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
Citizenship of Dominica offers talented individuals a wealth of promising opportunities

- Visa-free access to more than 140 countries and territories
- Rapid decision with no more than 90 days in the vast majority of cases, with very thorough vetting process
- Simple process with no net worth or skillset requirements needed for citizenship by investment
- Stable democracy with well-established legal and regulatory frameworks providing strong foundations for success
- Welcoming people with Dominica being a cosmopolitan and friendly country that welcomes people from all corners of the world
- Safe, stable, and secure with high standard of living including low crime rates and political and social stability
- Low tax regime with income, personal wealth, and business taxes being very attractive; no inheritance tax
- First-class with health and education systems offering quality of life to all
- No restrictions on dual nationality, with citizens welcome to hold more than one citizenship

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 was ranked as the Economic Diversification Fund (EDF) option to support socio-economic initiatives to drive national development, or as 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 Sanctuaries Rainforest Ecolodge and Spa, Anichi Rainforest & Spa, Bois Collette, 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 Dominica 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 tourist hubs. “For us, foreign investors who become our citizens through citizenship by investment are truly valuable partners,” states Roosevelt Skerrit, 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-based 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 clear source of funds,” he emphasised. “We have applications from Asia, the Middle East, the American, Europe, and Africa.” Dominica offers stability, security, and safety, is well-respected internationally, with good diplomatic relations, especially with fellow Commonwealth countries,” Nanthan added.

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Roosevelt Skerrit, 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 instill 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 has 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.

“My 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, we are taking stock of the true impact of COVID-19 on our nation’s economy. As the world begins to breathe a sigh of relief, we are taking stock of the true impact of COVID-19 on our economy. As the world begins to breathe a sigh of relief, we are taking stock of the true impact of COVID-19 on our economy. As the world begins to breathe a sigh of relief, we are taking stock of the true impact of COVID-19 on our economy.

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?

As 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’s hurricanes? 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

cas 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.

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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 cognizant 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

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

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

www.country-reports.net
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 lifestyle 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 aboriginal heritage.

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 in 2015 and Hurricane Maria in 2017. 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 Investment Dominica Authority, which was created for the purpose of facilitating investment and is best suited for providing detailed advice on the many ways in which Dominica encourages foreign investment above and beyond the Citizenship by Investment Programme.

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 ‘dependents’ 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’?

Dominica 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.

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

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 foreign investors can gain the right to live in Dominica year-round.

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**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 advantages of being based in London.

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 market trends that you see today?

The biggest market trends that we see today are the increasing demand for citizenship by investment programmes in emerging markets such as Russia, China, and the Middle East. In these regions, there is a growing interest in second citizenship, particularly in terms of the political and economic stability offered by countries such as Malta and the UAE.

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 difficult to pinpoint one specific region as the biggest market for citizenship by investment programmes.

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?

As a global citizenship by investment programme, we have seen an increase in the demand for citizenship by investment in Europe. This is due to the ongoing pandemic and the uncertainty it has brought with it. We expect to see a continued interest in European citizenship by investment programmes.

What has been the biggest reaction from clients to the changes made to the programme?

We have seen a significant increase in the demand for citizenship by investment in Europe. This is due to the ongoing pandemic and the uncertainty it has brought with it. We expect to see a continued interest in European citizenship by investment programmes.

The CBI Index is a very useful tool as it rates each programme by nine elements such as the family members that can be included in an application, the processing time, and the due diligence fees. What are the main advantages of choosing this jurisdiction over some other island nations in the region?

Dominica tops the citizenship by investment industry

- **Dominiac’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**
- **Due diligence fees for the main applicant are limited to $7,500**
- **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**

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

COVID-19 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 a送上 a business failure. Additionally, 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?

Dominica is a very small country, but it offers a high score in the Citizenship Timeline element of the CBI Index. This is due to the government’s efforts to improve the processing time for applications. Additionally, Dominica offers a high score in the Family element, as it allows individuals to include their family members in the citizenship application.

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.
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 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.

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

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 is a piece of the Caribbean in wellness and adventure which is very different from the standard Caribbean tourism model. Our commitment is to provide a sustainable experience that is not typical to most hotels in the Caribbean. Some of the key niches we host include active ecotourists, providers of wellness, and business professionals 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. Jungle Bay has introduced a ‘Safe in Nature’ programme that is designed to enable visitors to enjoy Dominica and protect local residents during the pandemic.”

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

Dominica has always done very well in terms of human development. 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 travellers.

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

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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

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 health and safety of staff and guests. Our Bay/Well Programme is a series of holistic wellness, health, and safety protocols that go beyond WHO, PAHO, CIC, and local health authorities’ mandates and guidelines. The resort also utilized multiple wellness offerings, including a superfood tundcrew 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.”

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?

“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 lusher 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 villas within themselves, as each one is equipped with its own parcel of land, private plunge pool, gourmet kitchen, spa, 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 services, 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.

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’ protocols 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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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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