

EAGLEIMMIGRATION

ANNUAL EDITION

2027

The Citizenship & Residency by Investment Guide

Second passports, global mobility, and the programs worth knowing — before the rules change again.

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eagleimmigrationservices.com

◆ BEFORE YOU READ

About this guide

This guide is written for families and investors who are seriously evaluating a second citizenship or residency in 2027 — not for those browsing.

It assumes you already understand why someone might want a second passport and want to know instead which programs remain, what they cost, how long they take, and where the risks sit.

We have tried to write it the way we would explain it in a private consultation: directly, including the parts that make programs look less attractive than their marketing suggests. That is deliberate. The investment migration industry has a credibility problem, and the fastest way to lose a serious client is to overstate what a passport will do for them.

IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ

The figures in this guide are current as at Q4 2026 to the best of our knowledge and have been checked against public sources. Investment migration programs change frequently. Minimum thresholds are raised, routes are closed, and visa-free access is suspended or revoked — sometimes with little notice. **Every figure in this guide should be independently confirmed against the relevant government's current published terms before you make any financial commitment.**

Where a figure is marked **CONFIRM** it is subject to change in the near term and should be treated as indicative only.

Nothing in this document is legal, tax, or financial advice. Citizenship and residency applications are decided by governments, not by Eagle Immigration, and no outcome is guaranteed. Tax consequences vary by your personal circumstances and jurisdiction and should be reviewed with a qualified cross-border tax adviser.

Document control

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01 SECTION

Why 2027 is different

The investment migration landscape of 2027 looks materially different from the one most people researched five years ago. If your understanding was formed before 2023, it is probably out of date.

4

EU citizenship-by-investment routes closed since 2023

10y

Portugal's naturalisation period, extended in 2026

2028

EU has requested Caribbean phase-out by 1 June 2028

Three forces have reshaped the market, and all three are moving in the same direction: toward higher thresholds, longer timelines, and more scrutiny. None of them appears to be reversing.

1. European pressure has become European action

For years, the European Commission argued that golden visa and golden passport schemes posed security and money-laundering risks. That argument has now produced outcomes rather than warnings.

Portugal closed the real-estate route to its Golden Visa in 2023, redirecting applicants toward funds and other qualifying investments. Spain's parliament voted to end its real-estate golden visa, with the route closing on 3 April 2025 under Organic Law 1/2025. Ireland shut its Immigrant Investor Programme outright. In April 2025 the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled that Malta's citizenship-by-investment scheme was incompatible with EU law, and Malta repealed the programme in July 2025.

The practical consequence is that the European passport-for-investment route is now essentially closed, and the European residency-for-investment route is being steadily tightened. The most consequential tightening for most applicants has been Portugal's decision, taken in 2026, to extend the naturalisation period for most non-EU nationals from five years to ten.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

If your goal is a European passport specifically, your realistic options are now *residency-first* — enter on a residency program and naturalise after a lengthening statutory period. Direct citizenship by investment in the EU should be treated as closed, and the Portugal route should be understood as a long-horizon option rather than a five-year one.

2. The Caribbean harmonised — and the floor rose

In 2024, the five Eastern Caribbean jurisdictions operating citizenship-by-investment programs — Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Lucia — signed a Memorandum of Agreement committing to a common minimum investment threshold of \$200,000 and shared standards on due diligence, residency, and information exchange.

This was driven substantially by pressure from the United States and the European Union. The effect was to eliminate the sub-\$200,000 passport almost overnight.

The pressure has not stopped. In 2025 the European Commission formally asked the five Caribbean CBI states to phase out their programmes by 1 June 2028 or face the risk of Schengen visa suspension. That request is not law and has not been implemented — but it represents a forward risk that anyone choosing a Caribbean passport primarily for European travel should weigh carefully.

3. Due diligence is no longer a formality

The due-diligence stage of an application has become the most consequential part of the process. What used to be a background check is now a comprehensive investigation: interviews, enhanced biometric capture, source-of-wealth analysis extending back years, scrutiny of family members included in the application, and cross-checking against databases shared between jurisdictions.

Applications fail at this stage far more often than they fail on investment. The single most common cause is an inability to document source of funds credibly. We cover this in Section 12.

THE HONEST TAKEAWAY

Programs are more expensive and slower than they were in 2020, and the trend is one-directional. Waiting is not a neutral choice — it is a decision to apply later, at a higher price, under tighter rules, if the program still exists at all. We are not telling you to rush. We are telling you that the cost of delay is now measurable.

02 SECTION

How citizenship by investment actually works

Strip away the marketing and every citizenship-by-investment program is the same transaction: a qualifying investment in exchange for citizenship, subject to government vetting.

The three investment routes

Donation. A non-refundable contribution to a government fund — typically named something like a Sustainable Island State Contribution or an Economic Diversification Fund. This is the simplest and most common Caribbean route. You will not get the money back. What you receive in exchange is citizenship, usually for a defined family unit at a defined price.

Real estate. A purchase of property meeting a government-set minimum, usually held for a fixed period before resale. This route has a lower net cost if the property holds value, but carries market risk, transaction costs, and a hold period that ties up capital. Several programs price real estate higher than the donation equivalent.

Fund or enterprise investment. A contribution to an approved fund, or investment in a qualifying business. Less common in the Caribbean, more common in European residency programs.

In our experience most clients choose donation for simplicity unless they specifically want exposure to property. The deciding factor is usually liquidity, not cost.

The five stages

1. Engagement and pre-screening. Before anything is submitted, your adviser should be assessing eligibility — including the parts that are uncomfortable. Source of wealth, any prior immigration refusals, travel history, criminal-record disclosures. A good adviser raises potential problems here, not after submission.

2. Documentation and due diligence. This is where most of the work happens. Police certificates, birth and marriage certificates, proof of address, bank references, professional references, and a documented source-of-funds trail. Documents must usually be apostilled and professionally translated.

3. Submission. The complete application goes to the program's citizenship-by-investment unit. The due-diligence fee is paid and the file enters the queue.

4. Approval in principle. The government confirms that, subject to the investment being made, citizenship will be granted. This is the point at which money actually moves.

5. Citizenship granted. You receive the certificate of citizenship and, where applicable, the passport.

How long it really takes

Advertised timelines are best-case figures measured from submission, not from first engagement. Two corrections are worth making to any number a program quotes you:

- ◆ **Preparation time.** Assembling an apostilled, translated, complete document set typically takes six to twelve weeks, sometimes longer if records are difficult to obtain.
- ◆ **Queue time.** Government processing estimates assume a clean file and an empty queue. Neither is guaranteed.

We quote from engagement to passport, and we pad it. We would rather under-promise and deliver early than repeat a program's marketing timeline back to you and miss it.

03 SECTION

Caribbean citizenship programs

Five jurisdictions. Five programs with the same structure, a shared minimum threshold of \$200,000, and passports that differ in ways that matter — but less than the brochures suggest.

All five Caribbean programs share the following characteristics: no residency requirement (Antigua is the exception, discussed below), no language or interview requirement at application, inclusion of immediate family, dual citizenship permitted, and a donation or real-estate route.

The table below gives current advertised starting figures. Note in particular the UK visa-free column — two of the five programmes have lost UK access in recent years, which is a material change for many applicants.

Program	Donation from	Timeline	UK	Schengen	Stand-out feature
St. Kitts & Nevis	\$250,000	5–7 mo	Yes	Yes	Longest track record
Dominica	\$200,000	6–9 mo	No (2023)	Yes	Lowest threshold
Grenada	\$235,000	6–9 mo	Yes	Yes	US E-2; China access
Antigua & Barbuda	\$230,000	6–9 mo	Yes	Yes	Family pricing
St. Lucia	\$240,000	7–10 mo	No (2026)	Yes	Shorter queue

Visa-free positions current as at Q4 2026. Schengen access remains in place for all five programmes but is subject to a European Commission request to phase out Caribbean CBI by 1 June 2028 — see Section 04 for the forward risk. Confirm all positions before proceeding.

CARIBBEAN · CITIZENSHIP

St. Kitts & Nevis

FROM

\$250,000

The oldest program in the world, and still the one with the strongest brand recognition.

ESTABLISHED	1984 — the original citizenship-by-investment program
MINIMUM INVESTMENT	\$250,000 donation (single applicant; family pricing higher). Real estate from \$325,000 in an approved development, 7-year hold; private residences priced higher.
REALISTIC TIMELINE	5–7 months from submission; allow 2–3 months preparation
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT	None
FAMILY INCLUSION	Spouse, dependent children, and in many cases parents and grandparents
VISA-FREE ACCESS	150+ destinations including the UK and Schengen Area

St. Kitts & Nevis invented the category. That history matters for two reasons. First, the program has survived four decades of scrutiny, which is a meaningful signal about institutional durability. Second, because it is the most visible program, it has also been the most examined — by the US, the EU, and the OECD — and has repeatedly tightened its standards in response.

The donation route is through the Sustainable Island State Contribution. The real-estate route requires a purchase above a government-set minimum, held for seven years. Real estate typically prices higher than donation but recovers capital if the property resells.

BEST FOR

Applicants who place a premium on the program’s track record and international recognition, and who are willing to pay a modest premium over the cheapest Caribbean options for it.

WATCH-OUTS

- ◆ Threshold has risen more than once. Confirm current figure.
- ◆ Real-estate route ties capital up for seven years.
- ◆ Files receive close attention — source-of-funds must be immaculate.

CARIBBEAN · CITIZENSHIP

Dominica

FROM

\$200,000

The most affordable of the established programs — but no longer a UK visa-free passport.

ESTABLISHED	1993
MINIMUM INVESTMENT	\$200,000 donation (single applicant; family pricing higher). Real estate from \$200,000, 3-year hold.
REALISTIC TIMELINE	6–9 months from submission
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT	None
FAMILY INCLUSION	Spouse, dependent children, and in some cases siblings and parents
VISA-FREE ACCESS	140+ destinations including Schengen Area. UK access removed July 2023.

Dominica sits at the affordable end of the harmonised Caribbean market. The donation goes to the Economic Diversification Fund, which funds public and private sector development. A real-estate route also exists, requiring a shorter three-year hold than most competitors.

The UK removed Dominica from its visa-free list in July 2023, following concerns about the program's due-diligence standards. The programme has since tightened its processes considerably, but UK access has not been restored. Applicants who specifically need UK visa-free travel should look at St. Kitts, Grenada, or Antigua instead.

BEST FOR

Applicants whose primary goal is a second passport with good Schengen and global access at the lowest credible price point, and who do not need UK visa-free travel.

WATCH-OUTS

- ◆ **No UK visa-free access.**
- ◆ No US E-2 treaty benefit (unlike Grenada).
- ◆ Family inclusion varies; confirm which relatives qualify.

CARIBBEAN · CITIZENSHIP

Grenada

FROM

\$235,000

The only Caribbean program with a US treaty route attached — and the reason many business owners choose it over cheaper options.

ESTABLISHED	2013
MINIMUM INVESTMENT	\$235,000 donation (covers family of up to four). Real estate from \$270,000 plus a \$50,000 government fee, 5-year hold.
REALISTIC TIMELINE	6–9 months from submission
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT	None
FAMILY INCLUSION	Spouse, dependent children, and in some cases parents and siblings
VISA-FREE ACCESS	140+ destinations including the UK and Schengen Area, plus China

Grenada’s distinguishing feature is that it holds a treaty with the United States permitting Grenadian citizens to apply for the E-2 investor visa. For a business owner who wants the ability to live and operate in the United States without going through EB-5, this is a genuinely different proposition, and it is the reason Grenada commands attention despite no longer being the cheapest option.

Grenada also has a longstanding visa-free arrangement with China, which is relevant to applicants with business interests in mainland China and a feature no other Caribbean program reliably matches.

BEST FOR

Business owners wanting a US presence via the E-2 route, applicants with China exposure, and families wanting a well-regarded Caribbean passport with UK and Schengen access.

WATCH-OUTS

- ◆ E-2 route requires an active US enterprise — not passive; not guaranteed.
- ◆ Real-estate route requires a substantial purchase plus a government fee.
- ◆ Confirm current visa-free arrangements — they can change.

CARIBBEAN · CITIZENSHIP

Antigua & Barbuda

FROM

\$230,000

The best-value Caribbean option for families, with one condition most programs do not impose.

ESTABLISHED	2013
MINIMUM INVESTMENT	\$230,000 donation (covers family of up to four). Real estate from \$300,000, 5-year hold.
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT	5 days in the first 5 years — unusual among Caribbean programs
FAMILY INCLUSION	Broad — spouse, children, parents, and in some cases siblings
VISA-FREE ACCESS	145+ destinations including the UK and Schengen Area

Antigua’s pricing structure is built around the family unit, which makes it the strongest value in the Caribbean for applicants with children. The \$230,000 donation covers a family of up to four, which is remarkable when compared with programmes that charge per person.

The five-day residency requirement is the feature most often missed. It is modest — a short trip once in the first five years — but it is a real obligation, and applicants who fail to meet it can have their citizenship affected. It is the price of the family pricing.

St. Lucia

The newest of the five, with a shorter queue — and no UK access since 2026.

ESTABLISHED	2015
MINIMUM INVESTMENT	\$240,000 donation (single applicant; family pricing higher). Real estate from \$300,000, 5-year hold.
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT	None
VISA-FREE ACCESS	140+ destinations including Schengen Area. UK access removed 2026.

St. Lucia entered the market later than its neighbours and prices slightly above them. In exchange it has historically processed applications more quickly, though “more quickly” in this context means a matter of weeks rather than months. Its passport retains good global access but lost UK visa-free status in 2026.

04 SECTION

Vanuatu — speed, and what it has cost

Vanuatu offers the fastest citizenship in the world. It has also lost both UK and Schengen access. Both facts need to be in the same sentence, and they define what this programme is now for.

PACIFIC · CITIZENSHIP

Vanuatu

FROM

\$130,000

ESTABLISHED	2016 (Development Support Program)
MINIMUM INVESTMENT	\$130,000 donation (single applicant)
REALISTIC TIMELINE	2–4 months — the fastest credible program available
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT	None
VISA-FREE ACCESS	Schengen permanently revoked (effective 4 February 2025). UK access revoked July 2023. Remaining access across Asia-Pacific and parts of the Caribbean.

Vanuatu’s program is genuinely fast. Approval can come in weeks rather than months. For an applicant who needs a second passport urgently — and there are legitimate reasons, from sudden political instability at home to a specific travel deadline — nothing else matches it.

But the programme’s core selling proposition has been substantially damaged. The European Union moved Vanuatu from its visa-exempt list to Annex I of the visa regulation, making a visa mandatory, with the change taking effect on 4 February 2025. The UK had already revoked access in July 2023. These are not suspensions that might be reversed — they are formal revocations.

THE TRADE-OFF, STATED PLAINLY

Vanuatu is the right choice for a narrow set of applicants: those who need a passport quickly, do not need European or UK access, and understand that the passport’s value is primarily as a travel document for the Asia-Pacific region and a small number of other destinations. It is the wrong choice for anyone whose primary motivation is European or UK mobility. Marketing that presents Vanuatu as a fast route to Schengen or UK access is either out of date or dishonest.

BEST FOR

Applicants with an urgent timeline, no dependence on European or UK travel, and a specific reason — often political or personal — to need a second nationality within weeks rather than months.

WATCH-OUTS

- ◆ Schengen access permanently revoked, not suspended.
- ◆ UK access revoked July 2023.
- ◆ Remaining visa-free access is regional, not comparable to a Caribbean passport.

05 SECTION

Malta and the end of European citizenship by investment

This is the section most clients want, and the one that has changed most since the previous edition. Malta's programme is gone. There is currently no EU citizenship-by-investment route.

Malta operated the only remaining EU citizenship-by-investment program, offering Maltese — and therefore EU — citizenship in exchange for a substantial investment package. It was expensive: roughly €690,000 and up once donations, property, bonds, and fees were combined. For a certain kind of client — one for whom an EU passport was the entire objective — it was the only option at any price.

On 29 April 2025, the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled that the scheme was incompatible with EU law. The Court's reasoning was that EU citizenship is a status that cannot be bought and sold, and that a member state cannot commercialise access to it. Malta repealed the programme in July 2025 through Act XXI of 2025. A much smaller, discretionary route exists for exceptional merit-based cases, but there is no prescribed investment schedule and no publicly available application process — it is not a programme that can be planned around.

CURRENT STATUS

Malta's citizenship-by-investment programme is repealed. It is not “closing” or “under review” — it is closed. Any offer that presents a Maltese citizenship-by-investment route at a prescribed price should be treated as either seriously out of date or fraudulent.

What replaces it

Nothing, at present. There is no EU jurisdiction offering direct citizenship by investment. The practical alternatives for someone who wants European status are:

- ◆ **Residency-first routes** — Portugal, Greece, and others, naturalising after a lengthening statutory period. Portugal's naturalisation period is now ten years for most non-EU nationals; Greece's is seven years of residence (see Section 06).
- ◆ **Non-lucrative and digital-nomad visas** — slower, less capital-intensive, but they do not lead to citizenship on a predictable timeline.
- ◆ **Ancestry and descent routes** — where applicable, far cheaper and often overlooked. If you have European ancestry, this should be checked before any investment is considered.

Why the EU matters beyond Malta

The Court's judgment will shape the market for years. It has already eliminated the last EU citizenship-by-investment programme, and it raises the risk profile of residency programmes that function as de facto citizenship routes. It also raises the value of non-EU passports with strong visa-free access — though only those that actually retain that access, as Vanuatu's experience shows.

The lesson for applicants is straightforward: if you are waiting for a European passport-for-sale program to reappear, do not. The direction of travel is the opposite, and the legal framework is now against it.

06 SECTION

Residency programs

Residency is not citizenship. It is the right to live somewhere, usually on a renewable basis, and sometimes a path to naturalisation after years. The distinction is not academic — it is the difference between a passport and a permit.

EUROPE · RESIDENCY

Portugal Golden Visa

FROM

€500,000

REAL-ESTATE ROUTE	Closed since 2023
QUALIFYING ROUTES	Investment funds from €500,000; job creation; cultural donation
PHYSICAL PRESENCE	Approximately 7 days per year
PATH TO CITIZENSHIP	10 years for most non-EU nationals (7 for nationals of Portuguese-speaking countries), effective 2026. CONFIRM

Portugal’s Golden Visa remains one of the most attractive residency programs in Europe because of its minimal physical-presence requirement: roughly a week a year in Portugal is sufficient to maintain status. For a family that wants EU residence without relocating, that remains a compelling proposition.

The real-estate route closed in 2023. Applicants now invest through approved funds or other qualifying routes, with €500,000 the most common entry point.

WATCH-OUT — CITIZENSHIP TIMELINE HAS LENGTHENED

Portugal legislated in 2026 to extend the naturalisation period for most non-EU nationals from five years to ten (seven for nationals of Portuguese-speaking countries). This is a material change from the position most guides and many advisers still describe.

Combined with the significant processing backlog at Portugal’s immigration agency — which has stretched in some cases to multi-year queues — the realistic horizon from first engagement to a Portuguese passport is now substantially longer than a decade. Anyone who tells you otherwise is working from pre-2026 information.

BEST FOR

Families wanting long-term EU residency with minimal physical presence, who are comfortable with a decade-long horizon to naturalisation and do not depend on citizenship arriving quickly.

WATCH-OUTS

- ◆ Citizenship is now a ten-year horizon, not five.
- ◆ Processing backlogs remain significant and add time.
- ◆ Golden Visa is a residency programme, not a fast passport.

EUROPE · RESIDENCY

Greece Golden Visa

FROM

€400,000

MINIMUM INVESTMENT	€800,000 in high-demand areas (Athens, Thessaloniki, Mykonos, Santorini, islands with population over 3,100); €400,000 elsewhere; narrow €250,000 exception for commercial-to-residential conversions
INVESTMENT TYPE	Real estate
PHYSICAL PRESENCE	None required to maintain status
PATH TO CITIZENSHIP	Naturalisation after 7 years of genuine residence

Greece raised its thresholds substantially in 2024, splitting the country into tiers. The previous €250,000 figure that circulates widely is obsolete except for the narrow conversion exception. In high-demand locations the threshold is now materially higher.

Greece offers no physical-presence requirement, which makes it similar to Portugal in convenience. The path to citizenship is long, and naturalisation requires genuine residence, so it is best understood as a residency program rather than a citizenship route.

UNITED STATES · RESIDENCY

EB-5 Investor Program

FROM

\$800,000

MINIMUM INVESTMENT	\$800,000 in a targeted employment area or infrastructure project; \$1,050,000 standard. CONFIRM Automatic inflation adjustment under the Reform and Integrity Act takes effect from 1 January 2027; amounts are expected to rise by roughly \$100,000–\$150,000.
REALISTIC TIMELINE	Several years from petition to conditional green card
PATH TO CITIZENSHIP	Green card, then naturalisation after 5 years

EB-5 is the slowest and most administratively complex route in this guide. It is also the only one that leads directly to a US green card and, eventually, US citizenship. For applicants whose objective is genuinely the United States, it is the route — but it should be entered with a multi-year horizon and professional US immigration counsel.

WATCH-OUT — 2027 THRESHOLD ADJUSTMENT

The EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act contains a mandatory adjustment mechanism keyed to inflation. The first adjustment falls due from 1 January 2027. Applicants considering EB-5 should be aware that the threshold in force at the time of their investment may be materially higher than the current figure.

MIDDLE EAST · RESIDENCY

UAE Golden Visa

FROM

AED 2,000,000

PROGRAM	Golden Visa (long-term residency)
INVESTMENT TYPE	Real estate
VISA DURATION	10 years, renewable
PATH TO CITIZENSHIP	None — this is residency only

The UAE Golden Visa is popular with entrepreneurs and internationally mobile families, and for good reason: it is fast, the infrastructure is excellent, and the tax position is attractive. But it is important to be clear about what it is not. It is not a path to Emirati citizenship, and it does not confer a passport.

For many clients that is fine. The UAE is a base, not a nationality. If your goal is a place to live and do business with minimal friction, it does the job. If your goal is a second passport, it does not.

BEST FOR

Business owners and mobile families wanting a stable, tax-efficient base in the Gulf, who already have or do not need a second passport.

WATCH-OUTS

- ◆ No route to citizenship. Do not let anyone suggest otherwise.
- ◆ Residency is tied to maintaining the qualifying investment.

A NOTE ON TAX RESIDENCY

Several residency programs are marketed on the basis of tax benefits. Residency status and tax residency are different things, and the second depends on days present, domicile, and the interaction of two or more tax systems. Do not assume that a Golden Visa makes you a non-resident of your home country. Section 11 covers this.

07

SECTION

Programs that have closed

Several programs still discussed online no longer exist, or no longer operate in the form described. Knowing which is which will save you time and money.

CLOSED

Spain — real-estate Golden Visa

Closed on 3 April 2025 under Organic Law 1/2025. No investor residency route of the previous kind remains.

CLOSED

Canada — federal Immigrant Investor Program

Terminated in 2014. The Quebec Immigrant Investor Program reopened in 2024 with substantially stricter criteria, and the federal Start-Up Visa closed to new applications on 1 January 2026. No functioning federal passive-investor route remains.

CLOSED

Malta — citizenship by investment

Repealed in July 2025 following the CJEU judgment of 29 April 2025. Discussed in Section 05.

CLOSED

Portugal — real estate route

Closed in 2023. The Golden Visa survives through other investment routes, but the citizenship timeline has since been lengthened to ten years (see Section 06).

CLOSED

Ireland — Immigrant Investor Programme

Closed in 2023.

CLOSED

Vanuatu — Schengen and UK visa-free access

Revoked, not suspended — Schengen effective 4 February 2025, UK July 2023. Discussed in Section 04.

WHY THIS MATTERS

If you have been quoted a price or a timeline for one of these programs, you are dealing with someone working from stale information — or worse. The frequency with which closed programs are still marketed is one of the reasons we recommend verifying every claim against a government source before paying anyone a fee.



08 SECTION

Comparison tables

Every live program covered in this guide, split by type. Every figure requires confirmation against the relevant government source before commitment.

Citizenship by investment

Program	Donation from	Timeline	Residency req.	UK	Schengen	Key advantage
St. Kitts & Nevis	\$250,000	5–7 mo	None	Yes	Yes	Track record
Dominica	\$200,000	6–9 mo	None	No	Yes	Lowest threshold
Grenada	\$235,000	6–9 mo	None	Yes	Yes	US E-2 access
Antigua & Barbuda	\$230,000	6–9 mo	5 days / 5 yr	Yes	Yes	Family pricing
St. Lucia	\$240,000	7–10 mo	None	No	Yes	Shorter queue
Vanuatu	\$130,000	2–4 mo	None	No	No	Speed

Donation figures are for a single applicant unless the family tier is noted in the country section. Family pricing is higher for St. Kitts, Dominica, and St. Lucia; the \$235,000 and \$230,000 figures for Grenada and Antigua cover a family of up to four.

Residency by investment

Program	Minimum	Timeline	Residency req.	Path to citizenship	Key advantage
Portugal	€500,000	6–12 mo	~7 days/yr	10 years CONFIRM	EU access
Greece	€400,000–€800,000	3–6 mo	None	7 years (residence)	EU residency
USA EB-5	\$800,000 CONFIRM	Several years	Yes	5 years after GC	US green card
UAE	AED 2,000,000	2–4 mo	None	None	Gulf base

READ THIS BEFORE RELYING ON THE TABLES

These tables are a starting point for a conversation, not a quotation. Thresholds, timelines, and conditions change. Verify every figure against the relevant government's current published terms before you make any financial commitment.

09 SECTION

Citizenship or residency?

The most common mistake we see is an applicant choosing a program before deciding what they actually need. Work through these four questions in order.

Question 1: What problem are you solving?

Mobility. If the goal is visa-free travel for a specific set of destinations, identify the destinations first, then find the passport that covers them. Do not buy a passport and then discover it does not get you where you need to go — the Vanuatu situation is a live example of exactly this risk.

Security and optionality. If the goal is a “plan B” against political or economic instability at home, a Caribbean citizenship is usually the most efficient answer: fast, no residency requirement, no ongoing obligation.

Business and tax structure. If the goal is a base for international business, residency programs often serve better than citizenship — and the UAE in particular is built for this.

Family future. If the goal is education, inheritance, and long-term optionality for children, the calculation changes again, and family-inclusion terms become the deciding factor.

Question 2: Citizenship or residency?

Citizenship is permanent, inheritable, and cannot be revoked for failing to maintain ties. Residency is renewable and conditional. If you want something that cannot be taken away, you want citizenship. If you want something cheaper and more flexible, residency may be enough — but be realistic about what it delivers and over what horizon.

Question 3: What is your timeline?

If you need a passport within a year, the Caribbean and Vanuatu are the only realistic options. If you can wait a decade or more, the European residency-first routes become viable and may ultimately deliver a stronger passport — but the horizon is much longer than it was two years ago.

Question 4: What can you document?

This is the question applicants underestimate. The best program in the world is useless if you cannot document the source of your funds to the government’s satisfaction. Before choosing a program, establish whether your wealth trail is documentable. If it is not, fix that first.

The short version

URGENT · NO EU/UK NEED Vanuatu	FAST · STRONG PASSPORT Caribbean — Grenada or Antigua
COST-FIRST Dominica (no UK access)	EU ACCESS · 10-YEAR HORIZON Portugal
EU RESIDENCY NOW Greece	GULF BASE · US FUTURE UAE · EB-5



10 SECTION

The Eagle Immigration process

Five stages, the same for every client, designed so that problems surface early rather than after submission.

1. Initial consultation

We assess your goals, your family composition, your budget, and your documentation position. We will tell you if a program is unsuitable for you, and we will tell you if we think you should not proceed at all. There is no charge for this and no obligation.

2. Program selection and pre-screening

Once we understand your objectives we recommend a shortlist, explain the trade-offs, and conduct a pre-screening review of your source of funds and background. This is where most potential problems are identified — before any government fee is paid.

3. Documentation and due diligence

Our team assembles the full document set: civil records, police certificates, financial evidence, professional references, apostilles, and translations. We review everything against the program's current requirements before submission.

4. Submission and government processing

We submit the complete application, manage correspondence with the citizenship unit, and respond to any requests for further information. You are kept informed at each stage.

5. Approval, investment, and citizenship

On approval in principle, we guide you through the investment transfer through the correct channel. On grant, we arrange delivery of your certificate and passport.

WHAT WE DO NOT DO

We do not guarantee outcomes — governments decide. We do not provide tax advice — we work alongside your tax advisers. We do not recommend a program because it pays us more. If a cheaper program suits you better, we will say so.

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SECTION

Tax and wealth considerations

This is the section where applicants most often receive bad information. What follows is general orientation, not advice. You need a qualified cross-border tax adviser before you act.

Citizenship does not equal tax residency

The single most important point: holding a second passport does not, by itself, change your tax position. Tax residency is determined by where you live, how many days you spend there, your domicile, and the terms of any applicable double-tax treaty. A Caribbean passport does not make you a Caribbean tax resident unless you actually become one.

How different jurisdictions tax

Territorial systems tax income sourced within the jurisdiction, generally not worldwide income. Many Caribbean states operate this way, which is why they are described as tax-efficient — but the benefit only materialises if you are genuinely resident there, which most applicants are not.

Worldwide systems tax residents on global income. Most EU member states work this way. The United States is unusual in taxing its citizens on worldwide income regardless of residence — which is why US citizenship carries a tax cost that most others do not.

Reporting and transparency

Automatic exchange of information under the Common Reporting Standard means that financial accounts are increasingly visible to multiple tax authorities. The era in which a second citizenship provided financial invisibility is over. If anyone sells you a program on that basis, end the conversation.

WHAT TO DO

Before applying, speak to a tax adviser who understands both your current jurisdiction and the target jurisdiction. Ask specifically: does acquiring this citizenship or residency change my tax residency? Does it create reporting obligations? Does it interact with any exit tax or controlled foreign company rules that apply to me?

12 SECTION

Why applications get refused

Most refusals are avoidable. They happen because of problems that were visible before submission and were not addressed.

1. Undocumented source of funds

The most common cause by a wide margin. Governments require a documented, coherent trail showing how wealth was accumulated — often extending back many years. Gaps, inconsistencies, or an inability to evidence the origin of funds will result in refusal regardless of how much you are investing.

2. Criminal record and security flags

Any criminal record, including spent convictions in some jurisdictions, must be disclosed. So must prior immigration refusals and visa denials, which applicants frequently omit on the assumption they will not be found. They will be found.

3. Undisclosed travel or residence history

Applications ask for travel and residence history for good reason. Inconsistencies with immigration databases are detected and treated as misrepresentation.

4. Family member issues

Including a family member with an adverse record can jeopardise the entire application. This is why pre-screening includes the whole family unit.

5. Incomplete or defective documentation

Missing apostilles, expired certificates, poor translations, and inconsistent names across documents cause delays and, occasionally, refusals. This is administrative, and it is entirely preventable.

ON MISREPRESENTATION

If a government concludes that you misrepresented something — even something you considered trivial — the consequence is usually worse than the underlying issue would have been. Disclose everything and let your adviser manage it. A disclosed problem can often be worked around; a concealed one cannot.

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SECTION

Frequently asked questions

The questions we are asked most often, answered directly.

Q What is the difference between citizenship and residency programs?

Citizenship programs grant a second passport and full citizenship rights, including the right to vote and to pass citizenship to children. Residency programs grant the right to live in a country, usually on a renewable basis, and may offer a path to citizenship after several years. Citizenship requires a larger investment but delivers immediate, permanent status; residency is cheaper and more flexible but conditional — and the path from residency to citizenship has lengthened in several jurisdictions.

Q How long does the process really take?

Caribbean citizenship applications typically take five to nine months from submission, plus two to three months of preparation. Vanuatu can be faster. European residency programs vary from a few months to over a year, and Portugal's processing backlog has made the residency grant itself slower than in previous years. EB-5 takes several years. We quote from first engagement, not from submission.

Q How long until I can become a citizen through residency?

It depends on the jurisdiction, and the trend is toward longer periods. Portugal extended the naturalisation period for most non-EU nationals from five years to ten in 2026. Greece requires seven years of genuine residence. EB-5 leads to a green card and then five years to US citizenship. Anyone quoting a five-year Portuguese path is working from pre-2026 information.

Q Can I include my family?

Yes, in most programs. The definition of “family” varies — spouse and dependent children are standard; parents, grandparents, and siblings are included in some programs and not others. Fees scale with family size, and some programs — notably Antigua and Grenada — price by family unit up to four rather than per person, which can make them materially better value for larger families.

Q Can I keep my current citizenship?

Most countries offering citizenship by investment permit dual citizenship. Some do not, and some — including China and India — restrict it. It is your responsibility to check the rules of your current citizenship before applying, and we will flag any known conflicts.

Q Do I need to visit the country?

Most Caribbean citizenship programs do not require a visit. Antigua & Barbuda requires five days within the first five years. Some residency programs require a visit for biometrics or card collection. Post-approval, some countries require an oath or in-person collection.

Q Is there a risk of refusal?

Yes. Approval rates for well-prepared applications are high, but refusals occur — most often because of undocumented source of funds or undisclosed issues. Our pre-screening process exists to identify these before you pay government fees.

Q What happens if a program changes its rules mid-application?

Once an application is accepted, applicants are usually held to the rules in force at the time of submission. This is one reason not to delay once you have decided to proceed.

Q Are these passports “real” passports?

Yes. Citizenship by investment confers genuine citizenship and a genuine passport, subject to full due diligence. What varies is the strength of that passport — the number and quality of destinations it gives you access to. That is the variable worth comparing, not legitimacy.

Q Can you guarantee approval?

No, and anyone who does should not be trusted. Governments decide. What we can do is ensure your application is complete, accurate, and presented in the strongest possible light.

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SECTION

Next steps

If you have read this far, you are probably in one of two positions: you know which program fits and want to proceed, or you know what you want to achieve and need help choosing.

Either way, the next step is the same: a confidential consultation. We will ask about your objectives, your family, your budget, and your documentation position. We will tell you what is realistic and what is not. If we do not think you should proceed, we will say so.

There is no charge for the initial consultation and no obligation.

Book a confidential consultation

Speak directly with an adviser about your objectives, your options, and the current status of the programs covered in this guide.

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BEFORE YOU ACT ON ANYTHING IN THIS GUIDE

Confirm the current terms of any program directly with the relevant government or with us. Investment migration rules change, and a guide — including this one — is a starting point, not a source of truth. Nothing here constitutes legal, tax, or financial advice, and no outcome is guaranteed.