



## **ANTIGUA & BARBUDA CITIZENSHIP-BY-INVESTMENT FAQs**

### **What is the citizenship by investment program?**

The independent British Commonwealth and Caribbean nation of Antigua & Barbuda established the Citizenship by Investment program in 2013 to encourage resort development, stimulate the growth of the tourism industry and attract investors. By making a qualifying purchase in an approved project under the Citizenship by Investment program, such as Papaya Hotel & Spa at Rendezvous Bay in Antigua, investors become eligible to apply for citizenship.

### **Do I need to give up my existing Citizenship?**

The Antigua & Barbuda government allows dual citizenship and will not publish any information about persons acquiring citizenship nor will they inform your present country of citizenship. You may be required by law in your home country to declare a second citizenship and we recommend you take professional legal advice on this matter.

### **Does my family qualify for citizenship as well?**

Yes. Your family can also obtain citizenship under your application. Qualified dependents can include parents above the age of 65 and children up to 25 years of age with additional government fees payable.

### **How do I qualify for this program?**

To qualify for the property investment program, you need to make a minimum investment of USD \$400,000 in a government-approved real estate project, such as Papaya Hotel & Spa. In addition, you need to pay other fees and taxes as applicable and fulfill the formal requirements as specified by the government.

### **When do I get my passport?**

Government approvals and processing may take about 3-6 months from the submission of your application, though currently the processing time is very efficient and 3 months is the average length of the process.

### **Can I speed up this approval and processing process?**

It is important to choose a reputable and approved legal representative for the processing of your citizenship application. The Papaya Hotel & Spa team can recommend approved legal representatives who work very closely with the Government Citizenship-by-Investment Unit to ensure smooth processing of each application and to maximize the efficiency of the process.

## What are the benefits of Citizenship?

The various benefits of having a Antigua & Barbuda passport include visa-free travel to approximately 130 countries, tax free status, tax-free trade with Canada, duty-free trade within the Caribbean and more. (See Benefits of Citizenship on <http://www.papayaantigua.com/citizenship/citizenship-benefits/> for complete and detailed list)

## Will there be an interview with the Government before I am granted the Citizenship?

No interview is required with the government; however, stringent due diligence is carried out by the Government of Antigua & Barbuda on citizenship applicants. In some rare cases, the Government may request an interview and this could take place at an Embassy or high Commission or in Antigua.

## How long is the passport valid for?

The passport is valid for 5 years and renewable thereafter.

## When do I have to pay for the property?

To reserve the property, a 10% deposit has to be paid. Upon making the citizenship application, 10% of the government application fees are payable and once the application has been approved in principle by the Government of Antigua & Barbuda Citizenship Investment Unit, the balance of the property price along with the balance of the government application fees, become payable.

## Can I permanently reside in Antigua & Barbuda and will I have to pay tax?

Yes, you can reside in Antigua & Barbuda at any time for any length of time, once you are granted citizenship (you must retain ownership of your approved property investment for a minimum of five years). In Antigua there is no worldwide income tax and personal taxes from money made in Antigua is quite low.

## Is there a residency requirement in Antigua & Barbuda?

Yes, there is a 5-day residency requirement in the first five years to maintain your citizenship. This can be fulfilled at any time in the first 5 years.

## What are the different fees associated with the Citizenship by Investment program?

### Legal Fees

US \$35,000 (example) Fees vary depending on the Legal Representative/Processing Agent engaged to handle your application and depending on the number of applicants.



#### Government Application Fees

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| US \$50,000 | Main Applicant   |
| US \$50,000 | Spouse   |
| US \$25,000 | Dependents (0 – 17 years)  |
| US \$50,000 | Dependents (18 to 25 years and in full time higher education, or parents over 65 years living with Main Applicant) |

#### Government Due Diligence Fees

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| US \$7,500 | Main Applicant                           |
| US \$7,500 | Spouse                                   |
| US \$2,000 | Dependents (12 – 17 years)               |
| US \$4,000 | Dependents (18 – 25 years and 65+ years) |

#### Passport Application Fee

|          |                              |
|----------|------------------------------|
| \$300 US | Per Applicant (rush service) |
|----------|------------------------------|

### **Do I lose my application and legal fees if my application is rejected?**

In the event that an application is rejected, 10% of the government application fees and all of the government due diligence fees will be lost. These are the fees payable upon submission of the application to the Citizenship Investment Unit. Legal fees to your Licensed Agent who will submit the application, may be lost depending on the individual agent's criteria.