



## **CYPRUS**

Citizenship & Residency by Investment

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### Introduction

#### Cyprus: Home Away from Home

An island laying in the heart of the Mediterranean sea, with a size that is big enough to be called cosmopolitan, at the same time, small enough to be regarded as the ideal place to raise a family. An island which enjoys more than 300 days of sunshine yearly, with mild winters and the largest number of blue flag beaches per coastal line in the world!

A sovereign European country with a cultural heritage so rich that is lost in the centuries, yet an island that patiently awaits to be explored and rediscovered, offering an unparalleled level of quality of life which is second to none.

The recent political and social upheaval in the Eastern Mediterranean basin, which has spilled over the wider area of the Middle East, in combination with the political and economic uncertainty in the greater region, not only upgrade the strategic position and geopolitical role of Cyprus in this part of the world, they render Cyprus a symbol of security and stability, in its capacity as the Easternmost border of Europe.

As a result, the adoption of a very successful "Citizenship by investment" programme and the fast track "Permanent Residency" programme enacted by the Cyprus Government in the last few years, rightfully render Cyprus as the "jurisdiction of choice" for many high net worth individuals and their families who decide to live, invest and set up their businesses in Cyprus.

Individuals and businesses alike, can benefit from a plethora of tax incentives offered, spanning from half rates on personal income, to zero taxation for worldwide dividends and interest received. For businesses, tax incentives include but are not limited, to a notional interest deduction and one of the lowest corporate rates in the EU.

We at FINCASA CAPITAL, hope that in the context of this brochure the reader can discover the endless opportunities and the many benefits that lie ahead by acquiring the Cyprus passport. A passport to success!

## Advantages of Cyprus

Cyprus is a popular tourist, business, education and retirement destination. With a land mass of approximately 9.251 thousand square kilometres (km2), it is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, after Sardinia and Sicily of Italy. The island lies between Europe, Africa, and Asia which makes it a natural hub for business and trade.

Here are Cyprus' attributes

#### **BASIC FACTS**

OFFICIAL NAME	REBUBLIC OF CYPRUS	
Capital City	Nicosia	
Other Major Cities	Limassol, Paphos, Larnaca, Kyrenia, Famagusta	
Government System	Presidential Democratic Republic	
Language	Official language: Greek and Turkish (English is widely spoken)	
Currency	Euro (EUR)	
Population	847.000	
Time Difference	GMT+2 (Cyprus is two hours ahead of London and 1 hour behind Moscow)	

#### Comfortable Life

- Cyprus has a multicultural population and enjoys a high standard of living.
- It is a great place to live with security and safety for the whole family, evidenced by a very low crime rate.
- There are exclusive golf resorts and high quality tourist facilities.
- The Knight Frank Global Lifestyle Review ranked Cyprus as the fifth best place to relocate.

#### Climate and Environment

- Cyprus has a pleasant climate with dry summers and mild winters. The island enjoys around 300 days of sunshine in a calendar year.
- Cyprus has the cleanest beaches in Europe and the largest number of blue flag beaches per coastal line in the World.

#### Education

- In addition to state schools there are private English speaking schools offering a high level of education in the towns of Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca and Paphos.
- There is a number of reputable state institutions and private universities of higher education that operate in Cyprus. Some of these private institutions have secured endorsement of their diplomas by U.K. and US educational establishments or cater for external degree programmes and professional examinations.

#### Other competitive advantages of Cyprus

- Strategic geographic location (Europe- Asia- Africa)
- EU / Eurozone Member
- Business language is English.



## Criteria for Granting the Cyprus Citizenship



#### Eligible criteria:

#### Real estate and land developing

The applicant should have a direct investment in Cyprus of at least € 2 million (excl. VAT) for the acquisition or development of real estate projects (residential,\* commercial, tourism sector or other infrastructure). It shall be noted that the acquisition of land is not considered to be a qualifying investment under this criterion.

#### Combination of investments

The applicant may choose to proceed with a combination of any of the above investments, with a total investment amount of at least  $\in$  2 million (excl. VAT). Such combination may also include the acquisition of government bonds of the Republic of Cyprus for a maximum amount of  $\in$  500,000.

#### Terms and conditions:

In addition to satisfying any one of the above criteria, the applicant must:

- a) Have a clean criminal record.
- b) Own a permanent residence in Cyprus of a market value of at least €500.000 (excl. VAT). \*If the investment is only in residential property there is no additional requirement to acquire a permanent residence in Cyprus of at least €500,000 (excl. VAT).
- c) Submit a residence permit application simultaneously with the Cyprus citizenship application. The residence permit is obtained almost immediately and the application procedure is straightforward.

#### Other useful notes:

- The investor is obliged to retain the investment for at least 3 years following the acquisition of the Cyprus citizenship but must retain possession of a permanent residence of at least €500.000 (excl. VAT) for life. If the investor chooses to dispose the permanent residence at any time this needs to be substituted with another property of an equal or higher purchase price.
- The investor's parents are entitled to apply for the Cyprus citizenship provided they are owners of a permanent residence of at least €500,000 (excl. VAT). For this purpose the investor and his/her parents may consider acquiring a single co-owned residential property of a total value of at least €1 million (excl. VAT).
- The investor's minor children, as well as his/her adult financially dependent children up to the age of 28 are entitled to apply for the Cyprus citizenship.

## Cyprus Citizenship Application Process









OF € 500,000 + VAT





#### The steps pertaining to the Application Process:

#### Step 1: Select real estate investment

Investor selects the property either by visiting Cyprus or through correspondence Purchase agreement signed
Full Payment od real estate investment. Receipt issued(required for application)

#### STEP 2: Preparation of documents

All necessary documents prepared by applicants to be translated to Greek or English and certified.

Documents to be stamped by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant Cyprus Embassy

#### STEP 3: Pre-clearance check

Appointed lawyer completes a pre-clearance check

#### STEP 4: Application for Cyprus Permanent Residency and EU Citizenship

The investor files an application for Permanent Residency(Fast Track) together with their application for Cyprus EU Citizenship

#### STEP 5: Payment of fees & submission to Government

Payment of submission fees per adult applicant Application lodged at the Ministry of Interior

#### STEP 6: Issue of Cyprus EU Citizenship

Issuance of Cyprus EU Citizenship certificates

Certificates to be signed by applicant within 3 months of receiving approval in fronts of a Registrar of a Cypriot Court or a Consular at any Cypriot Consulate abroad Issuance of passports of the main applicant and their spouse.

#### STEP 7: Submission of applications of children and/or Investor's Parents

Submission of the applications of children and/or Investor's Parents to be naturalised.

STEP 8: Issuance of Cyprus EU Citizenship certificate of his children and/or Investor's Parents Adult children and/or Investor's Parents must visit Cyprus within 3 months to collect their passport and identity card

# Main Benefits Cyprus Citizenship

Benefits of receiving the Cyprus Citizenship:

- An express procedure in obtaining an EU passport;
- The investment can be as low as € 2 million (if the investment is solely in residential property);
- The investor must retain the investment for only 3 years after which s/he is free to realize it;
- Citizenship is granted to the parents, spouse and dependent children of the investor;
- No requirement to reside in Cyprus after obtaining the Cyprus passport;
- Access to all rights of an EU citizen protected by EU legislation and regulations, i.e. freedom to work, study, reside in any EU member state, as well as Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein;
- VISA-free travel to over 150 countries worldwide;
- Dual-citizenship permitted and the acquisition of citizenship in Cyprus is not reported to other countries;
- No language proficiency tests.



# Criteria for Granting the Cyprus Residency

- Eligible dependents include the spouse, parents of main applicant and spouse's parents, as well as children up to the age of 24 years;
- Main applicant is in good standing;
- Secured annual income of €30,000;
- Three year fixed deposit with a Cyprus bank of at least €30,000,
- Purchase of a residential property(ies) of a combined value of €300,000 (excl. VAT if applicable);
- Visit once within the 1st year to register biometrics and then every 2 years thereafter.



## Cyprus Permanent Residency (FAST TRACK)













#### The steps pertaining to the Application Process:

#### STEP 1: Select real estate investment.

Investor selects property either by visiting Cyprus or through correspondence

#### STEP 2: Payment

Purchase agreement signed

Minimum requirement of €200,000 as initial payment

#### STEP 3: Documentation Submission

Required residency documents need to be prepared and submitted to the Civil Registry and Migration Department, or to the District offices

#### STEP 4: Issue of Permanent Residency

Residency permit is issued within 2 months

#### STEP 5: Residency Permit and ID cards

Upon approval, the applicant is required to visit Cyprus within 1 year to obtain the actual permit and digital ID cards

#### STEP 6: Visit Cyprus every 2 years

The Immigration Permit may not be cancelled, provided that the applicant and his/her dependants visit Cyprus at least once every 2 years, and a minimum of 1 day

# Main Benefits Permanent Residency

#### Benefits of receiving the Cyprus Residency:

- No language requirements
- Visa travelling to other European countries made faster and easier
- Permit holders, as they are considered permanent residents of a EU country
- Property acquired is freehold
- Zero property tax
- Strategic location at the crossroad of three continents: Africa, Asia and Europe
- Access to beaches, mild climate, and tourist destination in Cyprus
- Lowest crime rate in Europe
- High-standard educational institutions and healthcare facilities
- Advanced infrastructure and modern airports with connections to all major destinations.



## VISA FREE COUNTRIES

ALBANIA	FALKLAND ISLANDS	MACEDONIA	SAINT PIERRE AND MIQUELON
ANDORRA	FAROE ISLANDS	MADAGASCAR	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
ANGUILLA	FIJI	MALAWI	SAMOA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	FRENCH GUIANA	MALAYSIA	SAN MARINO
ARGENTINA	FRENCH POLYNESIA	MALDIVES	SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE
ARMENIA	FRENCH SOUTHERN	MALTA	SENEGAL
ARUBA	FINLAND	MARSHALL ISLANDS	SERBIA
AUSTRALIA	FRANCE	MAURITANIA	SEYCHELLES
AUSTRIA	GAMBIA	MAURITIUS	SINGAPORE
BAHAMAS	GEORGIA	MEXICO	SLOVAKIA
BAHRAIN	GERMANY	MICRONESIA	SLOVENIA
BANGLADESH	GREECE	MOLDOVA	SOLOMON ISLANDS
BARBADOS	GIBRALTAR	MONACO	SOMALIA
BELGIUM	GREENLAND	MONTENEGRO	SOUTH AFRICA
BELIZE	GRENADA	MONTSERRAT	SOUTH KOREA
BERMUDA	GUATEMALA	MOROCCO	SPAIN
BOLIVIA	GUINEA-BISSAU	MOZAMBIQUE	SRI LANKA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	HAITI	MYANMAR	SWAZILAND
BOTSWANA	HONDURAS	MAYOTTE	SWEDEN
BRAZIL	HUNGARY	NEPAL	SWITZERLAND
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	HONG KONG	NETHERLANDS	TAIWAN
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	ICELAND	NEW CALEDONIA	TAJIKISTAN
BULGARIA	INDONESIA	NEW ZEALAND	TANZANIA
CAMBODIA	IRAN	NICARAGUA	THAILAND
CANADA	IRAQ	NIUE	TIMOR-LESTE
CAPE VERDE	IRELAND	NORWAY	TOGO
CAYMAN ISLANDS	ISRAEL	OMAN	TONGA
CHILE	ITALY	PALAU	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
COLOMBIA	JAMAICA	PANAMA	TURKEY
COMOROS	JAPAN	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	TUVALU
COSTA RICA	JORDAN	PARAGUAY	UGANDA
CROATIA	KENYA	PERU	UKRAINE
CYPRUS	KIRIBATI	PHILIPPINES	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
CZECH REPUBLIC	KUWAIT	PORTUGAL	UNITED KINGDOM
DENMARK	KYRGYZSTAN	PITCAIRN	URUGUAY
DJIBOUTI	LAO PEOPLE'S	QATAR	VANUATU
DOMINICA	LATVIA	ROMANIA	VATICAN CITY
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	LEBANON	SAINT HELENA, ASCENSION, AND	VENEZUELA
ECUADOR	LESOTHO	TRISTAN DA CUNHA	WALLIS AND FUTUNA
EGYPT	LIECHTENSTEIN	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	ZAMBIA
EL CALLYA DOD	1.7	CAINTILLICIA CAINT NAA DTINI	718 40 4 014/5

SAINT LUCIASAINT MARTIN

ZIMBABWE

**EL SALVADOR** 

**ESTONIA** 

LITHUANIA

LUXEMBOURG

# A GLIMPSE OF THE REAL ESTATE







LUXURY FINISHES





## State of the Art Facilities

• Provision for - Home Cinema

Alarm System

Light Sensors

Satellite

Video Door Phone

Fly Screens

- Thermal Insulation
- Pressurized Water System
- Quality Sanitary fixtures, mixers and shower screens
- High Quality ceramic floors in all areas and laminated parquet is optional
- Under floor heating
- A/C Units
- Electric/Automatic Shutters
- Private Gates and parking with remote control
- Wooden pergolas
- En-suite bathrooms
- Glass Balustrades on Balconies
- BBQ with Sink and Work tops
- Imported Wardrobes and Internal Doors





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The program and costs may be subject to changes over time. Please contact a Fincasa Capital expert to obtain the most current information.



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