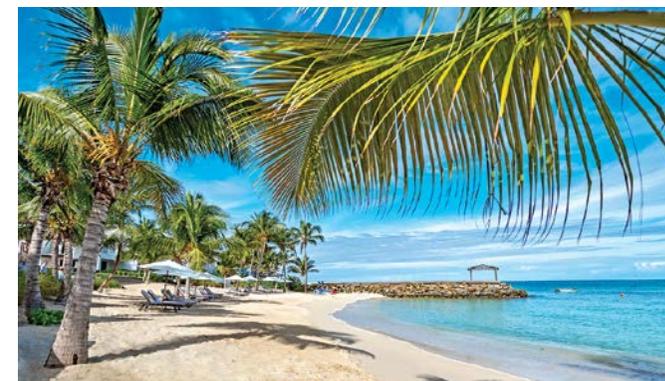
**Welcoming people**  
With a long history in high-end service delivery



**Safe and secure**  
You can live freely and work remotely

# Antigua and Barbuda: Invest, live and work in paradise

Discover diverse opportunities to enjoy a better quality of life in an island state at the heart of the Caribbean



Famous for its 365 pink and white sandy beaches, pristine turquoise seas, fabulous climate and uniquely welcoming population, the beautiful twin-island Caribbean state of Antigua and Barbuda is rightly ranked as one of the best places in the world to visit, live in and work from.

Less appreciated is the extent of its strong and resilient economy. “Pre-COVID, it grew by an average 5 percent a year for the six years my government has been in office. In 2018, it grew by 7.4 percent, the tenth-highest rate worldwide, despite our nation being decimated by Hurricane Irma in 2017,” states Prime Minister Gaston Browne. He is optimistic that his government’s comprehensive management of the global health crisis will result in another rapid recovery. “Our officials have done an excellent job in identifying, tracing, quarantining, isolating and establishing health protocols, which led to us having very few incidents of the virus. While the rest of the Caribbean was paralyzed by COVID-19, we threw open our doors on 1 June and restarted international flights. We are almost back to normal,” he says. To ensure residents and guests remain safe, the government has invested in state-of-the-art health infrastructure, strict protocols are in place at air and sea ports, hotels and Airbnb properties have been inspected, vaccines pre-purchased and the tourism sector has received training from medical professionals.

International investments in tourism, which contributes nearly 60 percent of gross domestic product, are going ahead despite the pandemic. “Some of the largest investments in the Caribbean are taking place in Antigua and Barbuda. For instance, we have our high-end Discovery Land Co. project that entails the use of over 700 acres, while a \$100-million beach club will be built by Royal Caribbean,” notes Browne. But there is much more to the islands’ economy than luxury tourism. “Antigua and Barbuda is emerging as the innovation center of the Caribbean and we have attracted several large investors in the digital arena. We have been diversifying the country’s economy into the blockchain, medical cannabis and stem-cell therapy spaces, creating the legal and regulatory frameworks for businesses in those sectors,” he points out. “In addition to technology, there are significant opportunities to invest in our agriculture, manufacturing and export industries,” adds Charmaine Quinland-Donovan, CEO of Antigua and Barbuda’s Citizenship by Investment Unit.

An excellent way to take advantage of these opportunities is through the Investment in Business option of its Citizenship by Investment Programme, a regionally unique offering. There are three other enticing options for those wanting to gain citizenship for themselves and their families: investing \$100,000 in the National Development Fund, purchasing real estate worth over \$400,000, which can be split between two families, or investing in Antigua’s campus of the University of West Indies. “There is something for every

investor in our program. We are very responsive to clients’ needs and try to make required amendments. But this is not a passport-for-sale program—it encourages active investment in a country with extreme potential. Antigua and Barbuda applies the highest transparency and due diligence standards available without putting the safety of applicants at risk,” stresses Quinland-Donovan.

The program has seen a recent surge in applications, she says: “There is a buzz about Antigua and Barbuda and, through our new electronic platform, we have been able to process applications efficiently.” In October 2020, to complement the program, it was amended to allow more people the chance to live in paradise with the launch of a two-year Nomad Digital Residence Visa for remote-working professionals earning at least \$50,000 a year. The country has excellent connectivity that facilitates these digital workers and investors. As well as first-class telecommunications, it is a central hub for the Caribbean just 3.5 hours from the U.S. “We have one of the region’s most modern airports and are putting infrastructure in place to ensure our cruise and cargo ports are among the most modern too,” says Charles Fernandez, Minister of Tourism and Investment.

**“While the rest of the Caribbean was paralyzed by COVID-19, we threw open our doors on 1 June and restarted international flights. We are almost back to normal.”**

Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

There are many other advantages to living on the islands. Not the least is an incredible, stress-free quality of life. Antigua and Barbuda is Lonely Planet’s, Emerging Sustainable Destination of the Year and, as well as stunning beaches, protected reefs and a rainforest are waiting to be explored. The country is rich in historic sites, restaurants cover a world of culinary delights and top-class sporting facilities allow you to enjoy activities on land or sea. The highly multicultural society has very low crime rates, education is strong at all levels and there are a myriad of prime properties to buy or rent.

When it comes to doing business, “We offer tax-free concessions for up to 25 years and there is no personal income tax on your earnings, local or worldwide. We uphold democratic values, the rule of law and have a constitution that protects investments and rights,” Browne explains. Quinland-Donovan would like to encourage individuals to apply to become citizens or remote-working residents: “We want them to experience the warmth of the sun and the people but also to capitalize on the countless opportunities to invest and live in Antigua and Barbuda.”

# Unwavering optimism in the face of global turmoil

**Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda,** guides us through a Caribbean multicultural paradise that has skillfully managed to weather the global health storm of COVID-19



Could you provide us with an introduction to Antigua and Barbuda for those readers who are not so familiar with your beautiful country?

Antigua and Barbuda is a beautiful island state in the middle of the Caribbean Sea and the gateway to many other Caribbean countries. We have two islands with many exotic attributes: Antigua has 365 marvelous sandy beaches with unpolluted, pristine turquoise waters. Barbuda has dozens of beaches, including some with pink sand. In other words, without any exaggeration, we have a beach for every single day of the year. The climate is very pleasant, with a constant sea breeze, so we do not have the same level of humidity as other countries. Antigua and Barbuda has enjoyed one of the lowest levels of crime incidents in the entire hemisphere. Another strength of Antigua and Barbuda is its multicultural society. There is no other country in the Caribbean that is more representative of the region than Antigua and Barbuda. Our new Nomad Visa Residency program will be extremely attractive to visitors, as they will have the chance to engage with very friendly and welcoming people. We have one of the most appealing tax incentive programs in the world. We offer tax-free concessions for up to 25 years, which is based on the size of the investment. In addition to that, there is no personal income tax. Not having personal income tax on any of your earnings, local or worldwide, can act as a very strong selling incentive.

**“We are addressing legitimate knowledge workers, investors and students, who can be assured that Antigua and Barbuda will be willing to accommodate them.”**

Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

Going back to history, we are a former colony of Great Britain with a parliamentary democracy, and we have always upheld democratic values, constitutional safeguards and the rule of law. We have a well-developed constitution that protects investments and individual rights, as well as several investor protection agreements with a number of countries. Antigua and Barbuda has consistently ranked within the top quartile of all countries globally in terms of its development. Poverty levels are extremely low, while rates of growth have been consistently at about 5 percent for the last six years of my administration. My government has been in office for six years and we have grown the country's

economy by 5 percent per year on average pre-COVID. In 2018, according to the International Monetary Fund, Antigua and Barbuda grew its economy by 7.4 percent. This is despite the fact that, in 2017, our country was decimated by Hurricane Irma and at that time we were faced with about \$600 million in losses.

I remain optimistic regarding Antigua and Barbuda's quick recovery in the post-COVID-19 era. Even though the pandemic created some challenges for us as a country very highly dependent on tourism, we are confident about our recovery and we continue undaunted by the challenges. Antigua and Barbuda has shown the world its capacity to manage COVID, which has led to us having so few incidents.

During this pandemic, we have been building up our socio-economic infrastructure. We have established an infectious disease center, with facilities that can accommodate up to 17 individuals. According to our population, we have reached a ratio of three beds per thousand people, which is certainly among the highest within the region. With the majority of the beds being empty, we are ready to face any possible increase in future cases. Our health infrastructure and economy are strong and we have many investments taking place.

We have successfully negotiated a set of investments and currently have some of the largest private-sector investments in the Caribbean taking place in Antigua and Barbuda, like the Discovery Land Co. project. Discovery is a U.S. multi-billion-dollar franchise, with properties in several states in the U.S., Bakers Bay Bahamas and Cabo Mexico. Its high-end tourism project in Barbuda is one of the largest investments happening in the Caribbean, it expands over 700 acres of land and is estimated to have a total annual spend of \$250 million. One of the most exciting projects taking place next year will be a beach club with a total investment value of \$100 million, which will be

 In 2018, Antigua and Barbuda was the 10th fastest-growing economy worldwide

 In Antigua and Barbuda the average annual income per capita is \$20,000

 1st Caribbean nation to regulate digital assets



built by Royal Caribbean to provide bespoke entertainment for the guests to Antigua and Barbuda.

**You have favorable legislation in place for people that want to come and invest in setting up, say, a blockchain company. How important is innovation to Antigua and Barbuda and to your government?**

We are a really innovative and open-minded country, providing the regulatory space for innovation and entrepreneurship to flourish. We have been diversifying the country's economy in the blockchain, cannabis and stem-cell therapy spaces, creating the legal and regulatory frameworks for businesses in those sectors. We have attracted several large investors in the digital arena, developing scalable blockchain technologies that could practically run in all applications in the public and private sectors.

I would say that Antigua and Barbuda is emerging as the innovation center of the Caribbean. At the same time as establishing laws and regulations covering the operations of blockchain and other cryptocurrency businesses, we have clauses that protect investors and others that ensure that our anti-money-laundering (AML) and counter-terrorism-financing (CTF) frameworks are robust. There are compliance officers appointed for each of these areas. In other words, we have the legal framework to meet our international AML and CTF obligations. In addition to that, we are providing a creative space for the technologies to flourish, as clearly stated through our Digital Business Assets Act. Within the upcoming years, we will see the country flourishing in these aspects of the economy.

**The Nomad Digital Residence Visa is a new amendment to your Citizenship by Investment Programme, which was launched in 2013. Why will this new visa appeal to the global digital nomad workforce?**

Individuals who can provide services for their employers or clients from anywhere in the world will be attracted by this program, as they will be given the opportunity to work within a low-risk environment, even in terms of COVID-19. Investors can work remotely, thanks to our digitally based regulatory environment, while we have the infrastructure and broadband services in place to enable remote working and training. We see this as a way to create a new product that complements our citizenship product. This is a residency product that is affordable for knowledge students, workers and investors, and we believe that it helps to enhance our product offering moving forward. We



are pleased to accept individuals from all over the world, as long as they satisfy the due diligence that is required and meet the provided threshold. We are addressing legitimate knowledge workers, investors and students, who can be assured that Antigua and Barbuda will be willing to accommodate them.

**“We have been diversifying the country's economy in the blockchain, cannabis and stem-cell therapy spaces, creating the legal and regulatory frameworks for businesses in those sectors.”**

Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

**In your opinion, what are the keys to successfully reactivating the economy in Antigua and Barbuda to bring it back to high growth levels that your country previously enjoyed?**

On our end, we are open for business. We were only closed for a month and a half, due to the discontinuance of flights into the island. We expect that, in the upcoming months, the fear associated with COVID-19 will be reduced as vaccines come on to the market. We hope that by winter of 2021, we will see a strong demand in terms of passenger and visitor arrivals in the country. COVID-19 has been disruptive, reversing some of the gains we have seen over the last six years. We want to see the world return to normalcy, where people can travel again—as we are here, willing, ready and able to accommodate them. Our position from the very beginning was that we must learn to live and work with COVID-19 and we have been one of the most effective and less affected countries in the Caribbean because of that. A special “thank you” is due to everyone involved here in managing such risks, especially the ones on the frontlines.

We respected this menace but also felt the need to be proactive in managing the risks it entails. The reason we took on such high levels of risk was due to the fact that we have a relatively vulnerable economy that is highly dependent on tourism.

**What would your final message be for the readers of Newsweek?**

I would like to encourage individuals to become residents or citizens of Antigua and Barbuda. We have great accessibility and business infrastructure as a country that is gradually becoming the digital capital of the Caribbean.

# A unique offering in the form of a Caribbean gem

**Charmaine Quinland-Donovan, CEO, Citizenship by Investment Unit, Antigua and Barbuda,** presents a tempting citizenship scheme aimed at exceptional individuals



**What are some of the twin-island nation's unique qualities that Antiguan and Barbudans are most proud of?**

It is an honor to speak about Antigua and Barbuda from this perspective, as a national and as team leader for the Citizenship by Investment Unit. There is much that we are proud of as citizens and residents of this twin island state—our warmth, our ingenuity, our resilience and our work ethic, which propels us to want to be the best. Once you step onto Antiguan and Barbudan soil, you immediately feel the warmth of the people and this is what has made us the marquis tourism destination in the sub-region. Although our neighbors have strongly benefited from tourism over the years, having been in the business for longer, we have become accustomed to welcoming the full range of visitors, from budget travelers to a higher net-worth clientele. As such, the superior level of service and the warmth can be attributed to all the people we have had the chance to interact with over the decades. Just moments after leaving the airport you feel both the sunshine and the warmth of the locals.

We are also proud of our commitment to developing an educated population. Antiguan and Barbudans are highly educated and pursue opportunities to learn new skills and competencies. The government too has been very firm in its vision that everyone in the country needs to complete at least a secondary level of education. It has also made provisions to ensure that we have affordable tertiary education. We have the Antigua State College, the Antigua and Barbuda

but there is a lot of opportunity for this to happen in Antigua, thanks to our unique position in the archipelago of the countries.

**Turning our sights to your Citizenship by Investment Programme that was established in April 2013, with your unit launched that August, how has it evolved and how does it stand out against competing programs?**

I feel privileged to say I was one of the first employees of this unit. I was instrumental in establishing the step-by-step application process, even in terms of the design of the citizenship certificate. This program was in part our response to the global financial downturn in 2008. We saw the immediate impact on tourism, which has historically contributed nearly 60 percent of our gross domestic product. This compelled the government to find creative ways to maintain foreign direct investment inflows, maintain high levels of employment in the tourism sector and support the wider economy. A task-force was established to determine the feasibility of operating the Citizenship by Investment Programme.

From my experience with the program, we are focusing on integrity. We can confirm that this program is well managed. Another strength of the program is that we are very responsive, listening to the industry and taking our clients' needs into great consideration. We try to make the required amendments in order to continue reaching the people that we need to reach as well as still operating within the framework and legal parameters we have set for ourselves.

At its inception, the program had three investment options. The first was the National Development Fund option and the initial investment amount was \$250,000, which was almost immediately reduced to \$200,000 based on industry feedback and our clients' appetite. We also had the Real Estate option, which required a minimum investment of \$400,000. Last but not least, we had the Investment in Business option, which was unique for our region, because the other

 **Antigua and Barbuda** boasts a **99%** literacy rate

 **Citizenship by Investment** contributes nearly **20%** of the country's **GDP**

 A family of **6** can apply for citizenship through a university contribution of **\$150,000**

**“Antigua and Barbuda has by far the most transparent program in this industry. We are mandated to publish our statistics every six months and present them in parliament.”**

Charmaine Quinland-Donovan, CEO, Citizenship by Investment

Institute of Technology, and the Hospitality and Training Institute that have been providing training for many years. Most significantly, we recently opened the fourth landed campus of the University of the West Indies, making tertiary education a lot more accessible and affordable to Antiguan and Barbudans.

Once you interact with Antiguan and Barbudans, you can sense this deep desire to be the best—it's a commitment to excellence. As a result, this comes out in practically everything that we do, offering services at the highest standard. We are known for our services and we may not yet be a manufacturing country,



countries that had similar Citizenship by Investment programs only considered the first two options. After assessing the investment migration market space and listening to the needs of our clientele, in 2017, we reduced the investment amount for the National Development Fund to \$100,000, as we wished to be part of not only the regional but the global competition. Shortly thereafter, we introduced a variation to our Real Estate option, where we allowed two families to come together, investing in a unit of \$400,000, with each family making the minimum contribution of \$200,000.

In 2018, we introduced a fourth option, which was investment toward the University of the West Indies. The intention is for clients to apply to this program and make the stated contribution to the University of the West Indies as the investment vehicle. In addition to providing funding for university, the aim was to also provide a steady stream of financing for continued expansion. As an added incentive, if there is a university-age dependent in the family applying under this option, they can attend the University of West Indies for a year with free tuition. If we think of the purpose of establishing this investment option, we can see that it is in line with the government's vision of maintaining a high literacy rate in Antigua and Barbuda and ensuring that all citizens have access to higher education. In order to execute a national plan, you need to have people that are appropriately skilled to help you implement it. We are really happy and proud to be able to host the fourth landed campus of the University of West Indies here.

Earlier this year, we made some other substantial changes to the program to include amending that fourth option, making it the most affordable large family option available anywhere. Additionally, in the face of the travel restrictions and business closures compelled by the COVID-19 pandemic, the unit streamlined its application process to allow for full digital submission of applications. Through our electronic platform, we have been able to work seamlessly through lockdowns and restrictions, processing applications and meeting client needs with the highest levels of efficiency.

**Due diligence is a critical component in any of these programs globally. What measures have you put in place to uphold the highest standards?**

Antigua and Barbuda has by far the most transparent program in this industry. We are mandated, by law, to publish our statistics every six months and present them in parliament. That report indicates the number of applications submitted, the jurisdictions from which the applications were received and the investment option chosen. We do not, however, identify applicants to the



program, instead maintaining their privacy and safety. When it comes to due diligence, I would say that we are applying the highest standards that are available right now in this industry. We have several tiers of due diligence beginning with our own in-house process. We have anti-money-laundering and counter-financing-of-terrorism professionals on staff, myself being one. We also have contracted industry professionals that are companies providing due diligence to Fortune 500 companies; this is an additional tier. We have agreements in place with international law enforcement partners as well. In addition to all of the other information that we would have acquired through our other sources on due diligence, we have information on people who may be under investigations or other classified information that would not be ordinarily available.

It is important for all applicants to know that it is only the best cases in this program that get to secure the privilege of Antigua and Barbuda citizenship. This also gives our international partners the level of confidence they need, because every territory is concerned with the safety of their borders, and justifiably so.

**“We want people to capitalize on the countless opportunities to invest and live in Antigua and Barbuda. This is not a passport-for-sale program, this is a program that encourages active investment in a country with extreme potential.”**

Charmaine Quinland-Donovan, CEO, Citizenship by Investment

**What would be your final message for the readers of Newsweek?**

Our message is that Antigua and Barbuda is open for business and investment; and very literally so. Our borders were among the first to reopen in the summer and we remain ready to receive all applicants. We acknowledge that currently there are a few travel constraints because of the global pandemic, but by the time vaccines become available, we really want people to take the time and visit Antigua and Barbuda. We want them to not only experience the warmth of the sun and the warmth of the people but also to capitalize on the countless opportunities to invest and live in Antigua and Barbuda. We are always careful to make the distinction between our program and others: this is not a passport-for-sale program. This is a program that encourages active investment in a country with extreme potential. Choose Antigua and Barbuda. Opportunities await.

# A successful and safe reopening of the tourism sector

**Charles Fernandez, Minister of Tourism and Investment, Antigua and Barbuda,** hints at a revitalized version of Antigua and Barbuda emerging from the aftermath of COVID-19



**What are some of the qualities of your twin-island nation and its people that continue to amaze and surprise visitors, or that you are most proud of as an Antiguan and Barbudan?**

I think that the most important thing about Antigua and Barbuda, apart from its 365 beaches and its incredible climate, is its people, who are among the friendliest in the world. As a result, we can boast of having a very low crime rate. Apart from the beauty and the islands themselves, the friendliness of the people is number one for everyone that comes and experiences the islands.

In respect of our size, Antigua is an island of 108 square miles and Barbuda an island of 62 square miles. We have a tiny population, of approximately 100,000 people, yet we are still able to make ourselves visible on the global map. For example, in sports, cricket in particular, our national teams have excelled. On another note, I think that we are entitled to brag a bit in terms of our tourism. We have one of the most modern airports in the region, are now putting the infrastructure in place to ensure that we have the most modern cruise port in the region and we are just completing our cargo port, which will also be among the most modern in the region. The vision of the Prime Minister and the government is to allow for Antigua and Barbuda to become a real hub for the Caribbean. We are already strategically positioned and we need to put the ingredients in place to ensure that we are really ready to take on the role of the center of the Caribbean.

**“We have done a tremendous job in managing COVID and have seen an increase in our tourism product. We managed to bring some medical personnel into tourism as early as April.”**

Charles Fernandez, Minister of Tourism and Investment

**Antigua and Barbuda’s management of COVID has received wide acclaim, while your oversight of the safe reopening of its borders in June led to you being named Caribbean Tourism Minister of the Year at December’s Caribbean Travel Awards. How did you approach the crisis?**

I think that the pandemic hit the entire Western world more or less at the same time. We all reacted in very similar ways, closing our ports of entry. Antigua and Barbuda went about it in a more measured way, never going

for total lockdown. We listened to the medical and technical experts, and managed this crisis based on the information that we got from them. We never had a situation where people could not go to supermarkets and, in addition, we were one of the first countries in the world to make masks mandatory. We are still of the opinion that this is one of the things that have managed to keep Antiguan and Barbudans safe from any real community spread. Antigua was the first in the region to reopen its airport. On 1 June, we reopened to American Airlines, with all medical personnel and protocols in place. We managed to put ourselves in a position to cope with the situation as the airlines and visitors ramped up. It is safe to say that we have been able to keep the country as safe as we have done thanks to our very strict protocols.

We have handled everything in a way that we think will not agitate the situation. We do not wish to create any adverse effect on our people or put their safety in jeopardy. At the same time, we are tirelessly trying to ensure that everyone is safe, including our guests.

Apart from all the protocols in the ports of entry, we have also inspected customs, immigrations, taxi dispatchers and taxi operators. In terms of the latter, we had special classes for them with medical personnel, teaching them what COVID-19 is about and what we needed them to do in order to ensure their protection. After that was finished, each of them had to sit through an exam to prove that they really understood it. In addition, we met with all tour operators individually to inspect and certify them regarding their safety protocols. We also inspected and certified all our hotel and Airbnb properties.

We have done a tremendous job in managing COVID and have seen an increase in our tourism product. We managed to bring some medical

As well as luxury hotels, **Antigua and Barbuda** offers more than **400 Airbnb** properties for rental

Lonely Planet named Antigua and Barbuda **Emerging Sustainable Destination of 2021**

By **2021**, all **Antiguan** government offices will run on **non-fossil energy**



personnel into tourism as early as April. So, when we reopened, we had that medical aspect within tourism to be able to bridge that kind of technical expertise between my ministry and the Ministry of Health.

**Antigua and Barbuda’s tourism has evolved over time toward exclusivity and luxury. Could you give us a snapshot of some of the major investments in the sector since your government came to office in 2014?**

We have had upgrades to a number of properties during our tenure. We saw the reopening of the Royalton Hotel and have other projects in line—for example, works for the Marriot Courtyard Hotel will start early next year. We have the Half Moon Bay project that started this year, as did the Peace, Love and Happiness project, which faced some delays with the COVID-19 outbreak. It is now ongoing and will be one of the largest hotel investments in the region. Another multi-billion-dollar investment, the YIDA project, started around 2015 and is still ongoing. Those are some of the most important projects in our pipeline at the moment. We also had the Callaloo Cay Resort project that started but has been put on hold due to COVID-19. A lot of these projects that stem from international investments have key people that are unable to travel due to the pandemic, which has hampered our progress.

The government has incentivized through concessions all of the hotels and other businesses on the island. Antigua is normally marketed as a high-end destination. However, the advent of Airbnb has opened a door to other markets. We have inspected and certified every Airbnb property that was up for rental for visitors, up to 400 of them. This allowed us to realize the capacity we have in terms of our villa rentals. That in turn helps us when we market the island, as we do not want people to be only aware of our high-end properties.

**Antigua and Barbuda has been recognized by Lonely Planet as 2021’s Emerging Sustainable Destination of the Year. What can you tell us about programs aimed at contributing to an environment-friendly circular economy on the islands?**

It is important for us to recognize that the Caribbean is on the frontline for hurricanes and storms, which are becoming more frequent. We have to take the lead and show the rest of the world that we are capable of setting the leading example, even though we are not considered high-end polluters.



To that end, we have introduced a number of initiatives. First, we have committed to move away from fossil fuel, with the Ministry of Environment working tirelessly to ensure that we add capacities. On another note, the Green Corridor is an area of Antigua that gets a fair amount of rainfall. We have worked to make this become an eco-tourism route for visitors coming to the island. We have also arranged for nature tours, which is something that Antigua never really considered before. In terms of the sea, we are working hard to figure out ways we can eliminate any types of spillage going into the ocean, because we need to protect our reefs and beaches.

The pandemic reminded us that our country is very dependent on food imports. The Prime Minister took the lead in a tremendous initiative in this area: creating a farm, producing his own fruit and vegetables, and setting an example for other Antiguan and Barbudans through social media. As a result, all of the other cabinet ministers, including myself, got into backyard gardening. Farming used to be something that many looked down on, but now they are eager to get involved. We are also working to provide free water for farmers, as Antigua’s biggest challenge has been clean water.

**“We have to take the lead and show the rest of the world that we are capable of setting the leading example, even though we are not even considered high-end polluters.”**

Charles Fernandez, Minister of Tourism and Investment

**What would be your final message for the readers of Newsweek?**

Our Nomad Digital Residence Visa program allows individuals to be able to work remotely from Antigua and Barbuda. People could come here and enjoy the beautiful climate, environment and people, with the ability to get their work done as well. Antigua is ideally suited and we are ramping up our internet access at a much faster rate, as this is the key component for having people work remotely—in safety—from here. In terms of COVID-19, apart from all the necessary facilities to treat people, we have already pre-purchased 20,000 doses of vaccines. As a country, we will be one of the first in line to get the vaccines approved by the World Health Organization. These are some of the initiatives that we have taken to ensure that we remain ahead of the curve.

# ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



The Antigua and Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Programme was established in 2013 to stimulate Foreign Direct Investment and support the real-estate market. There are four investment options for persons seeking citizenship:

A minimum contribution of US \$100,000 to the National Development Fund (NDF).

An investment of at least US \$200,000 in an approved real estate project.

An investment of US \$1.5 million in a business individually or US \$5 million by 2 or more investors, where each invests no less than US \$400,000

An investment of US \$150,000 to the University of the West Indies Fund

**Here are some advantages to obtaining Antigua & Barbuda citizenship:**

Visa free access to more than 150 countries, including United Kingdom and Schengen Area.

Competitive global option for economic citizenship, range of price points and investments.

No restrictions on dual nationality.

Citizenship for life, once residency requirement is met.

Straightforward application process, no minimum net worth requirement or previous business experience.

Average application time is 90 days (12 weeks)

No tax on worldwide income, inheritance, capital gains or investment returns

Antigua and Barbuda has much to offer to potential investors in its citizenship programme.



CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT  
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

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