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THE GROWTH & NEW DEVELOPMENTS OF THE GOLDEN VISA PROGRAM IN GREECE

希腊黄金签证项目的最 新发展

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加勒比海岛国公民项目——全球投资人的备选方案 CARIBBEAN CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMS OFFER PLAN B FOR WORLD INVESTORS

BY / 撰稿人 CHRISTOPHER WILLIS



Among the best offerings is Grenada, which has a treaty program with United States allowing Grenada citizens to invest and operate a business to live in the United States, and also travel visa-free to China.

he opportunity to acquire a second citizenship via one of the five Caribbean citizenship-by-investment (CBI) programs is becoming increasingly popular and the concept more mainstream. The programs have many similarities but also their own unique differences. 格林纳达项目在众多加勒比海岛国项目中脱颖而出,同美 国间的条约关系让投资人的美国移民之路更为顺畅。

过加勒比海地区五个国家提供的投资移民项目而 获得第二公民身份的机会越来越受到投资人的欢迎,也越来越成为一种主流趋势。这些国家的项目有类似之处,也有各自的特点。

首先需要强调的重要一点是居民申请与公民申请的不同。 那些申请美国、加拿大、英国、葡萄牙或马耳他等国家居 "The Caribbean CBI programs have real estate offerings starting at \$200,000 and, in some cases, that may be more attractive than just making a donation."

To start, it is important to emphasize the difference between residency and citizenship applications. For applicants who apply for residency, for example, in countries such as the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Portugal and Malta, the intent is usually to spend some amount of time in these countries, possibly to have their children educated there. There is a general intent to follow a path which can lead to citizenship, assuming all conditions are met. A CBI program, however, is a direct route to citizenship that gives the privilege of acquiring a new passport. It is the passport — and the benefits of holding it — that are attractive and desirable to many private clients. 民项目的申请人大多都希望在这些国家长时间停留或让子 女在这些国家接受教育,一般也会延续其移民之路,直到 获得公民身份。但投资公民申请是一个通往公民身份的直 达路线,能够让申请人直接获得新护照。对于很多私人客 户而言,获得新护照和享受其带来的优势是极富吸引力和 令人向往的。

对于那些持有护照出行灵活性有限的个人来说,取得公民 身份的优势格外显著。他们通常需要准备签证申请,而是 否能取得签证全部依赖于领馆签证处理结果。他们很难进 行"说走就走的旅行",更不用说等待签证签发时护照不在 身边所带来的不便。不断增加的出行灵活性是很多投资人 选择加勒比海岛国投资移民项目的主要动机之一,因为这 些国家的护照能给持有人带来免签出行超过140个国家的灵 活性,包括申根区、英国、香港、新加坡、俄罗斯和阿拉 伯联合酋长国。

如果您需要频繁来往于比较敏感的国家和地区,那么持有 比较"低调"的签证旅行的价值就凸显出来了。在极端情况 下,政治不稳定性或冲突很可能影响一个人更换护照的能 力,而第二本护照无疑给持有人带来了宝贵的备选方案。 然而,很多人会单纯因为他们的出生国而在出行上处于劣 势,获得第二居民或公民身份是解决他们困境的便捷途 径。申请人需要考虑的其他因素还包括安全性、教育机会 和生活方式。



This benefit is of particular relevance to citizens of countries that have passports with limited visa waiver agreements. As such, these citizens are used to having to apply for a visa and being at the mercy of a consulate for processing. This limits the ability to travel on short notice, not to mention the cost and inconvenience of being without your passport while the application is being considered. The increased mobility is a major consideration, as Caribbean passports allow visa-free travel to more than 140 countries, which include the Schengen Area, the U.K., Hong Kong, Singapore, Russia and the UAE.

There is also value with travelling on a less prominent passport if you travel regularly to sensitive parts of the world. In more extreme situations, political instability or conflict can impede one's ability to renew a passport. Having a second passport provides a valuable Plan B. Unfortunately, certain people have an immediate disadvantage to others that's purely a consequence of their country of birth. Obtaining a second residency and/ or citizenship provides a solution and an accessible alternative. Other factors that applicants consider are security, educational opportunities and lifestyle.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The price for the CBI programs begins at \$100,000 U.S. dollars for a single person. The fees increase proportionally based on the size of the applicant's family. Some programs offer better value for the money for a single applicant while others do so for larger families. When considering which program to choose, it is important to carefully examine the features of each offering and determine which is the best fit. A trusted and experienced investment migration consultant can assist with this process.

Another important factor is to decide which qualifying option is best for the client: a contribution/donation or the purchase of real estate in an approved project. The Caribbean CBI programs have real estate offerings starting at \$200,000 and, in some cases, that may be more attractive than just making a donation. Applicants should consider if they will use the property or if they wish to invest a bit more but be able to own a piece of the Caribbean and receive some returns. For those interested in having a connection to the U.S., the E-2 visa provides a path to those wanting to operate a business in the U.S. Grenada is the only Caribbean CBI country that is an E-2 treaty country.

WHY GRENADA?

Grenada, known as the Isle of Spice, is one of the most spectacular islands in the Caribbean. Grenada is a beautiful country of lush rainforests, numerous waterfalls and worldrenowned beaches. Grenada is a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Citizens of Grenada enjoy visa-free travel to 143 destinations, including China. Grenada is the only Caribbean country with this privilege.



开销问题

这类项目的开销起价10万美元(单个申请人),根据家庭 规模的不同,费用也会随之增长。有的项目对于单个申请 人更为划算,有的则在费用上更适合人数比较多的家庭。 在项目选择上,申请人应该仔细考察每个项目各自的特 点,进而决定最适合他们的项目,这一点非常重要。一位 诚实可信、经验丰富的投资移民顾问也能帮助投资人完成 这一决策过程。

另一个需要慎重抉择的因素是捐款模式与房地产购买模式 之间的选择。加勒比海岛国地区投资移民项目中的房地产 投资方式起价20万美元,相较于捐款方式更具有吸引力。 申请人应该考虑他们是实际使用所购买的房地产,还是希 望在加勒比海地区进行投资并获得回报。对于那些对在美 国工作和经商感兴趣的申请人而言,E2签证为其提供了在 美国运营企业的机会,而格林纳达是加勒比海地区提供投 资移民项目的国家里唯一同美国具有E2条约的国家。

为什么选择格林纳达?

格林纳达号称"香料之岛",是加勒比海地区最为璀璨的明 珠之一。格林纳达环境优美,拥有丰沛的热带雨林资源, 大量壮观的瀑布和世界闻名的海滩。格林纳达是加勒比共 同体和东加勒比国家组织成员国。格林纳达公民能享受包 括对中国在内的全球143个国家的免签旅行——这是加勒比 海地区唯一一个拥有此类优势的国家。

"加勒比海岛国地区投资移民项目中 的房地产投资方式起价20万美元, 相较于捐款方式更具有吸引力。"



Grenada is also a treaty country with the U.S. that allows citizens to be eligible to apply for the non-immigrant E-2 visa. This is on the basis that they will be making a substantial investment in a U.S. business, will maintain the business and endeavor for it to be successful.

Applications are processed in under five months and children up to age 30 may be included in the application without the need to be enrolled in full-time education — the only Caribbean CBI without such a requirement. Parents and Grandparents over 55 may also be included in the application and do not need to demonstrate that they are financially dependent on the principal applicant. Grenada has also recently announced that siblings of the main applicant and/or spouse can be included on the application as a dependent, on the condition that they are not married and do not have any children.

REQUIREMENTS/INVESTMENT OPTIONS

The Grenada citizenship-by-investment program requires an applicant to make a financial investment in return for citizenship. The applicant and his/her family are subject to strict government due-diligence checks. To qualify for citizenship, the main applicant must be over 18 years of age, meet the due-diligence requirements and select one of the following two investment options: a \$150,000 non-refundable donation to Grenada's National Transformation Fund; or a \$220,000 minimum purchase of an approved business or property from an approved government real estate project.

The property must be retained for a minimum of five years. There is an additional flat government fee of \$50,000 for the main applicant and up to three dependents. Any additional dependents will be \$25,000 each. The property 格林纳达也是一个同美国具有条约关系的国家,其公民有 资格申请非移民E2签证。申请人需在美国进行重大投资, 维持企业运营并努力经营以确保其成功。

格林纳达的投资移民项目从申请到审批能够在五个月内完 成,年龄不超过30岁的子女均可被纳入申请行列,子女无 需为全职学生,这是加勒比海地区范围内唯一没有此要求 的项目。主申请人年龄超过55周岁的父母和祖父母也可被 纳入申请,无需证明他们在经济上依赖于主申请人。格林 纳达最近还宣布主申请人和/或配偶的未婚无子女兄弟姐妹 也可作为附属申请人加入申请。

要求与投资选择

格林纳达投资移民项目要求申请人进行投资以取得公民身份。申请人及其家庭成员都会受到政府的严格审核。为了 满足获取公民身份的要求,主申请人需年满18岁,通过审 查并选择以下两种投资途径之一:向格林纳达国家转型基 金(National Transformation Fund,NTF)捐款15万美 元;向获批企业或政府批准的房地产建设项目投资最少22 万美元。

投资的房地产需维持至少五年,对于一位主申请人连带三 位副申请人的情况,还需缴纳5万美元的固定申请费,其他 副申请人需每人需支付2.5万美元的申请费。在满足五年维 持期后,该地产可以出售给新的项目申请人。主申请人及17 周岁以上的附属申请人的尽职调查费用为5000美元,相应 的政府申请费为3000美元,16岁及以下附属申请人的申请 费为2000美元。

主申请人和附属申请人必须无犯罪记录且身体健康。若申 请人曾有过申请与格林纳达有免签旅行约定的国家签证时 被拒签经历,则会被认定为具有潜在国家安全风险、名誉 风险或需进行犯罪调查,从而不能获得公民身份。若申请 合格,格林纳达政府承诺在材料递交的180天内完成审批。 can also be sold on to secondary eligible citizenship applicants after the five year holding period. Due-diligence fees are \$5,000 for the main applicant and his/her dependents 17 and older. Government application fees are \$3,000 for the main applicant and dependents 17 and above, and \$2,000 for those 16 and younger.

The main applicant and their dependents must have clean personal backgrounds and excellent health. An applicant will be denied citizenship if he/she has been denied a visa to a country that has a visa-free travel arrangement with Grenada, is identified as a potential national security risk, has a reputational risk, or is subject to a criminal investigation. The government is committed to approve citizenship applications within 180 days of submission, assuming the application has no areas of concern.

E-2 OPPORTUNITY

Citizens of Grenada are eligible to apply for a non-immigrant E-2 visa to the U.S. However, it is important that applicants realize their application will be strengthened if create a nexus with Grenada. If the intention is to apply to the U.S. under this category, it is advisable that they opt for the purchase of eligible real estate to demonstrate their ties.



CHRISTOPHER WILLIS

Christopher Willis is the managing director of Latitude, a consultancy firm, and is responsible for operations in the Americas and Caribbean. He has been involved in the immigration industry since 1995 and is a member of the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council, the Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants and the Investment Migration Council. He regularly meets with governments to advise on their immigration policies. He has been educated in the United Kingdom and Canada, and has owned and managed immigration firms in London, Montreal and the Caribbean.

Christopher Willis担任顾问公司Latitude管理总监,负责公司在美洲和 加勒比海地区的运营。他自1995年起投身于移民行业,目前担任加拿大 移民顾问监管委员会成员、加拿大专业移民顾问协会成员和投资理事会 成员。他频繁接触政府相关人员,就移民政策提供建议。他曾在英国和 加拿大接受教育,在伦敦、蒙特利尔和加勒比海地区都拥有并管理着移 民公司。

E2投资

格林纳达公民有资格申请美国E2非移民签证。然而,申请 人需要注意,如果他们能够创造同格林纳达的紧密联系, 则申请的说服力也会增加。如果申请人的最终意图是获得 E2签证,那么建议申请人选择在格林纳达购买房产进行公 民申请,以证明他们同格林纳达的联系。



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