

# Investment Guide



# The Bahamas

## The Bahamas

- Composition:** An archipelago of over 700 islands stretching over 258,998 square km.
- Location:** In the Atlantic Ocean; north of Cuba and Hispaniola (the Dominican Republic and Haiti); northwest of the Turks and Caicos Islands; southeast of the U.S. state of Florida and east of the Florida Keys.
- Population:** 377,400 (2013) with around 70% living on New Providence Island.
- Capital:** Nassau located on New Providence Island.
- Currency:** Bahamian Dollar - BS\$1.00 = US\$1.00 (pegged).
- GDP:** \$8.149 billion (2012) third highest per capita in the Americas (after The USA & Canada).
- Main Industries:** Tourism and Banking.
- Language:** English.
- Political Status:** Parliamentary democracy with a Prime Minister as head of government.



Direct flights to 8 major North American Cities

Direct flights to Montreal & Toronto

Direct flights to UK

Florida

Nassau

The Bahamas

Long Island

Cuba

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## [Tax residency in The Bahamas](#)

Besides its attractive 0% personal income tax rate, The Bahamas has the advantage of its situation being very close to the United States, alongside Florida with Miami easily accessible.

The Bahamas generally tends to encourage new residents with significant financial means to settle there. The standard residency procedure requires a minimum \$500,000 investment to be made in a real estate purchase. A fast-tracked procedure can be triggered by a real estate purchase of at least \$1,500,000.

Importantly, there is no annual, minimum number of days' stay required to maintain residency, once acquired.

## [Living in The Bahamas](#)

Life in the Bahamas is particularly pleasant, with its laid-back, sunny living environment and friendly inhabitants.

Living costs in the Bahamas are higher than in the United States, due to most products being imported.

There are plenty of water based activities to keep you occupied on the islands including diving, fishing, snorkelling, sailing, kayaking and endless beaches to explore as well as cycling, tennis or restaurants and bars that you discover along the way.

## [Banks in The Bahamas](#)

The Bahamas' banking system is well developed. As well as local banks there are a number of American and Canadian banks which operate there. Also many foreign banks have established branches based there too.

All Bahamian banks are focussed on wealth management and take the matter of confidentiality very seriously. Furthermore most operate e-banking services which allow you to manage accounts remotely.

## [Corporate Income Tax](#)

Companies, regardless of their residency status, are not subject to Corporation Tax in The Bahamas.

VAT: There is currently no VAT in The Bahamas. Whilst there is a bill aiming to introduce a 7.5% VAT, it is not yet in force.

## [Relocation to The Bahamas](#)

Aside from having to demonstrate good character and show financial assets proving your financial independence, you are required to make a real estate purchase in the Bahamas. The asset purchased must be valued at a minimum of \$500 000 (\$1 500 000 for the fast-tracked procedure).





# Summary

## Why invest in land?

- Back to basics with a solid, tangible and real asset.
- Low risk: historically and over time, land values rise.
- The Bahamas operates a secure freehold title land registration system.
- No restriction to foreign ownership of residential land.

## Why invest in the The Bahamas?

- English speaking.
- No income tax, corporation tax, capital gains tax or inheritance tax in The Bahamas.
- Economic & political stability.
- Supportive business environment.
- Direct access to international markets.
- The Bahamas time and again ranks top of the tax free destinations for expats to invest.



## Facts about The Bahamas

- The Bahamas has the world's third largest barrier reef.
- Five per cent of the world's coral can be found in the waters of The Bahamas.
- The Bahamas has the clearest waters in the world, with visibility of over 61m (200 ft).
- 109 species of birds breed in the Islands of The Bahamas.
- There are 120 plant species found only in The Bahamas.
- With over 270 years of democratic rule The Bahamas is one of the most politically stable countries in the world.