

Live and work in paradise

DOMINICA

With a remote-working revolution sweeping the world, now is the ideal time for professionals to enjoy the Caribbean country's many charms



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In collaboration with **Newsweek**

Jewel of the Caribbean and gateway to the world



Citizenship of Dominica offers talented individuals a wealth of promising opportunities



Visa-free access

To more than 140 countries and territories



Rapid decision

No more than 90 days in the vast majority of cases, with very thorough vetting process



No restrictions

On dual nationality, with citizens welcome to hold more than one citizenship



Citizenship for life

Once granted, Dominican citizenship is only revocable in exceptional circumstances



Simple process

No net worth or skillset requirements needed for citizenship by investment



Low tax regime

Income, personal wealth, and business taxes are very attractive; no inheritance tax



Diverse options

A broad range of investment openings, such as government-approved real estate projects



Stable democracy

Well-established legal and regulatory frameworks provide strong foundations for success



First-class

Health and education systems offer quality of life to all



Work/life balance

Dominica blends a great climate with fast and reliable ICT networks, making remote working a popular option



Welcoming people

Dominica is a cosmopolitan and friendly country that welcomes people from all corners of the world



Safe, stable, and secure

High standard of living includes low crime rates and political and social stability

Dominica's investment options are paths to prosperity

Dominica's No. 1 ranked citizenship by investment programme is an award-winning route for investors



Dominica is a small country with huge ambitions, illustrated by the outstanding performance and success of its Citizenship by Investment (CBI) Programme, which has attracted waves of foreign direct investment (FDI) to its sun-kissed shores during the past three decades.

Ranked best citizenship by investment programme in the world for the fourth year running in 2020 in the CBI Index, a publication by the prestigious Professional Wealth Management magazine—part of The Financial Times—the Dominica Citizenship by Investment Programme has blazed a trail since its inception in 1993. Recent government data revealed the programme generated an impressive EC\$1.2 billion in revenue between 2017 and 2020 as nearly 6,000 individuals took advantage of the streamlined system to secure citizenship of Dominica. "Dominica balances an excellent reputation for meeting the needs of investors with strong due diligence, a low minimum investment outlay, efficient processing, and a renewed focus on family reunification," noted the CBI Index, where Dominica's fast and efficient application process—on average, no longer than 90 days—and low minimum investment threshold of US\$100,000 also garnered praise.

The nation's Citizenship by Investment Programme offers two pathways to citizenship, namely: a contribution of at least US\$100,000 to the government (commonly known as the Economic Diversification Fund (EDF) option) to support socio-economic initiatives to drive national development; or an investment in an approved real estate project worth at least US\$200,000. Approved real estate projects encompass new luxury hotels and upscale tourism development projects handpicked by officials and seen as trustworthy and most likely to succeed, including a string of eco-tourism developments that highlight Dominica's focus on sustainable tourism solutions. Projects that qualify for the latter include the Sanctuary Rainforest Eco Resort and Spa, Anichi Resort & Spa, Bois Cotlette, and Ay Ay Holdings Caribbean Ltd/Jungle Bay Ecovillas. Individuals who choose the real estate route must hold the purchased real estate for either three or five years, depending on the circumstances of the sale.

Dominica's award-winning citizenship by investment programme boasts a range of benefits

Once investors become Dominican citizens, they and their families not only have unfettered access to one of the most beautiful countries in the world, but benefit from visa-free access to approximately 140 countries and territories, including a number of business hubs. "For us, foreign investors who become our citizens through citizenship by investment are truly valuable partners," states Roosevelt Skerit, Prime Minister of Dominica. "We are proud to call them our own and to offer them a truly spectacular place to call home."

The dynamic politician, who became the youngest prime minister in the world upon taking office in 2004 aged just 31, adds: "We are a nation deeply rooted in

community values and a mindset of reciprocity. We invite individuals and families from across the world to invest in our country, and in exchange we promise to provide them with citizenship of Dominica—a status that comes with a myriad of opportunities that transcend borders."

The Citizenship by Investment Unit (CBIU) is the government authority that deals with all matters relating to citizenship by investment applications and projects. The proactive entity is overseen by Emmanuel Nanthan, Head of the CBIU, who in 2020 spoke with London-headquartered government advisory CS Global Partners about why Dominica remains such a popular choice with investors of good moral character. He noted Dominica is very protective of the Citizenship by Investment Programme and grants citizenships only after incredibly thorough vetting of the applicant, with this approach demanding "relentless commitment to due diligence". "An applicant must be of high moral character and present a clean source of funds," he emphasised. "We have applications from Asia, the Middle East, the Americas, Europe, and Africa." Dominica offers "safety, stability and security, is well-respected internationally, with good diplomatic relations, especially with fellow Commonwealth countries," Nanthan added.

"Foreign investors who become our citizens through citizenship by investment are truly valuable partners. We are proud to call them our own and to offer them a truly spectacular place to call home."

Roosevelt Skerit, Prime Minister of Dominica

Paul Singh, the Director of CS Global Partners, echoes this view, noting Dominica offers investors political and economic stability and an escape from large urban areas where population density threatens to act as a conduit for COVID-19, while its generous family reunification terms are one of its greatest pull factors. "Caribbean countries like Dominica understand the importance of family when it comes to a second citizenship," he says. "People want security, but they want it for their wider family, too. Citizenship by investment provides that safety net and the financial freedom they crave. As a company, we have seen a marked increase from British citizens [following the country's recent exit from the EU] in applying to programmes in the Caribbean, and, specifically, to the Dominica Citizenship by Investment Programme."

With millions of vials of vaccines now rolling off production lines, Dominica's tourism industry should rebound strongly in 2021, while individuals who hold dual citizenship should enjoy an uptick in their fortunes, and those of their families, as they benefit from greater access to worldwide leisure and business destinations through the Dominica Citizenship by Investment Programme.

Dominica re-emerging stronger than before

Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of Dominica, shares his optimism regarding Dominica's prospects for economic recovery



As we approach the end of the year, Governments across the world are taking stock of the true impact of COVID-19 on their economies. How optimistic are you about the speed of Dominica's recovery and next year's economic performance?

This is not the first time Dominica has been adversely impacted by a life-altering event. Our focus on health will continue in 2021, as we instil even greater confidence in our health offering. Our government has been focused on building a better health care system for several years. As COVID-19 began to spread across continents, we quickly resolved to place lives first, diverting significant resources to bolster the healthcare sector and invest in our people. It is thanks to these efforts that Dominica experienced only a handful of cases in 2020 and zero deaths to date. Our early intervention has already resulted in success, which we believe we will be able to carry forward in 2021. It allowed us to reopen our borders in August with the relevant safety protocols in place to restart our tourism economy. Furthermore, it enabled us to develop health systems for our hotels and resorts, many of which are now designated as COVID-19-safe.

"Thanks to the real estate arm of the Citizenship by Investment Programme, Dominica is becoming increasingly known for its luxury tourism offering."
Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of Dominica

What can you tell us about your experience fighting the pandemic, and how lessons learned in the recovery from hurricanes have been valuable in the battle against COVID-19?

The pandemic required Dominicans to draw on their sense of community and of dedication to others like never before. All of us made sacrifices both in our personal and professional lives to protect ourselves and the people around us. As the world begins to breathe a sigh of relief with news of the vaccine, Dominicans have turned to their spirit of resilience to inject new energy in our businesses.

On a practical level, Dominica had, in many of its sectors, learned to switch to remote processing in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. This meant that the same protocols could be applied when COVID-19 forced the entire nation to work from home to reduce transmission of the disease. One example is our Citizenship by Investment Unit, which began processing applications for citizenship almost immediately, by en-

abling systems that would allow staff to review applications in the same meticulous way as before without losing pace.

Your citizenship by investment programme has been ranked first in The Financial Times' CBI Index for four consecutive years. From the government's perspective, to what key elements can we attribute the success of the Dominica Citizenship by Investment Programme?

The first key element of the Citizenship by Investment Programme's success is its longevity, as Dominica's programme is one of the oldest ones in existence. Applicants who choose to invest in citizenship of Dominica know they are applying through a stable and tested programme, resulting in the grant of a respected citizenship. The second key element is the programme's efficiency. Our years of experience in the industry have allowed us to fine-tune our processes to ensure one of the fastest application turnaround times in the industry. Applicants who successfully pass due diligence can expect to receive notification of approval in principle in as little as three months from submission.

Thirdly, the Dominica Citizenship by Investment Programme is designed to be straightforward, as applicants need only choose between two investment routes, either a direct contribution or an investment in pre-approved real estate. Unlike some other jurisdictions, Dominica does not require applicants to fulfil time-consuming requirements.

What are some of the country's biggest incentives to woo investors and other comparative advantages vis-à-vis other island economies?

Dominica is a business-friendly country, with a well-educated, English-speaking workforce. Dominicans benefit from a plethora of incentives designed to stimulate entrepreneurship and protect legitimate business, including no capital gains tax and free movement of profits and dividends. Thanks to the real estate arm of the Citizenship by Investment Programme, Dominica is becoming increasingly known for its luxury tourism offering. Under the Citizenship by Investment Programme, investors looking to expand their real estate portfolio have the opportunity to invest in established, luxury hotel brands and villas.

In what ways has Dominica tweaked its tourism industry following this year? What is being done to prep for the comeback in 2021?

As Dominicans, we pride ourselves in responsible and sustainable tourism. We believe tourism can exist in harmony with the environment and that it can provide the resources needed to further protect our ar-



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eas of natural beauty. In light of this, we recently launched our Safe in Nature Programme. This programme is geared towards helping revive our tourism industry while offering a safe experience for our visitors. Safe in Nature offers managed experiences while in Dominica, ensuring participants adhere to strict health measures to safeguard both locals and visitors.

We want Dominica to not only be a vacation destination, but to be an antidote for the COVID-19 stress that many individuals and families are currently feeling.

"We want Dominica to not only be a vacation destination, but to be an antidote for the COVID-19 stress that many individuals and families are currently feeling."
Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of Dominica

How would you describe Dominica's real estate sector and its position as an up-market and luxury destination?

As a tropical island blessed with beaches, abundant rainforests, mountains, and hot springs, Dominica is an eco-lover's paradise. The trend in Dominica is one of skyrocketing interest from tourists, including those looking for a luxury experience, as well as real estate growth and refinement. However, despite this surging demand, we remain committed to the protection and preservation of Dominica's natural beauty. Our real estate is intertwined with nature and eco-friendliness.

Real estate developers wishing to get involved with the Citizenship by Investment Programme should be cognisant of the need to meet these sustainability requirements. They must also be prepared to demonstrate high direct and indirect job creation, committing some of their own funds to the project's completion.

What would be your final message for our readers of Newsweek?

Through our long-term efforts to improve our health sector, success in containing the pandemic, and stringent safety protocols, we have built up the trust of our citizens, developers, and visitors. We are encouraging investment, supporting entrepreneurs who choose our island, and incentivising those who want to become citizens by providing them with robust investment options. Whether you live, work, study, invest in, or visit Dominica, I can assure you that we will keep you and your interests safe, and welcome you with open arms.

The unbeatable offer for those in search of an unspoiled paradise with prime real estate

Dominica has a population of a little over **70,000** residents

Dominica has over **289.5** square miles of territory

Dominica's Citizenship by Investment Programme is one of the oldest in existence

Despite its historic roots, the nation of Dominica is just over **42 years old**

The Citizenship by Investment Programme provided hurricane-resilient homes for **6,680** households

In **2020**, Dominica removed VAT and import duty on packaging and labelling materials

The **Safe in Nature** Programme was launched on **October 2020**

The **Safe in Nature** Programme includes more than **50** certified properties

Dominica is home to the world's **second largest** boiling lake

More than half of Dominica is covered with over **1,200** plant species

Trust and safety in the ‘emerald of the Caribbean’

Emmanuel Nanthan, Head of the Dominica Citizenship by Investment Unit (CBIU), explains how Dominica remains a pillar of security for global investors amidst COVID-19 uncertainty



For those readers who are not so familiar with your country, how would you sum up Dominica’s essence and what makes it unique?

Dominica is an island covered in verdant, lush vegetation that values nature. We are wholly committed to sustainability and the fight against climate change. We have embraced a life that consists of interacting with and protecting our natural surroundings. We are, however, also a forward-looking nation, with a fast-growing economy that is diversifying, as well as an always-greater international imprint. Part of this imprint is due to our diaspora and the many families that have become Dominican citizens through our highly-successful citizenship by investment programme.

“The Dominica Citizenship by Investment Unit is no stranger to adversity. We were quick to use our online case management system to process applications at pace despite the national lockdown.”

Emmanuel Nanthan, Head of the Dominica Citizenship by Investment Unit

Could you share with the readers of Newsweek the vital role the programme has played in financing hurricane recovery efforts and in the broader transition of Dominica into a climate-resilient service economy? What are some of the most notable investment success stories?

Unfortunately, Dominica had to bear the brunt of two major weather-related calamities in the recent past: Tropical Storm Erika in 2015 and Hurricane Maria in 2017. The most recent of the two had devastating effects, obliterating houses and structures and causing damage estimated at 226 percent of the previous year’s GDP. The Citizenship by Investment Programme was nothing short of a lifeline, providing funds to build climate-resilient homes for thousands of our citizens and construct infrastructure that would no longer be prey to adverse weather. Rehabilitation has included bridges, two hospitals, 12 health centres, and 15 damaged schools. Soon, the programme will also be responsible for our geothermal power plant, new international airport, and a state-of-the-art hospital.

In what specific ways is your citizenship by investment programme different than those of other competing nations?

The Dominica Citizenship by Investment Programme stands out from the crowd by virtue of its longevity. The programme, being one of the oldest ever

established, offers stability to investors and reassurance that their citizenship will not be questioned further down the line. This has also allowed it to develop into a product that is quick to respond to the changing needs of investors. In addition, the programme offers investors a fast and straightforward second citizenship solution. There are no onerous travel, residence, or interview requirements, and, on average, we process applications in three months.

Lastly, but certainly not least, Dominica stands out for its commitment to stringent applicant vetting. Multi-tiered due diligence is the cornerstone of our programme. It is enshrined in the programme’s regulations and ensures that only applicants of the highest calibre become Dominican citizens.

What can you highlight about Dominica’s fiscal incentives?

There are a number of fiscal incentives that are available to those who invest in Dominica. Tax holidays and import duty waivers are available to certain businesses involved in manufacturing or in the running and construction of hotels and resorts. Companies can qualify for tax exemptions of up to 20 years if incorporated under the International Business Companies Act. There are also incentives with respect to the repatriation of profits, 100 percent of which can be repatriated by foreign investors. I would advise investors to communicate with our Invest Dominica Authority, which was created for the purpose of facilitating investment and is best suited for providing detail on the many ways in which Dominica encourages foreign investment above and beyond the Citizenship by Investment Programme.

Despite the positive news about vaccines, COVID-19 continues to challenge the world. How has your Citizenship by Investment Unit adapted to this new, global paradigm to continue offering Dominica as a safe and responsible destination?



The Dominica Citizenship by Investment Programme was established in 1993



Dominica’s programme has been ranked the best in the CBI Index, published by The Financial Times’ PWM for four years running



As of the end of 2020, Dominica has not suffered any COVID-19 related casualties



With the onset of COVID-19, we feared that the programme would ground to a halt. However, as things settled, our numbers picked up, with many investors viewing second citizenship as a hedge against uncertainty and a means of bringing their families together to a new, safe home. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Dominica’s response was extremely reassuring to foreign investors.

The Dominica Citizenship by Investment Unit is no stranger to adversity. We were quick to use our online case management system to process applications at pace despite the national lockdown. We also actively responded to demand for family reunification, expanding the definition of ‘dependant’ under the programme and opportunities for post-citizenship additions of family members.

The free movement of professionals who are no longer tied to a specific location has created a surge in talent migration. How is your country and the Dominica Citizenship by Investment Programme leveraging the opportunities here, acting to attract digital nomads and ‘stay-cationers’?

Digital nomads and ‘stay-cationers’ are a growing voice when it comes to immigration. Dominica has much to gain from this trend, as it is the perfect location from which to work remotely while enjoying sunny skies and warm weather. Being able to live here year-round while working for a city firm used to be a dream, but it is now a reality thanks to work-from-home opportunities. The Citizenship by Investment Programme is one of the ways in which foreigners can gain the right to live in Dominica year-round.

There have been some big real estate development projects conducted under the Citizenship by Investment Programme. Could you tell us a bit about the success of these and what other types of opportunities exist today?

There are now eight approved projects under the real estate arm of the Dominica Citizenship by Investment Programme, all of which are tourism developments. Thanks to such investments in real estate, Dominica is becoming a destination for luxury tourism, with a number of major hotel brands having now settled in Dominica. Applicants also have the option of investing in luxury villas that are part of larger resorts, such as The Residences at Secret Bay, an award-winning development devised and constructed with the hard work of local citizens and residents.

In keeping with Dominica’s sustainability initiative, approved projects under the programme must present a number of characteristics, including climate resilience, eco-friendliness, and direct and indirect job creation for Dominicans.



For those investors who are keen to move to Dominica with family, what can you tell us about things that would be important to them, such as cost of living, schools and universities, healthcare, and transport links?

Dominica is an incredibly welcoming country, with a strong sense of community and of neighbours helping neighbours. It is the ideal place for someone to move to and build new friendships and relationships. Life here is also more affordable than in the bustling metropolises that our applicants come from: places like London, Beijing, and Moscow. Our healthcare system is robust, and, even during the first wave of the COVID-19 outbreak, hospitals and clinics coped well. With regards to schooling, we teach in English, and we offer free school education for children aged 5 to 16. Parents have a choice of more than 60 schools, some of which are private but a majority of which are public. Secondary education is excellent, thanks to institutions such as the Orion Academy and the Dominica Grammar School. We also have a number of colleges and higher education institutions, with a focus on medicine and marine biology.

Private cars are the most comfortable mode of traveling across the various key areas of the island of Dominica. Action has been taken to improve roads and highways, particularly in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, and there is concrete intent to further strengthen the public transportation network for local Dominicans and visitors. Dominica has a history of offering incentives for transport services in Roseau to run into the evenings and at night, connecting the capital city with the rural areas of Dominica.

“The Citizenship by Investment Programme is one of the ways in which foreigners can gain the right to live in Dominica year-round.”

Emmanuel Nanthan, Head of the Dominica Citizenship by Investment Unit

What would be your final message of trust about Dominica today?

As a final remark, I want to convey to potential investors and their family members that second citizenship of Dominica brings with it a number of benefits. In a world turned upside down by COVID-19, Dominica offers its citizens access to a safe space surrounded by natural beauty, with a strong support system in the form of both welcoming locals and a robust health sector. Dominica also has an exceptional visa-free and visa-on-arrival offering should investors wish to travel for business or pleasure as the world reopens to international travel.

Dominica spearheads the global citizenship by investment industry

Paul Singh, Director, CS Global Partners, provides insight into Dominica's renowned citizenship by investment programme



When was the original seed planted and what combination of ideas and market conditions led to the company's establishment in 2012? What are some of the advantages of being based in London?

The company was established by Micha-Rose Emmett, who had a background as a lawyer and who had worked in citizenship by investment when it was still a budding industry. The ethos behind the company was to present to the world the win-win solution that citizenship by investment can offer, whether for investors or for countries. CS Global Partners spearheaded a process that would see the St Kitts and Nevis Citizenship by Investment Unit improve its processing efforts and strategy and become the industry's 'Platinum Standard.' CS Global Partners was also instrumental in re-launching Dominica into the world as the leading citizenship by investment jurisdiction it is today.

London is easy to reach from all across the globe, meaning that prospective investors can effortlessly visit our offices and find out more about the programmes we work with. At the same time, it gives our team the ability to travel at ease and with speed to most worldwide locations, whether to provide programme-specific advice or to partake in an event.

The Caribbean and Southern Europe might have established themselves as the better-known jurisdictions for citizenship by investment, but where are the individual investors coming from? What are the biggest source markets for investment migration?

Citizenship by investment is very much a global product, attracting people from all around the world. Although, out of need, we see that particular markets such as Russia, China, and the Middle East drive a greater demand, it would be a mistake to think these are the only countries where there is a growing interest in citizenship by investment. Nigeria and South Africa are seeing heightened interest, and countries like the United States are generating interest, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

Concerning destinations for citizenship, the Caribbean remains a dominant market, with Dominica and St Kitts and Nevis rising to prominence thanks to their legacy and dependability, as well as their rapid processing times. The newest citizenship by investment programmes of note are those of Turkey, where uptake has been significant among Middle Eastern applicants, and Montenegro, which, however, has yet to receive significant interest. It is important to note that, at this point, both Malta and Cyprus have suspended their programmes, with Malta looking to fully launch a hybrid residence and citizenship offering in the future.

How is transparency addressed specifically at CS Global Partners, and how do you ensure best practices are consistently being employed in due diligence

and standard-setting?

Due diligence is central to the survival of the industry, as it is essential that countries feel confident in the people they are allowing to become their citizens. In addition, applicants themselves need to feel confident in the reputability of their country of choosing. For this reason, there is a constant search to improve due diligence methods, to ensure that no stone is left unturned when it comes to the applicant's background. At present, jurisdictions, such as Dominica, engage in a multi-tiered due diligence process that involves agents, internal Unit staff, external due diligence firms, as well as regional and international bodies. To enhance the above, the Caribbean also places bars on applicants who originate from high-risk nations. This ensures that people on whom due diligence cannot be accurately performed are excluded from the programme. The Caribbean bars any person from applying if that person applied for, and was rejected for, a visa to a country with which the Caribbean citizenship by investment jurisdiction has a visa-free travel treaty. This ensures that no person can use citizenship by investment to circumvent bars to entry to a third nation. Finally, the Caribbean has at its disposal deprivation of citizenship measures, which it can use as a last resort in the unlikely case that an illicit actor succeeds in passing the due diligence scrutiny. Within CS Global Partners, we perform our own due diligence checks on all persons who seek to become our clients. These involve the use of World Check, as well as in-house due diligence based on documents received by the individual and online checks, across the application process.

You also work with some European countries, markets which may have been put in the spotlight this year following the scandal in Cyprus. What will be the biggest changes to European Golden Visas as a result of this year's happenings?

We have, in the past, sought to assist European nations in improving and honing their citizenship by investment and residence by investment programmes. European nations should ensure that their due diligence is always in line with best practices and that there is no room for illicit actors to abuse their programmes. At CS Global Partners, we hope this will serve as a call for all nations to improve their due diligence and ensure tight measures and controls are in place for all applicants. Dominica's multi-tiered due diligence system would be a good system to imitate in any jurisdiction wishing to deliver a respected investor immigration programme.

In what obvious and less apparent ways has COVID-19 affected global investment migration, both in general, but also specifically concerning Dominica?

Firstly, COVID-19 has reminded us of how difficult it is to protect the ones we love, whether from a health or an economic perspective. Health-wise, it has reminded us of how important it is to live in a country with a strong healthcare



system that is not easily overwhelmed. Economically, it has reminded us of how easy it is to lose a job or see a business fail. Secondly, COVID-19 has shown that the freedoms we are used to, such as the freedom to travel and see our family, can be lost at the blink of an eye. Finally, COVID-19 has underlined the importance of being able to live in a place in which we love to be. People are investing in citizenship by investment not so much to travel for business or to repatriate their assets, but rather to find a haven that is healthy, welcoming towards small and large families alike, and beautiful.

Dominica has been ranked the top jurisdiction for four years in a row by The FT's CBI Index. Why is Dominica consistently ranked at the top, and what are the main advantages of choosing this jurisdiction over some other island nations in the region?


The CBI Index is a very useful tool as it rates each programme by nine elements that an investor may deem necessary to his or her choice of destination for second

citizenship. This year, Dominica received the highest possible score in six out of nine pillars: Minimum Investment Outlay, Mandatory Travel or Residence, Ease of Processing, Due Diligence, Family, and Certainty of Product. It also received a very high score in Citizenship Timeline, and commendable scores in Freedom of Movement and Standard of Living.

Minimum Investment Outlay refers to the minimum amount a person must invest in order to obtain citizenship. In Dominica, this equates to US\$100,000. Mandatory Travel or Residence refers to the travel or residence requirement associated with a programme. In Dominica, there is no requirement to travel to the island, or reside there, to become a citizen. Ease of Processing refers to the processing of applications. In Dominica, there is no requirement to attend an interview, pass a language or culture test, or demonstrate prior business ability. The Unit is also highly effective, frequently updating its website and providing direct guidance to agents. Family refers to the family members that can be included in an application. In Dominica, this encompasses spouses, children up to the age of 30, parents, grandparents, the spouses of qualifying parents and grandparents, and even siblings up to the age of 25. Finally, Certainty of Product refers to the stability and reliability of a programme. In Dominica, citizenship by investment has been in existence for more than two decades, and the programme is widely lauded for its good reputation, providing added confidence for investors.

What would be your final message towards our readers of Newsweek?

There are many citizenship by investment programmes in the world, but you would be hard pressed to find one that is as advantageous as the Dominica Citizenship by Investment Programme. It is essential to be well informed, choose an agent who will be able to provide you with accurate and timely guidance, and, ultimately, bask in the certainty of greater freedom, safety, and happiness.

 **Click here to watch our latest video "Work in Dominica - Connected to nature, Connected to the world"**

Dominica tops the citizenship by investment industry

 Dominica's GDP is expected to rise by 3.3% in 2021	 For citizenship via the real estate option, a minimum US\$200,000 investment is required	 For 2021 , Dominica's inflation rate is forecast to stabilize at 1.9%	 Due diligence fees for the main applicant are limited to \$7,500	 Dominican citizenship by investment does not have a residency requirement
 Citizens of Dominica can travel to 143 countries and territories	 Eligible applicants should be at least 18 years old with no criminal record	 Dominica offers one of the world's most affordable citizenship by investment programmes	 A Dominican adult passport is valid for 10 years and can be renewed	 Tax residents of Dominica enjoy a tax-free status on all foreign income and capital gains

An upcoming project of character for Dominica

Ian Edwards, Owner and CEO, Tranquility Beach Resort, aims to place Dominica on the world map as a top-notch tourism destination

In the latest edition of National Geographic Traveller for the UK, Dominica features as the only Caribbean destination for adventure. In your opinion, how could this sector of tourism help revive the local hospitality industry?

Dominica distinguishes itself as a spectacular eco-tourism destination, one full of adventure and discovery. This is key to reviving the hospitality industry, because in Dominica you can remain safe whilst also living new and exciting experiences. Adventure tourism stimulates many entrepreneurial and grassroots cottage industries in areas relating to accommodation, food and beverage services, excursions and tours, agriculture, and more, creating employment and bringing in foreign exchange.

With the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines globally, the world waits to return to normal travelling practices. When do you expect Tranquility Beach and Dominica to re-establish the usual visitor flow?

Dominica is known as ‘The Nature Island of The Caribbean’ and I think that such a pristine country will attract more and more travellers. Many people are tuned into what matters: good quality of life, safety, spending time with loved ones, and being free to enjoy the healthy outdoors.

Dominica offers the perfect experience. Dominica is uncrowded, with lots of fresh air, mountains, rivers, and waterfalls, and the country has an excellent proven track record in the management of COVID-19. I definitely anticipate that the country will receive more and more stayover visitors this year and beyond.

“Dominica is a part of the Commonwealth. It is a very stable country politically, economically, and socially—and an excellent place for investment.”

Ian Edwards, Owner and CEO, Tranquility Beach Resort

Tranquility Beach has received many accolades from visitors. How would you define the competitive advantages of Tranquility Beach in Dominica and within a broader Caribbean context?

I believe that all our citizenship by investment hotel properties coming on stream in Dominica add wonderful luxury to our existing tourism product-service offering. We are carving out a niche of high-end properties and will continue to make a mark within the region and beyond.

As a Dominican living abroad for many years, I would return to visit my homeland several times a year. I wanted to bring a fresh, contemporary



© Tranquility Beach Resort

architectural design concept to the island. I envisioned Tranquility Beach Resort’s architecture to be distinctive and have a creative flair that would celebrate the stunning marine setting and the beautiful lifestyle of this island.

I think of myself as a free-flowing artist. I was fortunate to win a global architectural award from The International Property Awards in London in 2012 for Best International Architecture Single Residence for my ‘Beach House’ design. Given my background and interests in property development, incorporating architectural and construction innovation was essential for this property.

Some focus on your involvement and partnership with Curio, a Hilton Franchise. Are there any plans for further collaboration?

Tranquility Beach Resort Dominica is branded a Curio Collection by Hilton. We embrace this rich affiliation with the highly-esteemed Hilton Hotel tradition to offer the world’s finest vacation experiences. We have an excellent relationship with Hilton—they are very involved in collaborating with us as we design and build, and are excited about the planned hotel expansion.

What would be your final message towards our readers of Newsweek?

Dominica is being heralded by travel pundits the world over as a key rising tropical tourism destination of interest to look out for. The country has warm people and a commitment to the preservation of nature and heritage and health and safety. The Government of Dominica is doing an exceptional job in managing COVID-19, successfully protecting the wellbeing of residents and visitors alike.

Dominica is a part of the Commonwealth. It is a very stable country politically, economically, and socially—and an excellent place for investment. We offer a safe and welcoming haven and an enhanced quality of life for digital nomads, investors, new Dominican citizens, and visiting families who wish to relocate to, or enjoy vacations and extended stays, on the island.

Construction work for the **Dominica Tranquility Beach** is set to finish in late **2022**

As of the end of 2020, **Dominica Tranquility Beach** includes **99 rooms**

Tranquility Beach Resort has direct access to **two secluded beaches**

A piece of paradise for contemporary nomads

Sam Raphael, Managing Director, Jungle Bay, underlines the role of community protection, as guests enjoy Dominica's various attractions



© Jungle Bay

Digital nomads are about to become a regular fixture in the post-pandemic world. How are your facilities catering to these clients, who can stay longer than regular visitors, but shorter than permanent residents?

Jungle Bay's accommodation facilities are villa suites and several of them stand-alone units. The villas make ideal medium-term residences for persons interested in living abroad for longer than the typical tourist. We have created a 'Garden of Eden' type environment with tropical fruit trees, wellness facilities, and gym, swimming pools, and a lot of amenities that cater to great outdoor living year-round.

As a reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, most hotels and resorts are taking specific health and safety measures. How is Jungle Bay implementing protocols to halt the spread of the virus?

We have implemented social distancing guidelines, enhanced housekeeping practices, and offer other subtle yet effective measures protecting the guest and staff. Our approach is designed to protect our guests and staff while ensuring that there are sufficient activities visitors could enjoy even while they isolate, allowing more activity than tourism in these times normally would. Dominica has introduced a 'Safe in Nature' programme that is designed to enable visitors to enjoy Dominica and protect local residents during the pandemic.

"Our approach is a little different than traditional hotels, because we build it around our community and staff."

Sam Raphael, Managing Director, Jungle Bay

Jungle Bay has received many accolades from visitors. How would you define the competitive advantages of Jungle Bay in Dominica and within a broader Caribbean context?

Jungle Bay is one of the pioneers in wellness and adventure which is very different from the standard Caribbean tourism model. Our commitment to a sustainability ethos is something that sets us apart from many other tourism providers. Our approach is a little different than traditional hotels, because we build it around our community and staff. That enables visitors to have an authentic cultural heritage experience which is not typical to most hotels in the Caribbean. Some of the key niches we host include active ecotourists, yoga retreat and other wellness groups, exotic rainforest wedding guests and honeymooners, as well as groups involved in corporate team building meetings and retreats. We see continued growth and demand for these types of vacation.

You are a Dominican entrepreneur and sustainable development expert, with Jungle Bay being your brainchild. How would you characterize your resort and its relationship with the surrounding natural environment Dominica is famous for?

As a Dominican myself and with a background in social and environmental justice, I have made it a point to ensure that Jungle Bay engages in practices that protect the environment, while maximising opportunities for the local population. Much of this is done by way of offering training and employment opportunities as well as supplying goods and services to the resort. We have ensured that most of the food served in our restaurants comes from organic farmers or fishermen from the surrounding communities.




Jungle Bay has also initiated a number of grassroots social programmes in the areas of entrepreneurship, literacy, and healthcare, as well as a number of others that positively impact the communities.

What would be your final message of trust towards our readers of Newsweek?

Dominica has always done very well as far as human development is concerned. We are known for having among the highest number of centenarians per capita. This is thanks to the natural environment of Dominica and the way the people of this island live and deal with issues of stress. This is part of the heritage, culture, and way of life of Dominica. We are able to pass these practices along to our guests to enhance their lives beyond their stay at Jungle Bay.

Additionally, Dominica was very proactive in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. We have adhered to COVID-19 protocols in order to protect the host population and visitors. As a result of this common-sense approach, the number of cases in Dominica remains very low.

We anticipate the growth in the sustainable travel market going forward and this should put Dominica and Jungle Bay on the top of the list of any prospective leisure traveller.

-  **Jungle Bay provides 60 eco-villas** in Morne Acouma in Soufriere
-  **Jungle Bay has a carbon footprint that is 30 to 40% lower** than other traditional resorts
-  **Jungle Bay was one of the first properties to be certified under Dominica's Safe in Nature Programme**

Offering tailor-made experiences for every type of guest

Gregor Nassief, Chairman & CEO, GEMS Holdings Limited, explains how the company's philosophy is based on the idea of following nature's lead



© Secret Bay

As a reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, most hotels and resorts are taking specific health and safety measures. How is Secret Bay implementing protocols to halt the spread of the virus?

Secret Bay thoughtfully created a programme to ensure the optimal healthy and safety of staff and guests. Our StayWell Programme is a series of holistic wellness, health, and safety protocols that go beyond WHO, PAHO, CDC, and local health authorities' mandates and guidelines. The resort also unveiled multiple wellness offerings, including a superfood turndown service and a backyard garden programme, where each villa has its own private grow box. This not only helps cultivate the idea of foraging and sourcing local ingredients for optimal nutrition, but it also creates an entirely new education experience that supports the hotel's ethos for healthy living.

"Secret Bay has been a sustainable entity from the beginning, from the very materials used to create it, to the numerous green practices that are implemented."

Gregor Nassief, Chairman & CEO, GEMS Holdings Limited

Digital nomads are about to become a regular fixture in the post-pandemic world. How are your facilities catering to these clients, who can stay longer than regular visitors, but shorter than permanent residents?

When it became apparent that COVID-19 was going to be a more long-term challenge, we thought one way to maintain bookings was to offer longer stay options that allowed guests to have a peaceful work environment and access to bucket-list activities. We developed a 'Six Star Workcation Retreat' package. The 30-night package includes meals, weekly massages and yoga, and a variety of on- and off-property experiences. In fact, we have guests booking more than 70 nights, enjoying the balance of work and 'living in nature'. We anticipate this trend to continue as travellers are seeking the transformative nature of extended and more immersive and personalised vacation experiences.

Secret Bay has received many accolades from visitors. How would you define the competitive advantages of Secret Bay in Dominica and within a broader Caribbean context?

Compared to other Caribbean islands, Dominica is lush and has a more dynamic terrain, allowing for a completely different kind of tropical experience. Dominica is pioneering becoming a climate resilient nation through renewable energy, organic agriculture, and sustainable infrastructure. Secret Bay has been

a sustainable entity from the beginning, from the very materials used to create it, to the numerous green practices that are implemented. We believe sustainability is hugely important in hospitality and our guests tend to value green initiatives as well. Our 10 freestanding, self-contained villas are resorts within themselves, as each one is equipped with its own parcel of land, private plunge pool, gourmet kitchen, spacious indoor/outdoor living areas, and dedicated staff.

Dominica has been a pioneer in the formulation and implementation of citizenship by investment. How would you evaluate the impact of the country's citizenship by investment programme in the hospitality sector?

In line with the country's climate-resilient objectives, the Citizenship by Investment Programme has financed the building blocks of the country's improved infrastructure—such as hospitals and health clinics, public housing, emergency shelters, and a forthcoming international airport.

Specific to hospitality, citizenship by investment has allowed several hotel developers, like Secret Bay, to sell ownership in their resorts as a qualifying investment to second citizenship, which has facilitated the build out of the island's hotel infrastructure at an accelerated rate.

-  **GEMS Holdings Limited** is the proprietor of the bespoke **Secret Bay**
-  **Secret Bay** was ranked **1st** resort hotel in the **Caribbean** in **Travel+Leisure's 2020 World's Best Awards**
-  **World Travel Awards** named **Secret Bay** as **'Dominica's leading hotel for 2020'**

To conclude, what would be your final message for the millions of readers of Newsweek?

With no evidence of community spread, the island has effectively managed a 100 percent recovery rate and implemented broad social distancing, testing, monitoring, and treatment protocols proven to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Committed to providing visitors to the 'Nature Island' with a safe travel experience from arrival to departure, Dominica introduced 'Safe in Nature' procedures to safeguard both residents and visitors.

On-island, visitors are required to stay at a certified 'Safe in Nature' property and are free to explore the island by land and sea on approved 'Safe in Nature' experiences, creating a 'tourism bubble' from which to enjoy the sights and sounds of Dominica.



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*Become a Citizen of Dominica
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The Best CBI Programme in the World

Dominica has been recognised as the world's best Citizenship by Investment Programme for the fourth consecutive year by PWM's FT Specialist CBI Index.

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