

ISSUE 9 • DECEMBER 2020

Antigua & Barbuda

THE CITIZEN

**Mosaic of Cultures:
Antigua & Barbuda's
blended heritage**



**Giving for
art's sake**

**Classical musician
Brammah Kanneh-Mason
in the spotlight**

**Coral reefs,
the rainforests
of the oceans**



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WELCOME



“Men and women from over 100 different countries have made our beautiful island-country their permanent home; and we know why: we welcome everyone.”

In the 375 years of its modern history, Antigua & Barbuda has witnessed a mixing of peoples from every continent and from one-half of all the countries globally; our cosmopolitan mix exceeds many of the most densely populated cities in the world. Men and women from over 100 different nations have made our beautiful island-country their permanent home; and we know why: we welcome everyone.

The cultural artists, having been freed to sing and to write as colonial domination began to recede, praised the warmth and welcome of the Antigua & Barbuda people and their leaders. There was an early recognition that visitors would play a significant role in our development; and our people determined that xenophobia served no useful purpose. We treat strangers nicely. “Tourism is everybody’s business,” we recite as a creed.

The welcome mat is extended to all new citizens, whether acquired through our *Citizenship by Investment Programme* or through the constitutionally decreed seven-year residency requirement. Most recently, a *Nomad Digital Residency Programme* was passed into law, allowing those professionals who can work from home, to travel to Antigua and to reside here for a two-year period. An impressive number of professionals have made applications and are settling here. While our islands’ natural beauty continues to be a major attraction, the cultural expressions shared by our playwrights, our poets, our dancers, our calypso singers, our reggae and soca artistes, our steelbands, and entertainers, fascinate the visitors. The rich cultural practices of Antigua & Barbuda have been woven into the mosaic of our rich heritage, making even our speech charming.

We welcome you to our paradise, and can assure you of the wise choice which our citizenship confers. Come join us!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "G. Browne".

Honourable Gaston Browne
Prime Minister

An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, transitioning to a deeper blue as it extends into the distance. White waves are breaking along the shore, creating a frothy white foam. The coastline is irregular, with several small inlets and peninsulas. The land is covered in dense, lush green vegetation. In the upper right quadrant, a small, narrow boat is visible on the water. The overall scene is serene and picturesque, capturing the natural beauty of a tropical island.

ANTIGUA
& BARBUDA



T

The exquisite white-sand beaches, turquoise waters and spectacular scenery make Antigua & Barbuda one of the most beautiful places on the planet, but although its attractions are more than evident at a simple glance, its beauty certainly isn't skin deep. So, what sets these islands apart from your run-of-the-mill paradise?

Anyone who has been to Antigua & Barbuda will agree that the islands have that *je ne sais quoi*; that certain something that is difficult to put into words. And that certain something lies beyond the picture postcard views and world-class hotels, facilities and infrastructure and comes from the warm welcoming smiles of its people, their music, their food and their traditions, old and new. As Mahatma Gandhi so wisely said, "A nation's culture resides in the heart and soul of the people".

The twin islands are truly made up of a mosaic of cultures; starting with the Amerindian people who populated the islands until the British arrived in the seventeenth century, to the West African slaves brought to the islands by the colonialists to work the sugar plantations. Each of these have brought their own traditions, customs and food creating a hypnotic blend of cultures. Today, the islands are a cosmopolitan melting-pot with citizens from all over the globe who have chosen to make their home on these magical islands and who have brought their own cultures to the mix.

With world-class health facilities, top-notch education to university level, an incredible climate and a healthy lifestyle thrown in, more and more people are choosing to become citizens in paradise.

Antigua & Barbuda has one of the best Citizenship by Investment (CBI) programmes in the Caribbean and is in the top five of the Global Citizenship Programme Index in Henley & Partners' Global Residence and Citizenship Programmes 2018-2019 report. Citizenship to the islands allows visa-free travel to 165 jurisdictions including Hong Kong, Singapore, the UK and Schengen area. ●

Antigua & Barbuda

THE CITIZEN

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Cover image: Atabey is the goddess of the Earth Spirit and the spirit of horizontal waters. She was worshipped by the Pre-Columbian Taino natives that inhabited the Caribbean islands of Antilles. Goddess Atabey was also considered the Mother of all; the mother of gods and the initial creator. She even gave birth to herself, making her one of the more powerful creation gods in mythic study. She was also the goddess of music, fertility, and beauty and depicted as a frog-like figure who usually in the birthing position, to symbolise her importance as mother of all.

Antigua & Barbuda introduction photo (page 4): Tom Archer

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info@cip.gov.ag

www.cip.gov.ag



For Investment Migration Council (IMC) membership enquiries, contact the Regional Representative Office at:

caribbean@investmentmigration.org

www.investmentmigration.org



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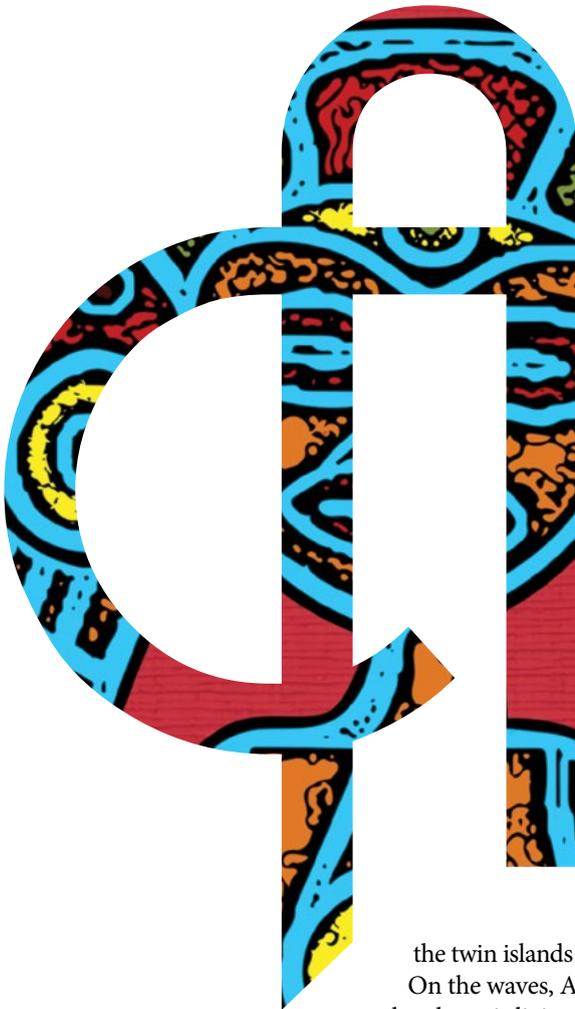
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Susan Brophy
Editor



As the strange year that has been 2020 finally comes to an end, we are happy to share the ninth issue of Antigua & Barbuda The Citizen magazine.

Antigua & Barbuda has a rich cultural heritage made up of a mosaic of cultures which influence its language, customs, food, music and pastimes. In this issue's cover story, renowned Caribbean historian Reg Murphy once again shares his immense knowledge of how these cultures merge to make the twin islands and its vibrant people what they are today. And as one of the country's national treasures, artist, actress and activist, Heather Doram certainly knows a thing or two about culture. She shows us some of her stunning pieces of art. Although art and culture are often overlooked for charitable donations, we talk about how giving for art's sake is more important than ever in the current times.

Violinist Braimah Kanneh-Mason, one of the incredibly talented seven siblings of Antiguan heritage, talks to us about the family's new album and what the islands mean to him. And Brit Tom Archer tells us about his journey to become an award-winning travel photographer with some spectacular images from his recent visit to Antigua.

Oyeleke Toye and his wife Adebola are among some of the newest citizens of the twin islands. We caught up with them to find out about their happy transition from one of the world's largest metropolises to this idyllic small island nation. The islands are also expecting an influx of so-called digital nomads who are taking advantage of the country's new visa allowing remote workers to spend a couple of years in paradise. The article looks at what they can expect from their stay. Many small island nations are tropical islands surrounded by coral reefs – Antigua being no exception. Our conservation article shows how

the twin islands are stepping up to protect this most fragile of ecosystems from extinction. On the waves, Antigua's reputation as one of the best yachting and sailing destinations on the planet is living up to its reputation once again this year as boats are filling the harbours for the winter season.

Everyone, including yachters, are always on the search for wonderful restaurants. We passed by French restaurateurs Sylvain and Nadine Hervochon's delightful, rustic chic restaurant, Casa Roots, to sample some of their seasonal West Indian cuisine with a recognisable French touch.

And as usual, we include our thought leadership and opinion pieces from CBI experts from across the globe.

We would like to thank all our readers and contributors and wish you all a very happy and healthy 2021.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Dr. Reg Murphy

Representative for Antigua & Barbuda to UNESCO. Reg is the President of the Historical and Archaeological Society and an archaeologist with expertise in historical buildings restoration, construction management and heritage sites development. He has conducted archaeological research in the region for about 25 years.



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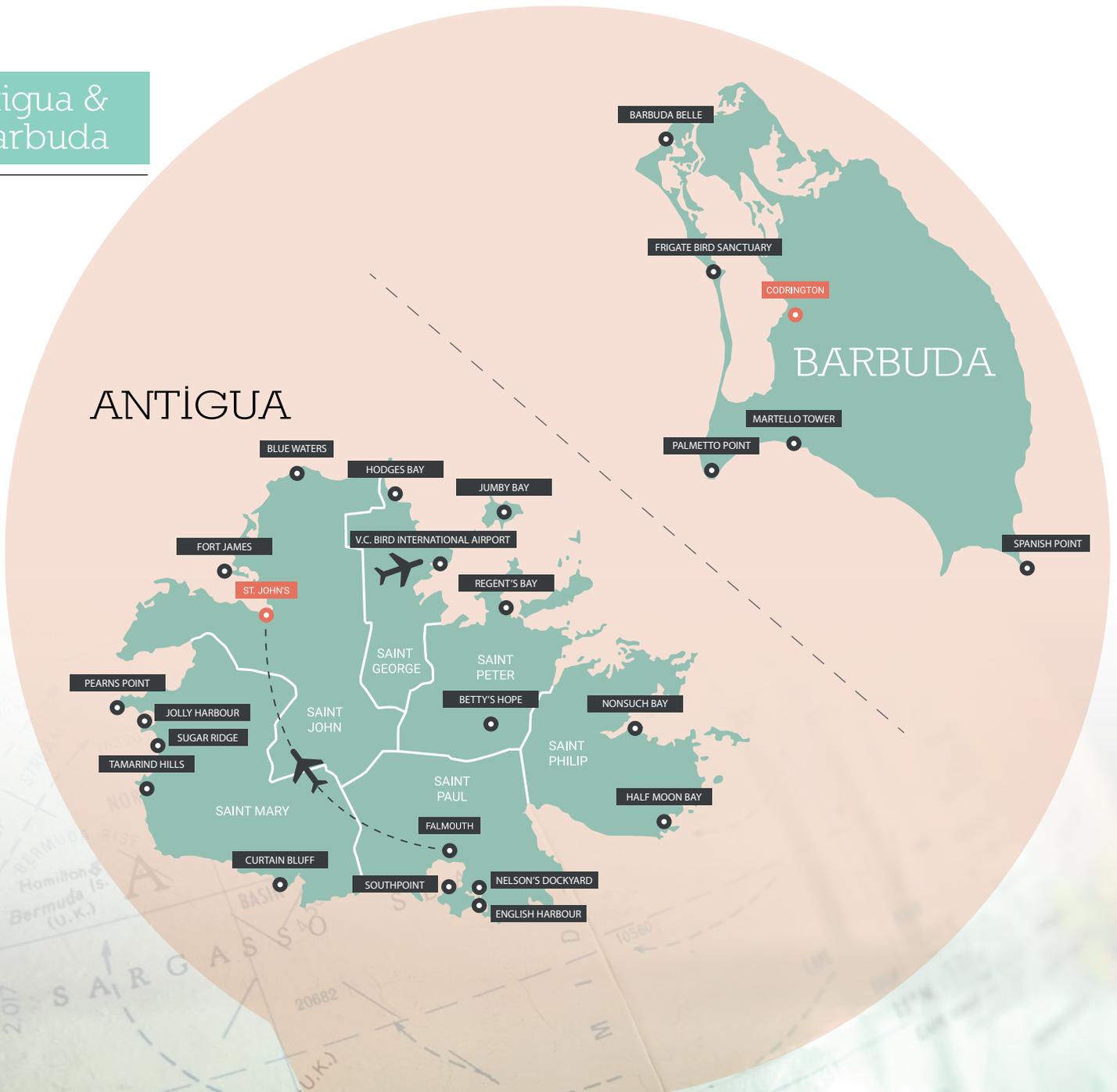
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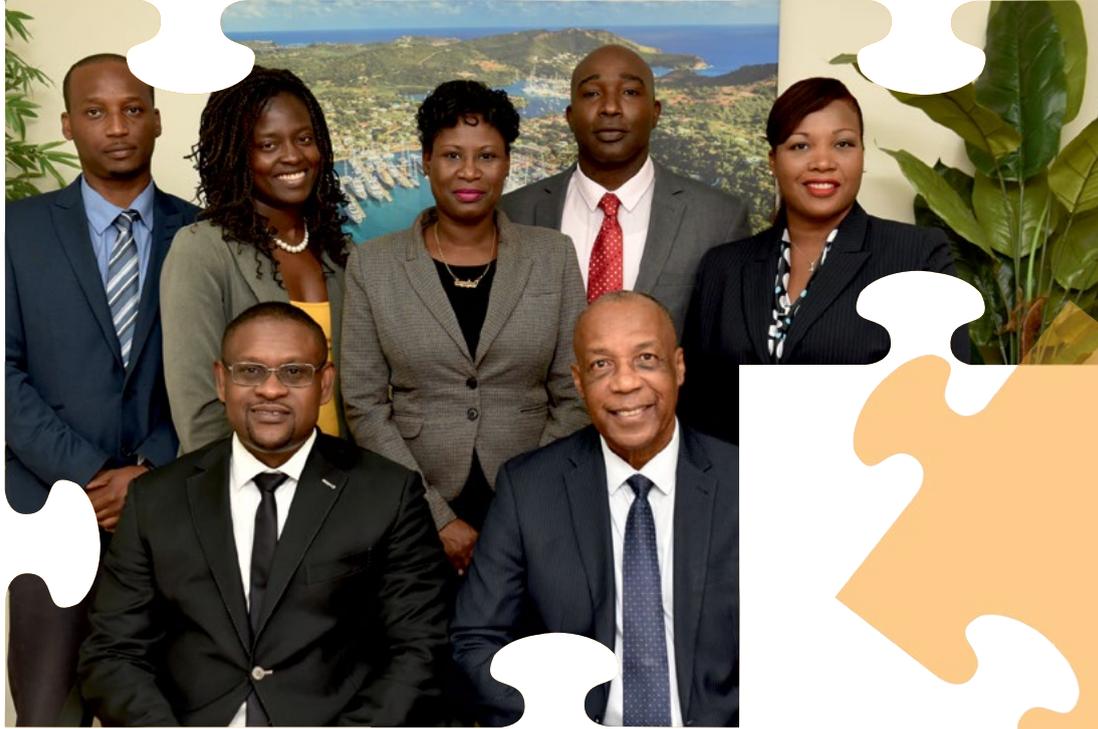
Giving for art's sake

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Antigua & Barbuda





Top row: Alister Maginley, Suzette Anthony, Sandra Voza, Patrick Maginley and Juliette Marcelle-Bailey. Sitting: Casroy James and Kirthley Maginley.

The perfect match.

Knowing the CIP business best!

We at James & Maginley provide consulting and advisory services in our core areas of investment facilitation and management, real estate development and Citizenship by Investment.

Our principals are licensed and authorised agents for persons wishing to apply for Antigua and Barbuda citizenship under the Citizenship by Investment Program (CIP).

We are committed to enhancing and strengthening the service delivery to our customers through strategic collaborations and partnerships. We effectively leverage our local knowledge of the business culture and landscape to the benefit of its CIP providers, many of whom are themselves consulting entities and advisors to ultra-high net-worth individuals.

For more information on our Group of Companies visit:
www.jamesandmaginley.com

ARE YOU ALL AT SEA?

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN B?

Does *your* plan B
let you decide where you live?

Does *your* plan B
allow you to easily access
healthcare in another country?

Does *your* plan B
mean that you can travel
to a business meeting on
the other side of the world
at a moment's notice?

Does *your* plan B
protect your children's
inheritance?

Does *your* plan B
give you wealth
management options?

Does *your* plan B
allow you to relocate
your family in the event
of a national disaster?



www.cip.gov.ag

DOES YOUR PLAN B
include a second citizenship?



CITIZENSHIP INVESTMENT UNIT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA Citizenship by Investment Programme

There are four types of investment which will qualify you for citizenship in the paradise islands of Antigua & Barbuda. As an applicant, you can choose between a contribution to the National Development Fund (NDF), to The University of the West Indies Fund, purchase property in a pre-approved real estate development, or invest in an approved business venture. As a candidate, you must be over 18 years of age, hold no criminal record and have excellent health. Upon successful application, you and your family will obtain a lifetime citizenship and enjoy travelling visa-free to 165 jurisdictions.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The non-profit NDF was established to fund income-generating public sector projects, innovation in entrepreneurship and approved charitable investments. It is audited by an internationally recognised accounting firm and reports on its status are published each year. If this is your investment of choice, you are invited to contribute USD 100,000 to the NDF, which is a one-time contribution for a family of four. Processing fees will be applied as indicated below.

For a single applicant, or a family of 4 or less:

- US\$ 100,000 contribution
Processing fees: US\$ 30,000.*

For a family of 5 or more:

- US\$ 125,000 contribution
Processing fees: US\$ 45,000, US\$ 15,000 for each additional dependent over five people.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (UWI) FUND

This investment option serves as a mechanism to finance the new University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus. This contribution will also entitle one member of the family to a one-year scholarship, tuition only, at the University of the West Indies.

For a family of 6:

- US\$ 150,000 contribution
- Processing fees: US\$ 15,000 from the seventh additional dependent onwards.

* Processing fees for additional dependents: US\$ 10,000 for children under 5 years, US\$ 20,000 for children aged 6-17 years, US\$ 50,000 for adults over 18 years. For a future spouse of the principal applicant, a fee of US\$ 50,000 is payable upon application.

INVESTMENT IN REAL ESTATE

You and your family can obtain citizenship by purchasing a property in Antigua & Barbuda. You may also benefit from rental revenue with this investment. To qualify for citizenship under this option, you must invest in a designated, officially approved real estate development worth at least US\$ 400,000, undertake a joint investment of US\$ 200,000 between two (2) related parties/applications, or minimum US\$ 200,000 for a unit/share in an approved property. You must own the property for a minimum of five years before selling it. At this time, owners may resell their units or shares to subsequent applicants as eligible investments. Processing fees will be applied as indicated below.

For a single applicant, or a family of 4 or less:

- Processing fees: US\$ 30,000.*

For a family of 5 or more:

- Processing fees: US\$ 45,000, US\$ 15,000 for each additional dependent over five people.

BUSINESS INVESTMENT

The Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU) after consulting with the Antigua & Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA) approves businesses, whether existing or proposed, for the purposes of investment in business under the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP).

There are two business investment options:

- Invest at least US\$ 1,500,000 in a pre-approved business.
- Alternatively, at least two applicants can propose to make a joint investment in an approved business with a total investment of at least US\$ 5,000,000. Each investor must contribute at least US\$ 400,000 to the joint investment.

For a single applicant, or a family of 4 or less:

- Processing fees: US\$ 30,000.*

For a family of 5 or more:

- Processing fees: US\$ 45,000, US\$ 15,000 for each additional dependent over five people.

Please note that all four options also include a due diligence fee of US\$ 7,500 for the main applicant and spouse, US\$ 2,000 for any dependent child between 12-17 years of age and US\$ 4,000 for any dependent child/parent between 18-30 and 55 plus years.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Citizenship by Investment Programme

Frequently Asked Questions

CITIZENSHIP BY
INVESTMENT
PROGRAMME

Why does Antigua & Barbuda have a citizenship by investment programme?

The programme was introduced to promote economic growth, attract real estate development, increase foreign direct investment to the country, support the development of infrastructure and provide for a sustainable future.

How many visa-free countries can I travel to as a citizen of Antigua & Barbuda?

You can travel to 165 jurisdictions without requiring a visa, including the EU and Schengen countries, Hong Kong and Singapore.

What is the processing time?

Processing your application should take from 3 to 6 months.

Who can apply for citizenship?

To apply for the citizenship programme in Antigua & Barbuda, you must be at least 18 years of age, be of a good character with no criminal record, and have good health.

Do I need to speak English to apply for citizenship?

You don't need to speak English to be an applicant.

Who can be included on the application?

Your dependent children under 28 and dependent parents over 58 can be included within the application.

How do you conduct the due diligence and vetting of applicants?

There are no interviews. However, all applicants undergo rigorous screening prior to consideration by the Citizenship by Investment Unit. Complete files will be forwarded to an international, unbiased third-party due diligence service provider who will conduct detailed background checks on all applicants before the application is approved.

What happens once my application has been accepted?

A certificate of registration of citizenship will be issued and submitted to the passport office. Your authorised agent/representative will forward your passports and Citizenship Certificate to you.

Do I need to travel to Antigua & Barbuda to complete the process?

The application process can be made from your country of residence. Once your application is successful and you have received your passport, you must travel to Antigua & Barbuda to take your oath or affirmation of allegiance. You are entitled to take up full-time residence in Antigua & Barbuda at any time you wish.

Does Antigua & Barbuda recognise dual citizenship?

There are no restrictions on dual citizenship in Antigua & Barbuda.

For how many years will my passport be valid for?

The passport will be valid for a period of 5 years and is renewable for a period of 10 years thereafter, provided that the requirements are met, which includes spending a minimum of five days in the country during this period after becoming a citizen.

Can I invest with my Bitcoins or other cryptocurrencies?

This is in the pipeline but has not yet been established.

In addition to the citizenship by investment programme does Antigua & Barbuda have a tax residency programme?

Antigua & Barbuda does not currently offer a tax residency programme.

For any additional questions, please contact an authorized representative, licensed agent or the CIU directly.

الحصول على جنسية أنتيغوا وباربودا عن طريق برنامج الاستثمار

الاستثمار في العقارات

يمكنك أنت وأسررتك الحصول على الجنسية من خلال شراء عقار في أنتيغوا وباربودا. كما يمكنك أيضاً الاستفادة من إيرادات الإيجار بفضل هذا الاستثمار. ولكي تكون مؤهلاً للحصول على الجنسية بموجب هذا الخيار، يجب عليك الاستثمار في مجموعة عقارية معيّنة ومعتمدة رسمياً لا تقل قيمتها عن 400.000 دولار أمريكي، إجراء استثمار مشترك بقيمة 200.000 دولار أمريكي لكل طرف/طلب من طرفين/طلبين (2) متراطين، أو ما لا يقل عن 200.000 دولار أمريكي لوحدة/حصّة في عقار معتمد. ويجب عليك امتلاك العقار لمدة خمس سنوات على الأقل قبل بيعه. ويجوز حينئذ للمالكين إعادة بيع وحدتهم أو حصتهم لمقدمي طلبات لاحقين كاستثمارات مؤهلة. وسيتم تطبيق رسوم المعالجة كما هو موضح أدناه.

لمقدم طلب واحد أو أسرة مكونة من 4 أفراد أو أقل:

• رسوم المعالجة: 30.000 دولار أمريكي. انظر الخيار لفترة محددة*

لأسرة مكونة من 5 أفراد أو أكثر:

• رسوم المعالجة: 45.000 دولار أمريكي، 15.000 دولار أمريكي لكل شخص مُعال إضافي.

الاستثمار التجاري

تقوم وحدة الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار - بعد التشاور مع هيئة الاستثمار في أنتيغوا وباربودا - بالموافقة على المشاريع التجارية، سواء كانت قائمة أو مقترحة، لأغراض الاستثمار في الأعمال التجارية بموجب برنامج الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار.

هناك خياران للاستثمار التجاري:

• استثمر ما لا يقل عن 1.500.000 دولار أمريكي في مشروع تجاري معتمدة مسبقاً.

• كبديل لذلك، يمكن لطرفين على الأقل اقتراح إجراء استثمار مشترك في مشروع تجاري معتمد بمبلغ إجمالي لا يقل عن 5.000.000 دولار أمريكي. ويجب على كل مستثمر المساهمة بمبلغ لا يقل عن 400.000 دولار أمريكي في الاستثمار المشترك.

لمقدم طلب واحد أو أسرة مكونة من 4 أفراد أو أقل:

• رسوم المعالجة: 30.000 دولار أمريكي انظر. الخيار لفترة محددة*

لأسرة مكونة من 5 أفراد أو أكثر:

• رسوم المعالجة: 45.000 دولار أمريكي، 15.000 دولار أمريكي لكل شخص مُعال إضافي.

يُرجى الأخذ بعين الاعتبار أن جميع الخيارات الأربعة تشمل أيضاً رسوم العناية الواجبة بمبلغ 7500 دولار أمريكي لمقدم/ة الطلب الرئيسي/ة وزوجه/زوجته و2000 دولار أمريكي لأبي طفل معال يتراوح عمره بين 12 و17 عاماً و4000 دولار أمريكي لأبي طفل يتراوح عمره بين 18 و30 عاماً أو أب/أم يتجاوز عمره/عمرها 55 عاماً.

هناك أربعة أنواع من الاستثمارات التي ستجعلك مؤهلاً للحصول على جنسية الجزر الفردوسية أنتيغوا وباربودا. عند تقديم الطلب، يمكنك الاختيار بين تقديم مساهمة لصالح الصندوق الوطني للتنمية أو صندوق جامعة الهند الغربية أو شراء ملكية في إحدى المجموعات العقارية المعتمدة مسبقاً أو الاستثمار في مشروع تجاري معتمد. وكمشرح، يجب أن يتجاوز عمرك 18 عاماً وألا يكون لديك سوابق جنائية وأن تتمتع بصحة ممتازة.

عند نجاح طلبك، ستحصل أنت وأسررتك على الجنسية مدى الحياة وستستمتعون بالسفر بدون تأشيرة إلى أكثر من 165 ولاية قضائية.

تقديم مساهمة لصالح الصندوق الوطني للتنمية

تم تأسيس الصندوق الوطني للتنمية، الذي لا يهدف للربح، لتمويل مشاريع القطاع العام المدرة للدخل والابتكار في ريادة الأعمال والاستثمارات الخيرية المعتمدة. وتُراجع حساباته من قبل شركة محاسبة معترف بها دولياً وتُنشر تقارير عن وضعه سنوياً.

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إذا وقع اختيارك على هذا النوع من الاستثمارات، فيُطلب منك تقديم مساهمة قدرها 100.000 دولار أمريكي للصندوق الوطني للتنمية، وهي عبارة عن مساهمة تُقدّم مرة واحدة عن كل أسرة مكونة من أربعة أفراد. وسيتم تطبيق رسوم المعالجة كما هو موضح أدناه.

لمقدم طلب واحد أو أسرة مكونة من 4 أفراد أو أقل:

• مساهمة قدرها 100.000 دولار أمريكي
رسوم المعالجة: 30.000 دولار أمريكي. انظر الخيار لفترة محددة*

لأسرة مكونة من 5 أفراد أو أكثر:

• مساهمة قدرها 125.000 دولار أمريكي
رسوم المعالجة: 45.000 دولار أمريكي، 15.000 دولار أمريكي لكل شخص مُعال إضافي على أربعة أفراد

صندوق جامعة الهند الغربية:

يعمل هذا الخيار كآلية لتمويل حرم الجزر الخمس الجديد لجامعة الهند الغربية. وستخول هذه المساهمة أيضاً حصول أحد أفراد الأسرة على منحة دراسية مدتها سنة واحدة، تشمل رسوم التعليم فقط، في جامعة الهند الغربية.

لأسرة مكونة من 6 أفراد:

• مساهمة قدرها 150.000 دولار أمريكي
• رسوم المعالجة: 15.000 دولار أمريكي من الشخص المُعال الإضافي السابع فصاعداً.

الحصول على جنسية أنتيغوا وباربودا عن طريق برنامج الاستثمار أسئلة متكررة

الملفات الكاملة إلى جهة دولية غير منحازة تقدم خدمات العناية الواجبة والتي ستجري تحريات مفصلة بشأن خلفيات المتقدمين بالطلب.

ماذا يحدث بعد قبول طلبي؟

سيتم إصدار شهادة تسجيل الجنسية وتقديمها إلى مكتب جوازات السفر. وسيقوم وكيلك/ممثلك المفوض بإرسال جوازات السفر وشهادة الجنسية الخاصة بك إليك.

هل يجب أن أسافر إلى أنتيغوا وباربودا لإكمال العملية؟

يمكن إجراء الطلب من بلد إقامتك. بعد نجاح طلبك وتلقيك جواز سفرك، يجب عليك السفر إلى أنتيغوا وباربودا لأداء اليمين أو تأكيد الولاء. ويحق لك الإقامة بدوام كامل في أنتيغوا وباربودا متى تشاء.

هل تعترف أنتيغوا وباربودا بالجنسية المزدوجة؟

لا توجد قيود على الجنسية المزدوجة في أنتيغوا وباربودا.

كم من سنة سيبقى جواز سفري ساري المفعول؟

سيبقى جواز سفرك ساري المفعول لمدة 5 سنوات وهو قابل للتجديد لمدة 10 سنوات بعد ذلك، شريطة تلبية المتطلبات التي تشمل قضاء خمسة أيام على الأقل في البلد خلال هذه الفترة بعد الحصول على الجنسية.

هل يمكنني الاستثمار بعملة بيتكوين (Bitcoin) أو غيرها من العملات المعماة؟

هذا الأمر ما زال قيد الإعداد ولم يتم تنفيذه بعد.

بالإضافة إلى برنامج الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار، هل لدى أنتيغوا وباربودا برنامج للإقامة الضريبية؟

لا تقدم أنتيغوا وباربودا حالياً برنامجاً للإقامة الضريبية.

لماذا تملك أنتيغوا وباربودا برنامج الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار؟
تم اعتماد البرنامج لتعزيز النمو الاقتصادي واستقطاب التنمية العقارية وزيادة الاستثمار الأجنبي المباشر في البلاد ودعم تطوير البنية التحتية وتأمين مستقبل مستدام.

كم عدد البلدان التي يمكنني السفر إليها دون تأشيرة كمواطن أنتيغوا وباربودا؟

يمكنك السفر إلى أكثر من 165 ولاية قضائية دون الحاجة إلى تأشيرة، بما في ذلك بلدان الاتحاد الأوروبي وشنغن وهونغ كونغ وسنغافورة.

كم من الوقت تستغرق معالجة طلبك؟

تستغرق معالجة طلبك ما بين 3 و6 أشهر.

من يمكنه التقدم بطلب للحصول على الجنسية؟

لتكون مؤهلاً لبرنامج الجنسية في أنتيغوا وباربودا، يجب أن يتجاوز عمرك 18 عاماً وأن تتسم بحسن الخلق وألا يكون لديك سوابق جنائية وأن تتمتع بصحة جيدة.

هل ينبغي أن أتحدث باللغة الإنجليزية لطلب الحصول على الجنسية؟

لست بحاجة إلى التحدث باللغة الإنجليزية للتقدم بالطلب.

من يمكن إدراجه في الطلب؟

يمكنك أن تدرج في الطلب أطفالك المعالين الذين تقل أعمارهم عن 28 عاماً ووالديك المعالين إذا كان عمرهما يتجاوز 58 عاماً.

كيف تُجرون العناية الواجبة وفحص الطلبات؟

لا تجري مقابلات. ومع ذلك، يخضع جميع المتقدمين بالطلب لفحص دقيق قبل دراسة ملفهم من قبل وحدة الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار. تُحال

لمزيد من الأسئلة، يُرجى الاتصال بممثل مفوض أو وكيل مرخص له أو مباشرة بوحدة الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار.

If there's one thing that 2020 has shown you, it's that life can be unpredictable. Never has it been more important to have a robust Plan B in place for the unexpected – no matter what life throws at you.

If your Plan B doesn't already include a second citizenship, perhaps now is the time to think about it to protect those you care about the most.

Investing in the Antigua & Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Programme means that whatever happens in life, you and your family can feel secure with the knowledge that you have options for where to live and where to go. With flexibility for your wealth management needs, no tax on your worldwide income nor inheritance tax, you can rest assured that your family's best interest is served both now and in the future.

Furthermore, not only is Antigua & Barbuda amongst the fastest-growing economies in the Caribbean region and an international financial centre whose legal system is based on British Common Law, but there are countless investment and business opportunities available in a variety of sectors.

Visa-free access to over 150 countries across the globe allows you to jump on a plane to that business meeting or conference at a moment's notice. The world is indeed your oyster.

And should you wish to relocate to these safe, peaceful and beautiful twin islands, you will find yourself in a multicultural society with world-class education opportunities, a strong healthcare system and business-friendly environment. The country's strategic geographic location in the Eastern Caribbean together with regular flights to major business hubs in North America and London means you will always be well connected, whether for business or leisure.

**THE IDEAL PLACE
FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
TO DROP ANCHOR.**





www.cip.gov.ag | info@cip.gov.ag

So, is second citizenship of
Antigua & Barbuda part of
YOUR PLAN B?



CITIZENSHIP INVESTMENT UNIT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

АНТИГУА И БАРБУДА гражданство по инвестиционной программе

Существуют четыре вида инвестиций, благодаря которым вы можете стать кандидатом на получение гражданства на райских островах Антигуа и Барбуда. Вы можете выбрать один из вариантов: безвозмездный взнос в государственный фонд экономического развития (NDF) или в фонд Университета Вест-Индии, инвестиции в недвижимость в один из одобренных правительством проектов или инвестиции в бизнес в одно из утвержденных коммерческих предприятий. Заявитель должен быть старше 18 лет, не иметь судимостей и иметь отличное здоровье.

При условии одобрения заявления, вы и ваша семья получите пожизненное гражданство и сможете наслаждаться безвизовым въездом в более чем 165 юрисдикционных территорий.

БЕЗВОЗВРАТНЫЙ ВЗНОС В ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ ФОНД ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОГО РАЗВИТИЯ

Некоммерческий фонд NDF был учрежден с целью финансирования предпринимательских государственных проектов, инноваций в предпринимательстве и одобренных благотворительных проектов. Деятельность фонда проверяется международно признанной аудиторской фирмой, ежегодно публикуется доклад о состоянии дел. Если вы выбрали этот вариант инвестиций, то вам предлагается внести в государственный фонд экономического развития NDF сумму в 100 000 долларов США, это единовременный взнос для семьи из четырех человек. Ниже указана сумма сбора за обработку данных.

Для одного заявителя или семьи из четырех или менее человек:

- Взнос 100 000 долларов США

Сбор за обработку данных: 30 000 долларов США. Смотрите предложение с ограниченным сроком действия*

Для семьи из 5 и более человек:

- Взнос 125 000 долларов США

Сбор за обработку данных: 45,000 долларов США, 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца.

ФОНД УНИВЕРСИТЕТА ВЕСТ-ИНДИИ (UWI):

Этот вариант инвестиции создан для финансирования кампуса Five Islands Университета Вест-Индии. Это денежное вложение дает право на получение стипендии сроком на один год (только плата за учебу) для одного члена семьи в Университете Вест-Индии.

Для семьи из 6 человек:

- Взнос 150 000 долларов США
- Сбор за обработку данных: 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца.

ИНВЕСТИЦИИ В НЕДВИЖИМОСТЬ

Вы и члены вашей семьи можете получить гражданство купив недвижимость в Антигуа и Барбуда. Выбрав этот вариант инвестиции, вы также сможете получать доходы от аренды. Чтобы

стать кандидатом на получение гражданства в случае выбора этого варианта, вы должны вложить в один из официально утвержденных объектов недвижимости не менее 400 000 долларов США, или два (2) ассоциированных лица/кандидата на гражданство могут сделать совместное вложение, минимальная сумма взноса каждого участника составляет 200 000 долларов США, также возможно минимальное вложение в 200 000 долларов США в долю официально утвержденного объекта недвижимости.

Вы сможете продать недвижимость не ранее, чем через 5 лет.

По истечении этого срока, собственники могут перепродать объекты недвижимости или их доли последующим кандидатам на гражданство, как один из утвержденных вариантов вложений. Ниже указана сумма сбора за обработку данных.

Для одного заявителя или семьи из четырех или менее человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 30 000 долларов США. Смотрите предложение с ограниченным сроком действия*

Для семьи из 5 и более человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 45,000 долларов США, 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца.

ИНВЕСТИЦИИ В БИЗНЕС

Подразделение по вопросам инвестиционного гражданства (CIU) после согласования с Инвестиционным департаментом Антигуа и Барбуды (ABIA) официально одобряет коммерческие предприятия для программы инвестиционного гражданства (CIP). Это может быть как новый, так и уже существующий бизнес.

Существуют два варианта инвестиций в бизнес:

- Инвестировать как минимум 1 500 000 долларов США в одобренный бизнес.
- Другой вариант - это инвестировать в бизнес несколькими заявителями, общая сумма вложений должна быть не менее 5 000 000 долларов США. При этом каждый заявитель обязан вложить в общий проект не менее 400 000 долларов США.

Для одного заявителя или семьи из четырех или менее человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 30 000 долларов США. Смотрите предложение с ограниченным сроком действия*

Для семьи из 5 и более человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 45,000 долларов США, 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца.

Пожалуйста, обратите внимание, что для всех четырех вариантов необходимо оплатить сбор за прохождение проверки на благонадежность: 7 500 долларов США за основного заявителя, 7 500 долларов США за супругу(а), 2 000 долларов США за иждивенца от 12 до 17 лет и 4 000 долларов США за иждивенца от 18 до 30 лет и старше 55 лет.

АНТИГУА И БАРБУДА

гражданство по инвестиционной программе

Часто задаваемые вопросы

CITIZENSHIP BY
INVESTMENT
PROGRAMME

Почему в Антигуа и Барбуда существует гражданство по инвестиционной программе?

Программа была создана для содействия экономическому росту, развитию рынка недвижимости, увеличения объемов прямых иностранных инвестиций в страну, поддержки развития инфраструктур и обеспечения надежного будущего.

Сколько стран я смогу посещать без визы как гражданин Антигуа и Барбуда?

Вы сможете посещать без визы более 165 стран, включая страны Евросоюза и Шенгенского соглашения, Гонконг и Сингапур.

Сколько составляет срок рассмотрения заявления?

Срок рассмотрения заявления может занять от 3 до 6 месяцев.

Кто может претендовать на получение гражданства?

Для того, чтобы претендовать на получение гражданства Антигуа и Барбуда вы должны быть старше 18 лет, иметь хорошую репутацию, не иметь судимостей и обладать хорошим состоянием здоровья.

Должен ли я владеть английским языком, чтобы претендовать на получение гражданства?

Для того, чтобы претендовать на получение гражданства вы не обязаны владеть английским языком.

Кто может быть включен в заявление?

В заявление могут быть включены финансово зависимые дети до 28 лет и находящиеся на иждивении родители старше 58 лет.

Как вы проводите проверку на благонадежность заявителей?

Личные собеседования не проводятся. Однако, все заявители проходят строгую проверку Подразделением по вопросам инвестиционного гражданства. Полностью укомплектованное дело передается в международную, объективную, независимую службу проверки на

благонадежность, которая проводит тщательную проверку личных данных всех заявителей.

Что происходит после того, как мое заявление получает одобрение?

Выдается справка о регистрации гражданства, которая передается в паспортную службу. Затем ваш уполномоченный агент / представитель отправляет вам ваши паспорта и свидетельство о гражданстве.

Для окончательного оформления дела мне необходимо лично приехать в Антигуа и Барбуда?

Подача документов возможна из страны вашего проживания. После успешного разрешения вашего дела и получения паспорта, вы должны приехать в Антигуа и Барбуда, чтобы принять присягу или подтвердить подданство. Вы имеете право установить место постоянного проживания в Антигуа и Барбуда в любое время по вашему желанию.

Признает ли Антигуа и Барбуда двойное гражданство?

В Антигуа и Барбуда нет ограничений для двойного гражданства.

Сколько лет будет действителен мой паспорт?

Паспорт действителен 5 лет и он продлевается на 10 лет, при выполнении всех требований, таких как минимальный срок пребывания в стране после получения гражданства – пять дней.

Могу я инвестировать в Биткойнах или других криптовалютах?

Пока этот вопрос находится в работе, но пока ещё не разрешен.

В дополнение к программе инвестиционного гражданства существует в Антигуа и Барбуда программа налогового резидентства?

В данный момент в Антигуа и Барбуда не существует программы налогового резидентства.

Если у вас возникли любые другие вопросы, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с уполномоченным представителем, лицензированным агентом или напрямую с Подразделением по вопросам инвестиционного гражданства.

通过投资项目获取安提瓜和巴布达公民身份

有下列四种投资方式,可以让您有资格获得天堂般的安提瓜和巴布达岛国的公民身份。作为申请人,您可以选择向国家发展基金(NDF)捐款,向西印度群岛大学基金会捐款,在预先批准的房地产开发项目中购买房产,或投资于经批准的商业企业。作为候选人,您必须年龄超过18岁,无犯罪记录,身体健康。

申请成功后,您和您的家人会获得终身公民身份,并享有在超过165个国家旅行免签的优势。

向国家发展基金捐款

非盈利性质的国家发展基金的成立是为了为创收公共部门项目、创业创新和经批准的慈善投资提供资金。它由一家国际公认的会计师事务所审计,并且每年都会公布其财务状况报告。

如果这是您的投资选择,您需要向国家发展基金捐款十万美金,这是四口之家一次性的捐款数额。办理费用如下所示。

适用于单个申请人,家庭成员四人及以下:

- 十万美金捐款
- 办理费用: 三万美金 请查阅限期价格*。

适用于家庭成员五人及以上:

- 十二万五千美金
- 办理费用: 四人之外每增加一人,需多缴一万五千美金。

西印度群岛大学(UWI)基金会:

这一投资选项用于为西印度群岛大学的五岛新校区提供融资。这一捐款将使捐款家庭的一员可以获得一项为期一年的奖学金,即免除在西印度群岛大学一年的学费。

对于六口之家:

- 十五万美金捐款

第七位起:

- 办理费用: 每个增加成员需缴一万五千美金。

房地产投资

您和您的家人可以通过在安提瓜和巴布达购买房产来获得公民身份。您也可以借此投资从租金收入中受益。为通过此项投资获得公民身份,您需要投资一个指定的,经官方批准的价值至少为四十万美元的房地产开发项目,可两(2)个关联方或申请人共同投资,每人投资至少二十万美元,或在被批准的房产项目中每人至少投资二十万美元购买一个单元/份额。

在出售房产前,您需要拥有它至少五年。在此期间,业主可以向后续的申请者转售房产单元或份额,作为后者的投资房产。办理费用如下所示。

适用于单个申请人,家庭成员四人及以下:

- 办理费用: 三万美金请查阅限期价格*。

适用于家庭成员五人及以上:

- 办理费用: 每个增加成员需缴一万五千美金。

商业投资

在与安提瓜和巴布达投资局(ABIA)协商后,投资公民部门(CIU)批准现有或提议的商业项目,以便外国人在投资公民计划(CIP)下投资。

有两个商业投资选项:

- 投资至少一百五十万美元给一项预先批准的商业活动。
- 或者,至少有两个申请人可以提议对经批准的企业进行联合投资,总投资至少为五百万美元。每个投资者至少支付四十万美金。

适用于单个申请人,家庭成员四人及以下:

- 办理费用: 三万美金请查阅限期价格*。

适用于家庭成员五人及以上:

- 办理费用: 每个增加成员需缴一万五千美金。

请注意,四个投资选项都包括主申请人和配偶的七千五百美元的尽职调查费,12-17岁的任何受养子女办理费用为两千美元,18-30岁的任何受养子女或55岁以上的受养父母每人费用为四千美元。

通过投资项目获得安提瓜和巴布达的公民身份

问&答

CITIZENSHIP BY
INVESTMENT
PROGRAMME

为什么安提瓜和巴布达推行通过投资获得公民身份项目？

这个项目旨在增进经济发展,促进房地产开发,增加外国对本国的直接投资,支持基础设施建设并提供可持续发展。

作为安提瓜和巴布达公民,我可以免签到多少个国家旅行？

您可以去往超过165个司法管辖区,包括欧盟和申根国家,香港和新加坡。

处理时间有多长？

处理您的申请通常需要三至六个月。

谁可以申请公民身份？

申请安提瓜和巴布达的公民身份,您至少需要18周岁,无犯罪记录并且身体健康。

申请公民身份需要我会说英语吗？

申请人不需要会讲英语。

谁可以被包括在申请中？

您抚养的年龄小于28岁的孩子和赡养的超过58岁的老人可以被包括在申请中。

如何进行尽职调查和审查申请人？

没有面试环节。但是,所有申请人在获得公民身份前都要经过公民投资部门严格的筛选。完整的文件将转发给国际上公正的第三方尽职调查服务提供商,该服务提供商将对所有申请人进行详细的背景调查。

我的申请被接受后会发生什么？

将颁发公民身份登记证书并提交给护照办公室。您的授权代理人/代表将转发您的护照和公民身份证明给您。

我需要亲自到安提瓜和巴布达来完成手续吗？

申请环节可以在您的居住国完成。一旦您的申请成功并收到护照,您需要亲自到安提瓜和巴布达来宣誓或承认效忠。您随时可以定居在安提瓜和巴布达。

安提瓜和巴布达承认双重国籍吗？

安提瓜和巴布达对于双重国籍没有限制。

我的护照有效期为几年？

护照有效期五年,此后可续期10年,续期的前提是符合要求,包括在成为公民后在护照有效期间在该国度过至少5天。

我可以用我的比特币或其他虚拟货币投资吗？

这还在筹备中,但尚未实行。

除了投资计划获取公民身份外,安提瓜和巴布达还有税务定居计划吗？

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如有任何其他问题,请联系授权代表,许可代理或直接联系投资公民部门(CIU)。

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by
Bruno L'ecuyer
Chief Executive
IMC



TALKING ECONOMIC IMPACT AND OPPORTUNITY

As Chief Executive of the Investment Migration Council, what issues are currently high on your agenda?

Defining and setting common standards for the investment migration industry continues to be one of our top priorities. We feel industry self-regulation can be an effective and efficient means of control for the investment migration sector, which would definitely benefit from more harmonised practices, but is not as systemically risky as the financial services industry for example. We are of the opinion that improving standards and ensuring that our members adhere to the established standards will help the sector expand even further.

The growth of our own organisation is also very high on our agenda. The IMC currently has around 450 members and has established itself as a credible industry body. However, I believe we can grow our membership base further by engaging with professionals from around the world. We are also looking to diversify our membership and are working on attracting other professionals that don't necessarily focus on investment migration but facilitate talent and business migration – a segment that is seeing tremendous growth the world over. At the moment, these professionals are a little bit outside our catchment area, but if we want to see growth,

we need to diversify to whom we communicate and work for as an organisation, and give potential members reasons to join.

Supporting and facilitating the development of global investment migration rules has long been a priority of the IMC. What progress have you achieved thus far?

The launch of a code of ethics and professional conduct standards for the industry back in 2015 was one of our first initiatives, and we have subsequently launched an anti-bribery and corruption code. We strongly support the development of enhanced common due diligence standards to ensure only bona fide applicants are approved across all investment migration programmes. We have commissioned and published independent research into due diligence with a view to create a common framework of guidelines for governments and agents to adopt. Currently, we are working on a set of guidelines for the sales and promotion of investment migration programmes globally. We have established a working group comprising of members from ten different countries who are looking into how investment migration programmes should be promoted. We are in talks with various governments on this too and are very grateful for their support. In many cases they



are providing us with their own frameworks, and we are taking a helicopter view of all the different guidelines in order to develop a best practice document that outlines what to do and what to avoid when promoting investment migration programmes globally. I am hopeful that the draft document will be ready by the end of December 2020.

The investment migration industry appears to be facing an increasingly hostile environment, with several international institutions and organisations criticising the industry. How should the industry show that it's serious about addressing these concerns?

Investment migration is a complex legal and technical phenomenon, and it's the sovereign right of states to determine their national migration policy. Nonetheless, we are aware that some organisations have concerns that need to be addressed, and those are mostly relating to security, money laundering and financing of terrorism. However, out of those three, the only one that is really a risk is money laundering. The level of due diligence involved in investment migration programmes is so high that it isn't worth it for a terrorist to gain access to a country through this route. In fact, there isn't a single reported case. In our opinion, investor migrants neither pose a security nor a terrorism threat.

From a money laundering perspective, the risk is still there even though it is very small. As an industry, we have to abide by the global Anti Money Laundering (AML) and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) regulations to ensure that the people coming through are really fit and proper. Everybody in the industry needs to be aware of the

rules, and there are no exceptions. Small agents dealing with two or three applications per year need to ensure they know the source of funds as much as governments handling hundreds of applications throughout the year need to properly investigate this matter. In addition to doing what is legally required from the industry, I think the fact that we have developed and published different guidelines and standards is showing that we are serious about addressing those concerns.

What final message would you like to share?

Migration is always going to be a divisive issue that will elicit a lot of discussion and various viewpoints, no matter what category of migrants it is. We need to raise awareness about the contribution that investor migrants make in their communities. Often, their contributions go well beyond the financial investment that is required as part of an investment migration programme. There are many examples around the world, but unfortunately, the media often ignores those positives as they are not newsworthy. Take, for example, the late Thai entrepreneur Mr Vichai Srivaddhanprabha. He was predominantly famous for investing in Leicester City Football club – at least that is what media focused on. However, he was a lot more than that. He was an investment migrant in the UK who, throughout his stay in Leicester city, gave away £2m in donations towards a new children's hospital, and a £1m gift to the city's university medical department. I think as an industry, we have a unique opportunity to address economic and societal disparities and bring about positive and impactful change – and we need to recognise the importance of effectively communicating how we are creating value for all stakeholders. ●



OPINION

by
Nicola Mangion
Immigration Analyst
Frendo Advisory

PASSPORTS – A MODERN INVENTION?





Passports have come a long way since their very first inception as far back as 445BC. From simple folded pieces of paper with primitive descriptions, to sophisticated documents containing electronic and even biometric features, how have passports evolved, and how do modern-day equivalents compare to their historic predecessors especially in the context of investment migration?

T

The first reference to the concept of a passport was in fact made in the Old Testament of the Bible, in the Book of Nehemiah. Tasked with helping in the rebuilding of Jerusalem, Nehemiah was granted letters from the king allowing him safe passage into the Kingdom of Judah. But even before that, around 206BC, the Chinese Han Dynasty is also thought to have controlled movement across its imperial territories with passport-like documents. These pieces of paper, which even included written physical identifiers, were a requirement for anyone wishing to travel across borders. And likewise in the Muslim world, Bara'as, or receipts for taxes paid, were issued to law-abiding citizens in the Medieval Islamic Caliphate, meaning that only people in possession of such a document were granted authorisation to move between different regions.



In Continental Europe, it was not until 1414 that an Act of Parliament was passed by King Henry V of Britain officialising the issuance of “safe-conduct documents”. Nevertheless, these differed from the modern-day concept of the passport in that they were mainly granted to foreign travellers arriving in Britain for trade purposes. Citizens were occasionally also provided with these documents; however this did not happen often, and always came at a fee. It’s important to note that during this time, there was a change in mentality from foreigners being considered solely as enemies, to them being allowed access to the Continent in exchange for their business. A form of mutual understanding began to be established, and through “safe-conduct documents” good relations began to develop between receiving countries and investors. The way that “passports” were mostly granted to foreigners and thus functioning rather more like a visa as we understand it today, began to change mainly in the years leading up to the Industrial Revolution. With the increased mobility of people that came about, the importance of identifying documents for security purposes became apparent to governments. However, this development

became a requirement for international travel. The next big leap in the evolution of the passport came firstly in 1920 when the League of Nations issued protocols about the standardisation of the modern passport, and again in 1947 when the International Civil Aviation Organisation took over the establishment of international passport standards. Fast forward to 1998 when Malaysia introduced biometric passports – documents that are not only capable of holding an impressive amount of secure data about their holders, but also far more difficult to forge. By January 2019, a total of 150 countries had taken on Malaysia’s idea and begun producing biometric passports of their own. This comes at a time when information sharing is ever-more crucial to maintaining national and global security, especially in the context of an increasingly globalised, yet paradoxically nationalistic world order. Drawing comparisons between the current version of the passport and the reasons behind it, and the documents issued in the past which granted safe passage through different territories, some interesting similarities begin to emerge. Although naturally, methods of identification have evolved greatly, their main purpose has remained more or

IN THE CONTEXT OF INVESTMENT MIGRATION, IT IS INTERESTING TO DRAW PARALLELS BETWEEN THE “SAFE CONDUCT DOCUMENTS” ISSUED IN THE 1400S AND PASSPORTS OBTAINED IN THIS MANNER TODAY. THE IDEA OF RECIPROCITY COMES INTO PLAY – BY CHOOSING TO PARTICIPATE IN FOREIGN MARKETS, INVESTORS BENEFIT THANKS TO INCREASED BUSINESS AND PERSONAL RELOCATION OPPORTUNITIES, WHILE GOVERNMENTS AND CITIZENS BENEFIT FROM A STRONGER ECONOMY.

was quickly backtracked in the late 1800s, which saw a temporary dissolution of the passport. The sheer number of people migrating was simply just too large for governments to keep up with. France was the first country to relax passport requirements in 1861, with other European countries quickly following suit. However, the era of passport-free travel came to its end during the First World War. At that time in Britain there was a growing sense of suspicion when it came to German spies, and a consensus soon developed that physical descriptors, in some format or other, were imperative. Given that this happened at around the same time that photography grew in popularity, photos started to replace written physical descriptors, which some people had previously argued were degrading. Inevitably, in the years after the First World War, there was increased hostility amongst the global community, and passports once again

less the same– that of identifying and controlling people crossing borders and territories. A sort of reciprocal relationship between governments, citizens, and foreigners remains, in that all parties have certain duties towards each other, and are in turn granted privileges. This is irrespective of whether the “passport”, or the “safe-conduct document”, was obtained through birth, naturalisation, or even investment. Specifically in the context of investment migration, it is interesting to draw parallels between the “safe conduct documents” issued in Britain in the 1400s and passports obtained in this manner today. Once again, the idea of reciprocity comes into play – by choosing to participate in foreign markets, investors stand to benefit as a result of increased business and personal relocation opportunities, while governments and citizens in turn benefit from a stronger economy.



With the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing numbers of high-net-worth individuals are exploring the benefits of owning a second, or even multiple, passports. Recent industry reports have highlighted a 42 percent year-on-year increase in the number of formal passport applications in the first quarter of 2020, with the number of enquiries also rising by 25 percent. The ability to set up base in other countries, which may offer better services and crisis management models, is extremely attractive. Keeping this in mind, research indicates that even after the global pandemic has slowed down, there might be an increase in the amount of applicants interested in investing in more functional citizenship by investment programmes – in other words, in countries able to provide a safer space to settle down in, or which simply have better travel opportunities. The benefit for the receiving countries is also clear – not just in the direct revenue generated by such

programmes, but also indirectly through the spending power that investor migrants bring.

The purpose of the passport for identifying and distinguishing between different individuals from different nations has not in fact changed over the course of history, despite the document's fascinating evolution. Growing technological advancements and the constant evolution of global needs all point towards us having just scratched the surface of the possibilities that these documents hold. In this regard, it is useful to keep in mind the economic benefits which have been brought about by investment migration in all its variations throughout history. The issuance of passports to wealthy individuals looking to expand their options is certainly not novel, and it will be interesting to see how the practice develops, especially in the context of renewed pressure – notably in the European sphere – on governments to reconsider these options. ●

WORKING REMOTELY FROM PARADISE: The new Antigua & Barbuda Nomad Digital Visa

Since time began, nomads have roamed the planet searching for pastures new to find food and basic provisions. In today's world, that search has become more metaphorical as people have been embracing a nomadic lifestyle in search of freedom and adventure, and to escape the daily grind of nine to five.

Even before one of the strangest years in living memory, many people were beginning to overhaul their lives looking for the alternative to previous generations' goal of finding a well-paid, steady job for life. And indeed, whilst this is still the aim of many, for others, the lure of no more commutes squashed like sardines in the 7.30am train or being stuck in traffic on a busy highway has been more than attractive for a while now. With countless people across the globe suddenly finding themselves working remotely for the first time in their lives, it has provided the space and time for many of them to reflect on what they truly want from their lives. For some, the conclusion has been that they yearn for something very different to what they previously accepted was their lot. People began thinking: if I can work from home, why not move that home somewhere else, somewhere better? Why not swap my cold, cramped spare room - aka home office - for a room overlooking sparkling turquoise water and a sea breeze rustling my hair? For those coming from countries where for a better part of the last year leaving the house became a luxury and not an everyday event, the temptation is even more understandable.

In this way, digital nomads have evolved from simply being your stereotypical millennial freelance web designer working from a far-flung beach before settling down to "real life", to older, remote-working, white-collar professionals whose physical offices may be in the now largely empty business districts of London or New York. They may be at a different point in their lives than the typical millennial nomad, and even decide to relocate their whole family temporarily for the adventure of a lifetime.

Antigua & Barbuda's new Nomad Digital Visa allows that adventure to be lived out. Giving successful applicants and their dependents the chance to work from the dual-island nation for up to two years, life in paradise - albeit temporarily - is assured. The visa's requisite that applicants earn at least US\$50,000 per year of their stay in the islands and can prove they can provide for themselves and any dependents who travel with them, means that although this opportunity may not be open for everyone, it ensures a reciprocal benefit for the islands by welcoming those who want to live the true experience of Antigua & Barbuda as residents and not just as ships that pass in the night.

The first hurdle for any digital nomad choosing where to set up shop is finding zippy Wi-Fi. No matter how appealing a destination may be on paper, without being able to connect to the office means that the dream

will fall at the first hurdle. Luckily in Antigua & Barbuda high-speed internet is found across the island and its telecommunications are first-class. And in today's world, safety and security are at the top of everyone's list. The islands are one of the safest places in the region, with world-class healthcare to boot should it ever be needed. Which brings us onto another consideration. Two years is a long time. Nomads will no doubt be leaving loved ones behind and will sometimes have work commitments for which a zoom call just doesn't cut the mustard. But no worries there; Antigua & Barbuda is extremely well connected to the world. With daily flights to New York in just four hours, to London in eight and other regular flights to Miami, Atlanta and Canada, popping back home isn't too much sweat.

For those bringing smaller dependents along with them, there are great private schools on the island - including one of the few establishments to offer the coveted International Baccalaureate programme in the region. The University of West Indies' Five Island Campus takes care of older students.

And for small and big alike, the lifestyle in Antigua is second to none. With a host of sports on offer, both on land and on water; one of the best sailing grounds in the world; incredible international restaurants and local eateries - not forgetting of course the incredible beaches and transparent balmy waters for which the islands are so famous - a healthy and happy lifestyle is guaranteed.

Its year-round delightful climate and ubiquitous sunshine means that those cold days back home will become a distant memory. Even those who didn't originally set out to use the Nomad Digital Visa to give the islands a test-drive, will find it hard to drag themselves back to "normal life" afterwards. The likely result is that there are some who will subsequently seek citizenship through the Antigua & Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Programme - if they qualify to do so. And

given that a powerful passport is vital for any digital nomad whose itchy feet are still propelling them to discover new places, the appeal of an Antigua & Barbuda passport with its visa-free access to over 150 countries may be the vital tool for their future dreams. ●



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

by
Kal Kennard
Partner
Citizens International



PIED-A-TERRE?

‘pied-a-terre’ is a small home kept for occasional use and literally means ‘foot on the ground’ when translated from French. It’s a well-known concept that has been popular for many generations in the luxury real estate market, whether it’s a stylish petite pad for busy businesspeople to crash in during the week, or a weekend escape in the country.

The idea of having a foot on the ground and a bolthole property is one I, and many other champions of the Caribbean region, continually promote having personal experience of the benefits.

A pied-a-terre in the Caribbean isn’t the most common marketing angle however, since we’re more accustomed to selling luxury second homes often enjoyed multiple times a year, to the traditional ‘lifestyle’ markets of Europe and North America.

In 2020 we saw clear evidence of a pandemic-driven urban exodus to lake and mountain country in particular within a few hours of New York and Toronto, but there is also a growing desire to look further afield to offshore, tax friendly, lifestyle-rich shores like Antigua & Barbuda.

It appears to us that the continued growth in ‘lifestyle’ clients from North America and Europe is having a perceptible knock-on effect on the citizenship market and by that I generally mean clients in all the other regions of the world.

The truth is a property in the Caribbean perfectly dovetails a second passport as a ‘Plan B’ combination package and I am delighted that the appreciation for what I call ‘the luxury Caribbean’ has grown in the citizenship markets over time - with Antigua & Barbuda at the top of that list.

Although international visa-free travel remains a primary motivator, a ‘Plan B’ destination for your family is now also front-of-mind and we can partially thank 2020 for that with international border closures in many countries limiting many



“The message that the Caribbean is a seriously interesting place to create a personal and financial foothold is definitely getting through.”

people’s options to ‘escape’ unless they had a second passport or residency.

Today, when we speak to clients in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Mexico, or as far away as Tasmania about property in Antigua & Barbuda, the idea is not one they immediately shy away from. Let’s not forget that in great part, CIP clients haven’t grown up as we did in London or New York or Toronto with a solid perception of the Caribbean being the ultimate in beautiful destinations and a playground of the elite. The good news is the message that the Caribbean is a seriously interesting place to create a personal and financial foothold is definitely getting through to the citizenship market.

But what is the ideal property for a buyer whose primary goal is citizenship versus a vacation home? These buyers are generally most interested in an income-producing bolthole they will seldom, if ever, use.

For some years now, I have been an advocate of shares in luxury villas. For three main reasons:

1. Clients can invest in the highest end of the market, but at the minimum investment level required under the programme.
2. The exit is to the traditional second home market as the villa can be sold as a whole after five years.
3. Short stays by shareholders are usually included in the package and perfectly suited to the majority of CIP buyers.

In addition, the higher end of the property market in any country is often the most fruitful and resilient and de-risking the exit by ensuring you can resell to the ‘lifestyle’ market is a safety valve in case there is no CIP in five years time.

Moreover, we are vocal ambassadors for many years now of residential tourism and believe increased residential tourism

infrastructure will greatly benefit Antigua & Barbuda, spurring more foreign direct investment and economic growth via the attraction of private wealth.

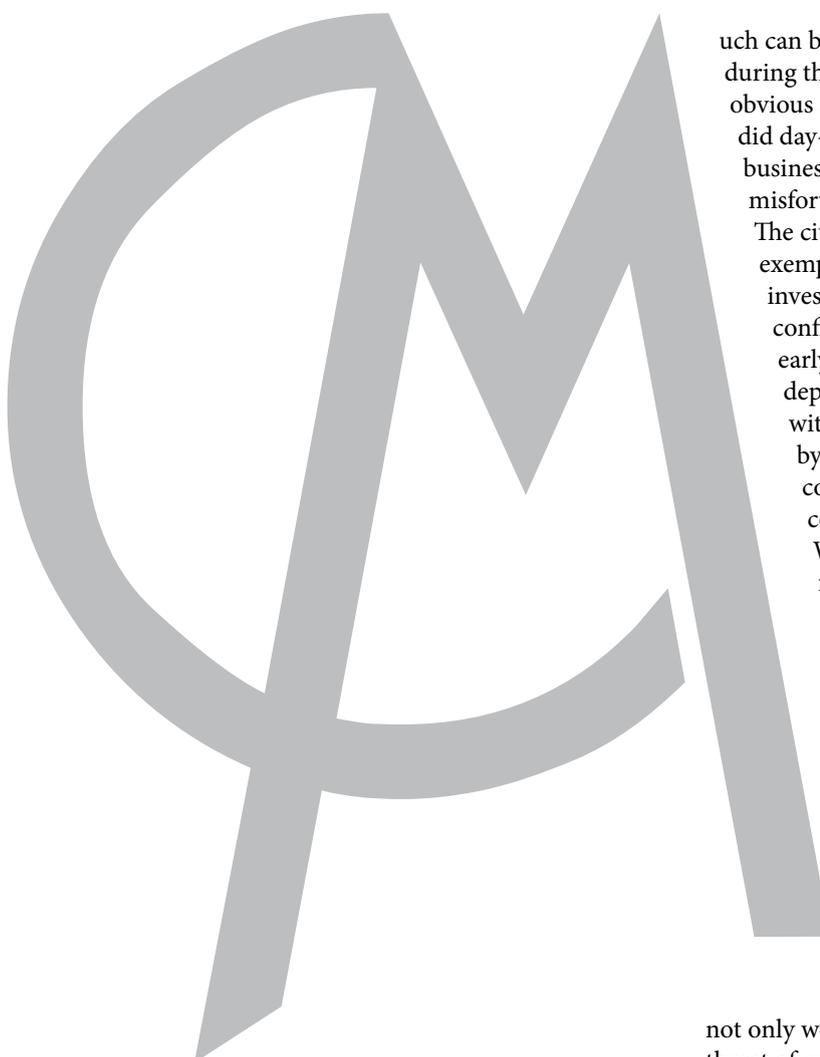
Hence, we are keen for our CIP clients to spend time in and engage with Antigua & Barbuda throughout their lives. Many have a lot to offer as citizens, and Antigua & Barbuda has much to offer them in return. Safe to say a pied-a-terre is an ideal toe-in-the-water plan for clients to begin their lifelong relationship with the country.

Here are my top recommendations to our citizenship clients when assessing pied-a-terre options:

1. Location – it’s still the number one consideration!
2. Developer – who are they and what is their experience?
3. Quality assurance – this also relates to the developer. Can you perhaps view existing buildings by video or visit before you buy?
4. Operations – what’s the deal? Do you get to use the property every year for a period? Is the rental formula fair and well thought out? Does the operator have any experience in the Caribbean specifically?
5. Exit – will this property appeal to a traditional vacationer when you come to resell?
6. What level of commission is your agent being paid? Don’t be afraid to ask.

Overall, my best recommendation if you are considering applying for citizenship in 2021 is to either buy a share of a higher-end villa (make sure you also enquire as to the total number of shares to assess value), or a smaller one- or two-bedroom condo. However please satisfy yourself that it is a property that will appeal to vacationers from the markets that have the easiest air access.

Given the benefits to both country and citizen, I am hopeful we will see many more ‘pieds-a-terre’ purchased



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

by

Kevin Hosam
Managing Director and Licensed Agent
Exclusive Concierge

A SILVER LINING FOR CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT DURING THE PANDEMIC

uch can be said about the recent hardships faced by many during the ongoing pandemic. As the world came to an obvious standstill with so many restrictions in place, so did day-to-day professions, with the exception of essential businesses. The pandemic has without a doubt caused great misfortune and chaos to our daily lives.

The citizenship by investment (CBI) industry was no exemption to the ensuing chaos. Present and prospective investors understandably grew uncertain and spending confidence dwindled as the pandemic unfolded. In the early months of the pandemic, many governments, dependent on revenues from CBI programmes, along with the Citizenship by Investment Units, intervened by making joint attempts to secure what would be their countries' lifeline of foreign investment for months to come.

When we come upon grey skies and gloomy days, we find it difficult to see the silver lining that lies therein; nevertheless, the pandemic has not been all bad for the CBI industry, and here are a few silver lining moments that I would like to highlight.

IMPROVEMENT IN SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

CBI units that did not have online submission portals quickly implemented this feature to facilitate application submissions without compromising COVID-19 protocols. The use of the portals allowed unit personnel to work from safe spaces as everything submitted for review was done digitally. In so doing, not only were essential staff removed from the immediate threat of exposure to the virus, but the portals benefitted both Licensed Agents such as ourselves as well as the CBI applicants by allowing them to start submitting applications sooner than before. The convenience provided by portals improved efficiency and made it easier to track and monitor applications in some cases.



“Though initial change is uncomfortable, the decisions we make today, such as getting a second citizenship, may change our lives and our future for the best.”

FASTER PROCESSING TIMES

With the implementation of the online submission portal came faster processing. In some CBI programmes, the entire spectrum of documents was required for a file to be accepted by the country’s CBI Unit. With the new online submission feature, licensed agents are now allowed to submit applications sooner, with fewer supporting documents, and commence the process of assessing the applications, as long as the documents required for due diligence are included. This was especially beneficial for applicants in countries where certain documents were challenging to gather. With a more convenient submission process, applicants can now focus on obtaining and submitting their remaining documents at the same time as their applications are being processed. By allowing due diligence documents to be submitted and the due diligence process to commence without all of the documents, Caribbean CIPs have been able to reduce their processing time significantly.

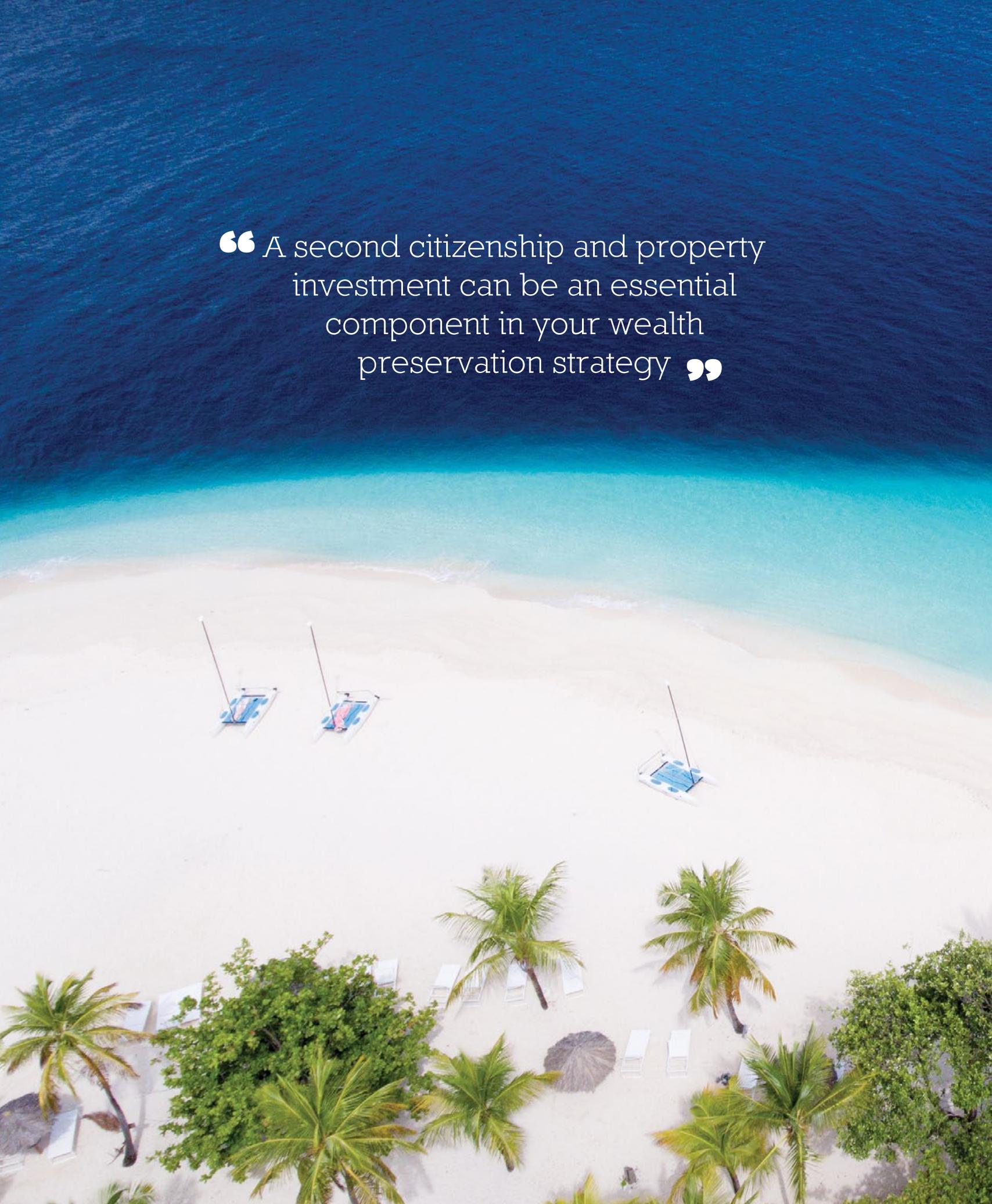
VALUE ADDED INCENTIVES

CBI programs are now making adjustments to become more competitive! Conscious that investors are watching their spending, Caribbean CIPs have begun adding value to their citizenship offers. The most noticeable of these COVID relief specials was the adjustment of application costs, as some countries reduced the investment threshold – particularly for families. Another was the expansion of the definition of dependents – including the types of family members one could apply with, as well as those one could add retroactively to an application. The addition of money-back offers in the form of government bonds was also introduced to incentivise investments. With increased concern for one’s future and the future of loved ones, it is difficult to find options within CBI programmes that cater to unique households. However, the amended definition has relieved many concerns and heightened the appeal for second citizenship.

REALISING THE NEED FOR A SECOND HOME AND NATIONALITY.

The most noticeable of all silver linings has been the realisation by individuals that they could potentially become hostage in countries where they have no civil liberties and where there may be social, economic and political unrest that hinders their quality of life. In some countries, the continued devaluation of currencies amidst increasing fiscal controls reduces international buying power and personal net worth. In others, health systems lack the capacity to deal with health crises of similar or worse proportions. Being confined to these countries and their circumstances can be a frightening thought for many and is the reason many have come to realise the security and greater value achieved by gaining a second citizenship from a smaller country. As for first-world citizens in countries that were greatly affected by the pandemic, having a second citizenship could result in less discrimination and delays when crossing borders. Now, more than ever before, having a plan B option, such as a second citizenship, is greatly appreciated.

These silver linings have only reaffirmed what I have learned first-hand throughout my years of experience within this CBI industry, which is that in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity! This remains true today as there are greater advantages on the consumers end with respect to citizenship by investment. Despite the challenges and setbacks that this pandemic has thrown our way, it is important for us to take time to look at the silver linings and determine how we can maximise the investment opportunities presented while they are available. We must keep in mind that this “new normal” may very well be a lasting change and life adjustments must be made. Though initial change is uncomfortable, the decisions we make today, such as getting a second citizenship, may change our lives and our future for the best. ●

An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The top half of the image shows deep blue ocean water transitioning to a shallow turquoise lagoon. A wide, white sandy beach occupies the middle section. Three small white sailboats with blue accents are beached on the sand. The bottom section of the image shows a lush green area with several palm trees, a thatched umbrella, and several white lounge chairs arranged on the sand.

“ A second citizenship and property investment can be an essential component in your wealth preservation strategy ”





THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

by

Anatoliy Lyetayev
Founder & CEO
Migronis Citizenship

PLAN B THROUGH FLAG THEORY

Having a plan B is always a good idea, but it has become a necessity in 2020. This year has shown that the world is more globalised than ever and what affects one country affects all others. The coronavirus pandemic has put into perspective how the newly connected world governments deal with a crisis through tighter movement controls, higher taxes to generate relief packages and medical mandates. Never before in history has it been more important to have a plan B in the form of a Residency and Citizenship by Investment (RCBI) portfolio.

Being tied to only one country is a risk that many of us do not account for when planning for future uncertainties, but it is high time that we do. According to Flag Theory, which is becoming more like a flag roadmap, we should take advantage of what each country has to offer to build a full plan B to protect our freedom and wealth. This year especially, high-net-worth individuals are considering global migration for wealth management and mobility purposes to combat the new tax laws that are sure to come, and the increase in money printing that threatens economies even further.

FLAG ROADMAP

Flag Theory is a philosophy that has entered into the realm of a practical necessity for individuals to earn income, live, invest and own real estate in different countries to protect themselves from economic and political turmoil. Freedom of movement, conducting business, and financial mobility are the main points that need to be considered and tailored to each family based on their unique needs. An individual should



“Not only does an RCBI portfolio protect against financial loss and tax burden, but it also gives a physical place your family can live during hard times.”

split the following five flags between five countries to minimise government overreach based not only on laws surrounding rights and social norms but also on economic incentives:

1. Citizenship – security and mobility
2. Residency – wealth management
3. Business – attractive business incentives
4. Assets - low passive income and capital gains tax
5. Cost of living – commerce supportive tax structures

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Let's look at Antigua & Barbuda as an example. Antigua has the second most powerful passport in the Caribbean. It offers citizens visa-free travel to over 150 countries including the UK and the Schengen area as well as an opportunity to get a US visa. This easily covers the freedom of movement aspect of Flag Theory. The island requires only a five-day stay within the first five years for a new citizen, which is a great option for those who want to plant their residence flag elsewhere.

Antigua is also the ideal place to implement your wealth management plan. There is no world income, capital gains, or inheritance tax, making it a great choice to hold assets like real estate or even move there with the whole family. A real estate investment for the CBI programme starts at just US\$200,000.

As the world changes, so do our risk management strategies. An evolution of Flag Theory includes two more flags that should be mentioned briefly - digital security and digital assets, namely cryptocurrency. Even abroad, identity, intellectual property, and intangible assets need to be protected because the internet has no borders. As for cryptocurrency, it is a hedge against the inflation crisis that is looming due to an unstable reserve currency accelerated by this year's world events.

PLANNING AHEAD

Just one year ago, having a second citizenship was a great hedge against a crisis, but the pandemic has highlighted the need for more than one option. Not only does an RCBI portfolio protect against financial loss and tax burden, but it also gives a physical place your family can live during hard times. Who wouldn't want to spend a three-month lockdown on a Caribbean island?

For those who already had and implemented their plan B this year, the losses have been minimal, and most importantly, they had a choice of where to weather the crisis. Freedom is all about choice after all. Those who have not implemented any diversification of States into their life planning should seek a reputable RBCI consultant who can help with the details, down to calculating the numbers. All the options should be meticulously inspected before making any decisions. It is not a question of if, but when another crisis occurs, and preparedness is the best way to protect yourself and even profit from it.

Once established, this system will not only grant you peace of mind but will set you up for true financial freedom. ●



“ Explore, experience, live
and invest in Antigua & Barbuda ”



COVER
STORY

**MOSAIC OF CULTURES:
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA'S
BLENDED HERITAGE**

One of the first things a visitor to the Caribbean will observe is that we are an incredible melting pot of people and cultures from around the world. This has resulted in an amazing array of cultural expressions in all forms including food, music, language, and every other type of artistic expression. Interestingly, while each island has its own unique flavor, there is essentially an underlying pan-Caribbean base in which our cultures today are rooted. This base is our common history, environment and belief systems that began with the first peoples to call these islands home. Over 4,500 years ago, pre-Columbian people lived on and visited the island of Antigua. The first arrivals were a largely unknown Archaic Age people who exploited the high quality and abundant flint from Long Island for tool making. Our earliest radiocarbon dates for their settlements cluster between 3100 BC and 450 BC. They were replaced by another migration of Arawakan speaking people from South America who were well established on Antigua & Barbuda by 250 BC. Their descendants were the ones who met the Spanish explorers and suffered the impact of that encounter. The newly arriving Europeans saw them as idol-worshipping savages, cannibals and fit only to be used as slaves so had little interest in documenting their culture. Fortunately, some observations were made by a few priests and historians, although the written accounts were published a considerable time after discovery and colonisation. Over the past fifty years, archaeologists and historians have begun investigations to shed light on the pre-Columbian people and cultures that lived on Antigua and the Eastern Caribbean for over 5,000 years.

Today when we think of Antiguan/Caribbean culture, we immediately focus on music, carnival and food; primarily intangible aspects. We certainly never consider what the first people on Antigua and our neighbouring islands have contributed to our development and way of life. Recent genetic research in Puerto Rico, has determined that most people there have some Amerindian DNA in their genes. This would be similar on other islands that had pre-Columbian (Kalinago) populations at the time of settlement and conquest, including many of the Leeward and Windward islands, from Guadeloupe to St Vincent.

In a more tangible sense, they have also contributed to Caribbean culture in other ways. Many of the fruit, vegetables, and plants used for medicinal, food and other commercial purposes today were brought to these islands, including Antigua, by them. These plants include, tobacco, cotton, sweet potato, cassava, corn, varieties of peppers, beans and squash, pineapple, sugar-apple, soursop, papaya, cocoa, guava, and others. As we enjoy these “Caribbean” products daily, we do not think of where they originated, but these essential ingredients, that form the core of our cultural heritage identity, were brought to the islands by these seafaring Amerindian peoples.

From an anthropological perspective, migrant and seafaring people bring with them their traditions, including familiar foods, to ensure their survival and to retain their sense of cultural identity and practices. The small islands of the Eastern Caribbean are often described as “stepping stones in a linear formation” which facilitated the easy movement along the island chain by water which connected the three diverse geographic and cultural regions of North, South and Central America. The isolation

From an anthropological perspective, migrant and seafaring people bring with them their traditions, including familiar foods, to ensure their survival and to retain their sense of cultural identity and practices.



of these islands resulted in a narrow diversity of plant and animal species. No large land mammals were found in any significant number -with the exception of a now extinct giant rodent in the agouti family. These did not exist on Antigua but a variety of smaller animals, including iguanas and the rice rat were numerous. There is good archaeological evidence, however, showing that the Arawak brought animals that they depended on for subsistence or as pets, including unique species of dogs, agouti, opossum, racoons, and varieties of birds. Although most of these exotic animals still exist on other islands, they no longer do on Antigua, except in the archaeological record.

Other contributions to our cultural heritage include the Arawak symbol for the “hurcan” deity, which was a circle with curving arms, one turned up and the other down. This remains the symbol for the hurricane that is used today. Another surviving cultural tradition is the making and use of hollowed out logs as seacraft. While this practice has been lost on Antigua, “canoas” are still being made and used on our neighbouring islands. The hammock or “hamaca” is also a part of our culture, along with the “barbacoa” or barbecue.

With the arrival into the Americas and the Caribbean by European explorers, the great trans-Atlantic exchange began. For Antigua, sugar estates were established within 25 years of settlement by the British and with it, large numbers of people were imported as forced labourers; first the Irish, Scottish and Portuguese as indentured servants, then enslaved Africans. The flow worked both ways and soon corn (maize), cassava (manioc), tobacco, cotton and other plants were adopted as economic staples in Africa and Europe. To feed the masses of enslaved workers, the planters imported salted cod, herring, shad fish and corn from North America. They also provided small plots of lands for the enslaved to grow food and introduced African and Asian plants including mangoes, tamarind, breadfruit, okra, eddo and yams. Horses, donkeys and oxen were imported from North America and Europe as work animals, along with consumable animals including sheep, goats, cattle, pigs and exotics such as deer and an assortment of birds. The varieties of edible plants and animals were not available for all within the highly structured society and the enslaved workers and low ranks in the military were supplied with the salted, or pickled imported fish, corn or peas.

To improve their diet, the enslaved workers who had the opportunity to do so, grew vegetables and raised pigs which they sold or exchanged at the Sunday market. Recent archaeological research on Antigua at Shirley Heights and Betty’s Hope focused on comparisons between the diet of the enslaved workers and the planters, the enlisted or regular soldiers and their officers. Evidence found that whilst the military officers had more available meat, some of it fresh, the soldiers had to rely on their rations of poorer quality portions of meat that was imported in barrels, often old and heavily brined. Vegetables were usually traditional English, ground peas, corn, or barley.

In comparison, the planters ate well including a large variety of meats and fish. Many were exotic species, such as deer, turtles, guinea fowl, beef and mutton. The enslaved were given rations of herring, salted cod and shad but there is evidence from recent excavations at Betty’s Hope that they supplemented the rations with a variety of locally caught fish and shellfish. They would have relied on their starch vegetables such as eddo, yams, cassava and the leafy greens, both grown and foraged. Fresh meat was a very rare treat and came from animals that they raised or obtained. From these rations emerged some truly creative dishes that are today our national dishes. The simple red herring, shad and ground corn



are today's fungi and saltfish; ducana made of grated sweet potato and coconut, eddo's, yams, okra, and leafy greens flavored with poor quality meat, pig tails and snout, and pepper-pot; all of which are deeply rooted in our cultural traditions. Influences from the East Indian indentured workers left us curry and roti while the pre-Columbian cassava bread evolved into the bambula bread that supported field workers for generations. In sum, Antiguan cuisine is an evolved form of the basic diet that was fed to the poor and enslaved workers. Their creativity developed it into a tasty nutritious food that is now served to all, including the elite.

Another cultural tradition that traces directly back to West Africa include the manufacture and use of clay vessels for cooking, with the clay pots from Seaview Farm fabricated using the same styles and methods as those in West Africa. The silver "slave" bracelets worn by many today are reflections of the manilla brass ones used in West Africa, whereas the popular madras fabrics from India, which were taken to Africa in the 14th century by the Portuguese, have become our national dress.

Musically, drumming was and still is a major African tradition. It was used for entertainment and communications and on several islands it remains a popular and important cultural tradition, but on Antigua, where it was heavily repressed and banned, drumming is not as common or popular. One art form that has become a core cultural tradition is calypso or benna music. Calypso music not only entertains, but the lyrics often carry information; it can be serious political or social commentary or hilariously entertaining; this tradition is deeply rooted in Afro-Antiguan culture.

Antiguan cultural heritage reflects its history of centuries of use by diverse peoples, each with vastly different cultures and traditions. The outcome was the creation of a unique cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible. Although somewhat unique, we share many similarities with our neighbouring islands that had a similar history that creates our pan-Caribbean culture.

Tangible architecture or built heritage is often heralded as our cultural history, but it is the intangible culture, such as food, music and language that has deeper roots in time that links all the people who called this island home.

By Reg Murphy



THE FOLKLORE AND HERITAGE OF ANTIGUA'S COAL-POTS

The legacy and heritage of the motherland, Africa, is to be found everywhere in the twin islands. Whether it's the language used in people's households, the music, the art, the food - like the national dish fungi and pepperpot - to the vessels themselves that cooked this traditional fare.

Although today they are often relegated to the back of a dusty cupboard, most households in Antigua still keep an earthenware coal-pot in case of a power cut or gas outage. But these simple cooking pots have been so much more than merely something in which to prepare food. The family moments sitting around these pots, heated by hot coals, while their food was cooking, stir up magical memories for the older generation in Antigua. This was the moment when legends, folklore and ghost stories were passed from the elders to the younger generations and the moment of sharing stories and proverbs to teach children the important life lessons.

Made almost exclusively by women, without a wheel and baked in open fires, these coal-pots have been made for generations, just like their ancestors did for generations before them back in their African homelands. With similar pots being found on other Caribbean islands where enslaved West Africans were brought, there is no doubt as to their origins.

There are still a handful of women on Antigua who possess the skills to craft these pots from natural clay and sell them in the colourful island markets. It is a hot job, but one which these women want to preserve as a legacy to those magical coal-pot evenings.



WARRI – THE MOST ANCIENT OF GAMES

While games like chess' chequered board are instantly recognised all over the globe, Warri's wooden board with its 12 hollows containing seeds is rather less recognisable - depending on where you come from of course. Those who hail from the African continent will recognise it immediately as a type of Mancala pit-and-pebble game. Thought to be one of world's oldest games, derived from a type of abacus used in accounting, Mancala originated in Sudan and consequently spread throughout western Africa. Naturally, the West African slaves who were brought to the Caribbean in the 17th century devised their own format of the game to play during any moment of downtime they may

have been able to snatch.

Although it was played in many of the islands in the region, it is now mainly concentrated in Antigua & Barbuda and Barbados, with the twin islands having probably the strongest culture of the game, including its own National Warri Association for aficionados, of which there are many. The game is based on counting skills, with the two Warri contestants facing each other on an elongated wooden board with each of the 12 hollows containing four seeds - or "horse-nickers" as they are most commonly known - from the Guilandina tree. With the object of the game being to capture the majority of the seeds, the game's simplicity is very

deceptive with skill and strategic decision-making needed to win - just as in all the best board games the world over. The uniqueness and cultural importance of Warri hasn't been lost on the international community. As the younger generation's fascination with technology means that traditional games are falling at the wayside, UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund has earmarked the game of Warri in Antigua & Barbuda as a living heritage to be protected for future generations to come.

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS A VISITOR TO THE CARIBBEAN WILL OBSERVE IS THAT WE ARE AN INCREDIBLE MELTING POT OF PEOPLE AND CULTURES FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

LIFE AND JAH ARE ONE IN THE SAME

When people think of Rastafarians, it is often iconic Reggae singer Bob Marley who springs to mind. Indeed, Jamaican Marley was probably the first person to popularise Rastafarianism and bring it to the knowledge of the masses. Although developed in Jamaica itself in the 1930s, there are an estimated 700,000 to 1,000,000 Rastas across the world, with many believers and different communities living in Antigua & Barbuda.

So what exactly do Rastafarians believe in? In short, a true Rastafarian is a peace-loving and kind Afro-centric person who is no ways money orientated.

Rasta beliefs are based on a specific interpretation of the Bible with the core principle being that a single God Jah partially resides within everyone. Many also focus on Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, who reigned from 1930 to 1974, believing that he was the second coming of Jesus and Jah incarnate, although others view him



as a human prophet who recognised the inner divinity in every individual.

What is certain, is like so much in Antigua & Barbuda and the wider Caribbean, there is a strong link to Africa and the slavery to which their forefathers were submitted. Rastafarianism teaches that the black African diaspora are exiles living in Babylon - Babylon being the oppressive system of the materialistic Western world, which is held responsible for many ills, including those that their enslaved ancestors underwent with their repressors. Zion, as a contrast, is the utopian place of unity, peace and freedom. It is to Zion that Rastas aspire.

With their spiritual connection to the Earth, the use of cannabis is considered a sacrament with great healing powers and allows the user to find a personal introspection and discover their inner divinity or "I and I" consciousness.



Tangible architecture or built heritage is often heralded as our cultural history, but it is the intangible culture, such as food, music and language that has deeper roots in time that links all the people who called this island home.



AH YA MI BORN We are all one in Antigua

When visitors travel around Antigua and eavesdrop on the locals speaking, they are sometimes puzzled as to the melodic language they are hearing – so similar to English, but yet so different. What they are hearing is the Creole language that is used in nearly every aspect of life in Antigua. Although English is the official language, most people use creole to talk amongst themselves.

The sugar plantation colonies on Antigua and other Caribbean islands were pioneers of the European-based manufacturing operations which were vital to the industrial revolution. It was in this environment that the worlds of Africa, the Americas and Europe collided. The old indigenous languages such as Kaliphuna died out at the same time as the indigenous people at the hands of the colonists and it was at this time that the new creole people and languages emerged from the interaction between the European – such as the British colonists and Portuguese servants on Antigua - and the West African enslaved people.

Indeed, wherever you travel over the Caribbean, you will hear their own variety of Creole. And in fact, the syntactic structure of these languages is very similar, whether they are the French-vocabulary creoles as spoken in Dominica and St Lucia, or in the Spanish/Portuguese creole spoken in Aruba and Curaçao or the English-lexicon creole of Antigua & Barbuda or Jamaica. There is no doubt that the resemblance is rooted in the language of the West Indian slaves regardless of the nationality of their colonists.

So, what are the characteristics of Antiguan creole?

There is hardly a sentence without the use of pronouns, articles or adverbs (the, this, them they, their) and one of the best-known features of Creole English is the fact that sentences generally do not have verbs. Another curiosity is that in Antiguan creole, when the people use past tense, they use the word *min* to indicate past actions: for example: *I min go* means “I went”.

Poun o fretment nu pay fo gill o debtment	Worrying does not improve a bad situation.
A word betta dan a wink fo a bline horse	Use the right motivation for each person
Moon run faas but day ketch im	Your actions and misdeeds will eventually have consequences.
A no wantin tongue mek cattle can't talk	it's sometimes wisest to keep one's mouth shut.
Dutty water cool hot iron	Everything has its use.
Ah wha g'wan? or Wah u ah say?	What's up?
Eh tase good or Dat dey bang good	It tastes good.
Me yah (literally “I am here” meaning “I’m still alive so I’m good.”)	I’m doing well.

The earliest settlements on Antigua date to 2900 BC.

After colonisation, there was a significant creolisation of church music influenced by calypso, reggae and African American gospel music.

The Arawaks arrived around 1200 BC. They introduced agriculture and the Antigua Black pineapple.

Today, over 100 nationalities live in Antigua & Barbuda bringing their own unique cultures to the mix.



Before Christopher Columbus discovered the islands in 1493, Antigua & Barbuda had the Carib names of Wa'ladli and Wa'omoni respectively.

The Caribs arrived in the islands around 1500 BC.

The majority of Antiguan & Barbudans speak Antiguan creole, making the islands bilingual.

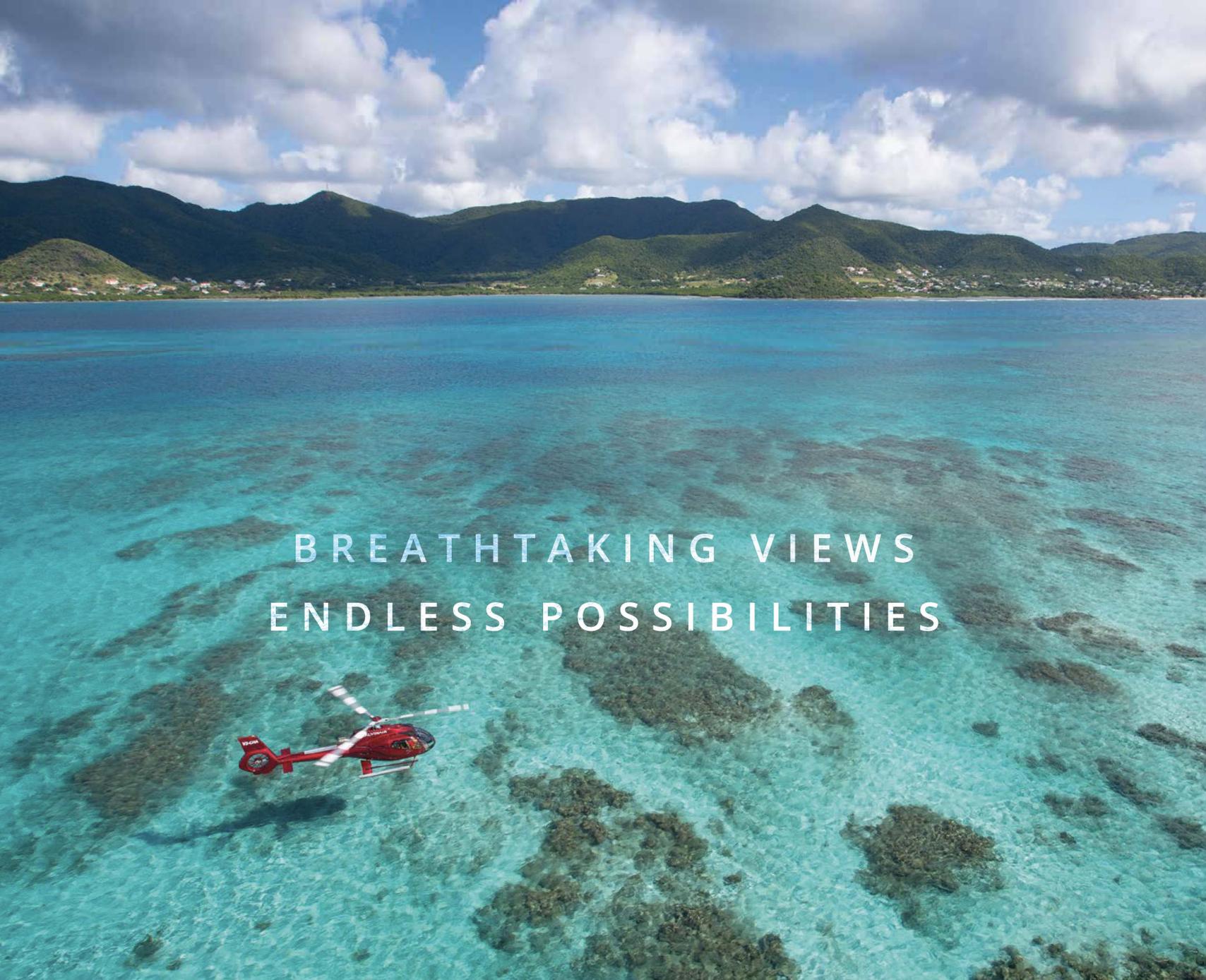
The British colonised the islands in 1632 and brought African slaves to work the sugar plantations.

Calypso music was created as a way for slaves to communicate with each other when activities were forbidden during the 18th century.

Antigua & Barbuda were the first islands in the British Caribbean to abolish slavery in 1834. The yearly Carnival celebrates the emancipation of slavery.

Antigua's heritage is deeply rooted in African culture merged with colonialism with influences from the Amerindians (Carib and Arawak).

Other nationalities who were added into the mix were the Portuguese, Syrians and the Irish.



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Braimah Kanneh-Mason

V

Violinist Braimah is the second eldest of seven highly talented siblings – Isata, Sheku, Konya, Jeneba, Aminata and Mairatu – ranging in age from 24 to 11 years old, who all play either the violin, piano or cello. The family have just released their first album on Decca of Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals entitled "Carnival". Although Braimah's cello-playing brother Sheku brought the family to the global spotlight with his performance at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in 2018, award-winning Braimah is highly sought after playing with several symphony orchestras and performing all over the UK. He has also crossed over to the pop music genre thanks to his collaboration with the well-known band, Clean Bandit, including on their number one single. Braimah managed to find a moment in his busy schedule to talk to The Citizen about his Antiguan heritage and love for music.

You and your family have just released your debut album "Carnival". This isn't just a musical album - can you tell us more about the collaborations and how it came about?

It was a celebration of us playing together as a family and recording an album together at Abbey Road was fantastic and inspiring. It was wonderful to have the author Michael Morpurgo's support, energy and enthusiasm as well as his amazing poems - and Mariatu felt especially happy to be reading Grandpa Christmas with him. It was also lovely to virtually meet the actress Olivia Colman. We enjoyed watching them work together for the readings and it provided a welcome break from the four-day recording which had been long and intense!

Although you and your brothers and sisters collaborate regularly is there any sibling rivalry between you?

Growing up we always played lots of chamber music together and so there was a feeling of collaboration rather than competition. If there was any competition, it was positive because we spurred each other on and of course, an industrious environment encourages you to do the same.





I THINK WE ALL NEED TO
CHAMPION MUSIC THAT
MOVES US; WHATEVER IT IS.



Your paternal grandparents are Antiguan, and you visit the island every year. How important are your Antiguan and African heritages to you?

Antigua is a huge part of our childhood and we try to visit every year to see our grandparents, although sadly we were unable to go this year. Because of all our relatives there, the island has been a big influence and from a young age we've been involved in its culture, food, and of course music. Sierra Leone has not been so easy to visit until relatively recently and we are hoping to visit for the first time as a family next year.

How do you and your family support the Antigua & Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO)?

We are extremely happy and proud to have been involved with the ABYSO since its beginning and we all enjoy teaching and education. Ever since we came to Antigua to play alongside the local people, the Antiguanians have inspired us. I have been delighted to work with a young violinist in the orchestra when I'm in Antigua and recently with online lessons. We are working on Massenet's Meditation which hopefully she will be performing as a solo with the orchestra in April in Antigua under the baton of Marin Alsop!

Having played with Clean Bandit, how different are the worlds of pop and classical music?

Naturally, acoustic and electronic music are very different. With Clean Bandit, it was very different having to play over the top of a backing track coming through an earpiece. Also, performing in huge arenas and outdoor concerts is pretty different to the typical classical venue! At the time a piece of music is written, it isn't composed to be contained in a labelled box, it's more than likely written in one of the styles of that era. Whether it's a Viennese Waltz or a pop song, the aim is probably to innovate and explore. I think we

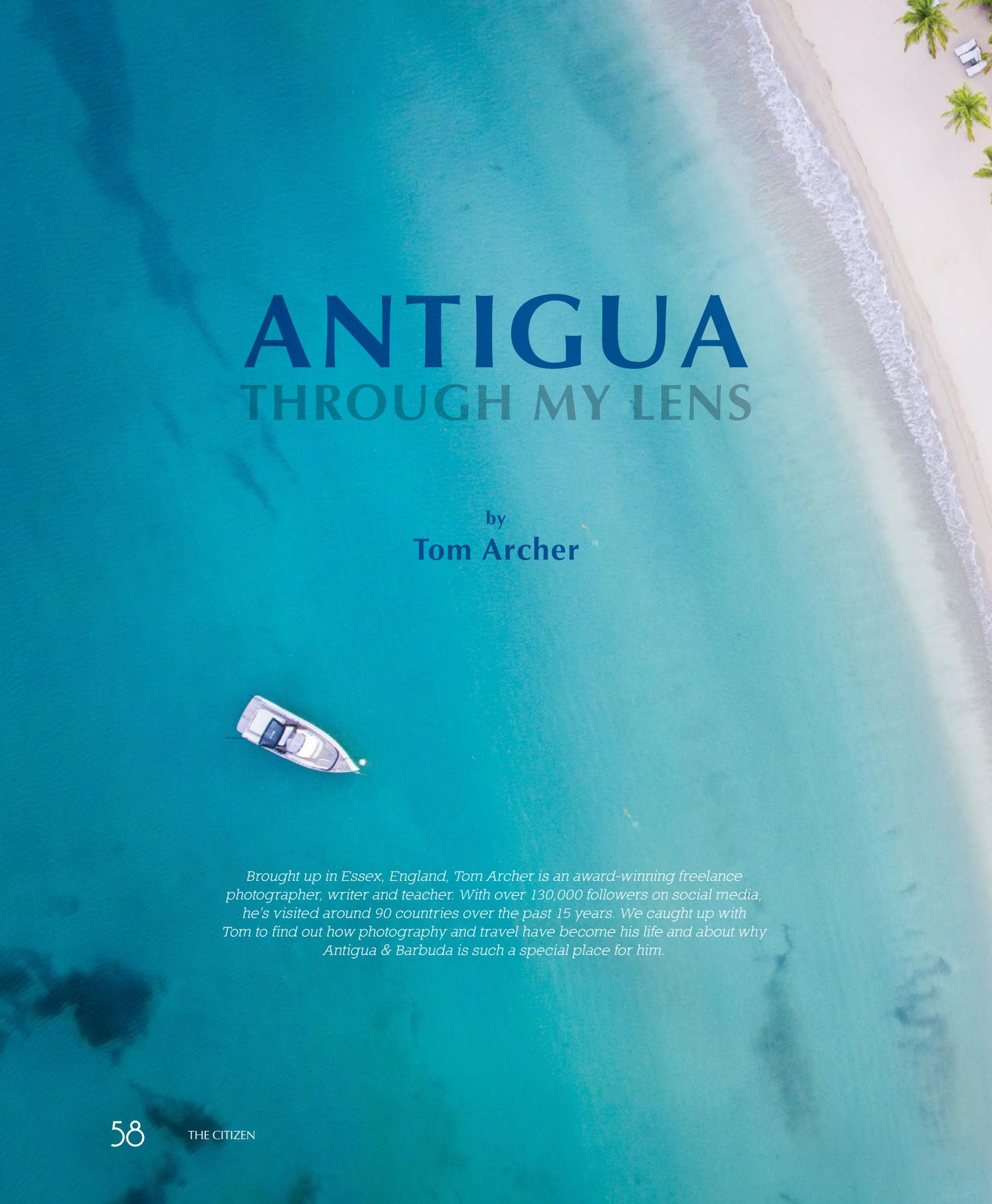
all need to champion music that moves us; whatever it is.

There are many complaints that classical music is white and elitist. How important is it for you all to show the world that classical music needs diversity?

The more diverse the industry is, the more it will flourish. It's a shame that something as versatile as music seems to be restricted to a few people and we hope to champion classical music's relevance to all. We hope that instrumental lessons can be more widely available in our schools and we will keep fighting for this.

When you visit Antigua, what is your typical day there?

When we are there to play, we normally spend the morning performing with the schools and the afternoons working with the orchestras. When we are there on holiday, we stay with our grandparents in Hodges Bay and typically spend most of the day on the beach or in the gardens. My favourite spot on the island is Darkwood Beach. ●



ANTIGUA THROUGH MY LENS

by
Tom Archer

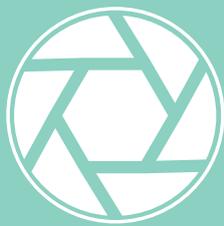
Brought up in Essex, England, Tom Archer is an award-winning freelance photographer, writer and teacher. With over 130,000 followers on social media, he's visited around 90 countries over the past 15 years. We caught up with Tom to find out how photography and travel have become his life and about why Antigua & Barbuda is such a special place for him.







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To view more of Tom Archer check out
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How did you get into photography?

My main passion started in my early twenties. I had started a career as a police officer, but as I wanted to see the world and wasn't allowed to take a career break, I left, bought a camera and embarked on two-and-a-half-year journey around the globe. During that time I fell in love with photography and when I arrived back home in the UK, I knew that's what I wanted to do with my life.

You visited Antigua & Barbuda as a child and again 17 years later. How was it viewing the islands again with adult's eyes?

It was really interesting to return as an adult and visit a lot of the same places I had seen so long ago. Antigua was one of the first places I travelled to outside Europe and it felt very adventurous. After visiting so many countries as an adult, I have to say that Antigua is still one of the most friendly and hospitable places I have been.

What would you say is special about Antigua & Barbuda? Did you find a special spot?

Aside from the jaw-dropping beauty of the landscape and the beaches (which are obviously a big pull for me as a photographer), it's the hospitality and friendliness of locals and feeling so welcome that stands out for me.

What is the best thing for you about travelling?

I am obviously in love with nature and being out in these epic landscapes and spending time in them is extremely special. But just as importantly, it's the relationships you make with the people you meet which is what made me first fall in love with travel. It's eye opening and comforting to feel connected to the world in that way.

How has Instagram changed things for photography?

That's a good question! I think it's such a crazy community, and with almost every photographer in the world on there, it has made it easier than ever to be inspired, to collaborate and to encourage creativity. It has really raised the bar though, and I think you really have to strive to stand out nowadays, which can be both a good and bad thing!

You won the Astronomy Photography of the Year award this year. How important are accolades to you?

They aren't really important at all. It's always nice to be recognised and it's flattering, but I am a photographer because I love the art; I love where it takes me and the people I meet. In fact, it was the first landscape photography competition I had ever entered after my wife encouraged me to enter some. It has led to some fantastic opportunities and meeting some interesting and inspiring people.

Where are you off to next?

I wish I had something on the cards right now! As soon as the world starts to open up again, I will be making plans though! High on my list is a trip back to Iceland in the summer, and I would also love to visit some national parks in the US. ●



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NEW CITIZEN

OYELEKE TOYE

Two of the newest citizens of Antigua & Barbuda are Nigerian Oyeleke Toyé and his wife Adebola. Originally a chemical and polymer engineer, through building and running businesses in Nigeria, Oyeleke has become a successful entrepreneur in a number of fields over the last 16 years. Having recently relocated with his young family from the most populated country in Africa to the tranquil and beautiful twin-island nation where they bought and reformed a property in Jolly Beach, we caught up with him to find out why they became Antigua & Barbuda passport holders.

“Diversifying one’s life is like insurance and you should get it before you need it, because when you need it, it is usually too late to get it.”

Moving from Nigeria with a population of over 200 million people to one with barely 100,000, how have you and your family found adapting to life in a small community?

Being less in a hurry, we appreciate nature and are more aware of the people around us. We have adapted well and are loving our new life.

Why did you choose to take a second citizenship? And why Antigua & Barbuda?

The first thought of having somewhere else to go if necessary, arose in 2015 during the build-up to the general elections in Nigeria, which were quite intense.

The idea came up again in 2017 for other reasons. It was sometimes stressful to get visas for the places our family were visiting on vacation and we also wanted to spend some of our vacation time in a community that we felt part of instead of a hotel. I also began to want to expand my business globally.

When researching how to legally get a second citizenship, citizenship by investment (CBI) interested me as I didn’t have the time to meet the residency requirement for most citizenship by naturalisation options. And after comparing all the CBI programmes, we concluded that Antigua & Barbuda was the best for us.

When did you first visit the islands and what was your first impression?

We first visited in May 2019, less than a month after we became citizens. At that point, we were not looking to move here.

Our first impression when we landed at the airport was “modern airport, this is a real country.” But during our taxi journey to English Harbour through the sparsely populated villages, we wondered if this was really the “paradise” the taxi driver had welcomed us to.

By our third day in the country, any doubts we had were totally cleared up and replaced by an urgent desire to make Antigua our main home. The people are nice and friendly, the views are too good to be true, there is peace and calm. We later brought the kids for a vacation and they too absolutely loved it. We were all sold.

How important is it for you that Antigua is so well connected to major travel hubs like New York and London?

This was one of the factors in selecting Antigua in the first place. Having active businesses in Nigeria and business

partners around the world means that I have to move around frequently. The fact that it is easy to connect to almost anywhere just by one or two flights on major airlines is a big plus.

Are you also looking at business opportunities in Antigua & Barbuda?

Absolutely. One of the reasons I decided to get a second citizenship was to diversify and expand my business globally. I think Antigua & Barbuda presents a good opportunity.

I am looking at opportunities for tech-enabled businesses in the tourism, entertainment, real estate and shopping sectors and as the crypto space is coming alive here, I am interested in that too. There may also be a gap in developing capacity for the tech revolution going on all around the world. I would like to be a part of an effort to raise a generation of young Antiguan & Barbudan software engineers who will go on to build not just digital solutions for the twin islands, but big global tech companies with roots in the country.

What advantages do you feel your children have by growing up in Antigua?

The biggest advantage is that they are going to grow up as well-rounded and educated global individuals thanks to their experiences with people from all over the world here in Antigua.

Having kids of multiple nationalities attending their school, Island Academy, further exposes them to many cultures which I believe is a great thing.

As a consultant at Citizens International advising West African high-net-worth individuals on how to become global citizens, what is the most important piece of advice that you find yourself giving to clients?

The most important piece of advice is that diversifying one’s life is like insurance and you should get it before you need it, because when you need it, it is usually too late to get it. I also tell them that the starting point should be obtaining a second citizenship, and Antigua & Barbuda citizenship is one of the most desirable ones to have.

Where are your favourite places on the island?

We like to go to the beaches and so far, we have been to about seven and they are all breath-taking. The view from Shirley Heights is to die for and there is just something about driving through Fig Tree Drive. ●



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ALL HANDS BACK ON DECK

Nothing feels more like freedom than the wind in your hair, powering through turquoise translucent waters and deciding where to drop anchor to have a secluded picnic on a beach.



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Whether you choose a sailing yacht or motor yacht, people from all over the world have been dreaming about this for the past year. And now with the yachting season hotting up in the twin islands, that dream is becoming a reality again for those who just aren't truly living without being out on the water.

2020 hasn't been a normal year by any stretch of the imagination, but in Antigua & Barbuda protocols are in place and the islands are very much open for business and that includes for the yachting sector. December is traditionally when the boats start arriving after leaving the waters of the Mediterranean where they've been based for the summer. And it seems that this year is no exception with sailing-hub, English Harbour, beginning to get that true yachtie buzz about it. According to Eloise Green of Anchor Concierge, in a normal year their company alone can expect to receive 250 or 300 yachts per season, and although their numbers are down slightly on an average year, as to be expected, the 200 vessels expected is still a very respectable number.

So, why are the twin islands so compelling for sailors and yachties? Well, you've only got to take a look at some photos of the islands to see what makes it attractive for visitors the world over. As Eloise explains, "Antigua sells itself as a sun, sea and sand destination, but it is so much more than that." And so it is with its historical UNESCO World Heritage Site and truly cosmopolitan culture. But of course, for yachties, there are other considerations at play.

The most important of course, are the perfect sailing conditions with consistent and steady north-easterly trade winds. And with the tropical, balmy climate hovering anywhere between 24-32°C, packing light is the order of the day (not forgetting the deliciously warm seas for when you decide to jump in for a refreshing dip). And with countless bays and offshore isles in which to drop anchor and live the Robinson Crusoe experience, or where you can get out the water toys to play, no day is ever the same. There are world-class restaurants, golf courses and pampering galore available in luxury spas around the island when you want some terra firma under your feet.

But getting to Antigua is also key. Its location in the middle of the Caribbean means it's easy to get there. It is certainly no coincidence that many cross-Atlantic races finish in the twin islands. And not only is there an international airport with daily flights from Europe and North America (definitely not something that every sailing destination in the Caribbean enjoys), but there are also private jet facilities to cater for charter flights when guests want to pop in at a moment's notice.

But it is even more than that. As Eloise says, "Antigua is very well organised for yachting and has been in the business for over 30 years. This means that not only do we provide all the services that superyachts need, but we have them down pat." And those services include three superyacht marinas which provide all the maintenance, logistic and provisioning services that any boat regularly requires. Top-class concierge services are on hand, where the client's whim is their command, whether it's making a restaurant booking, organising a helicopter to a neighbouring island, or getting a masseuse onboard to ease those sail-weary shoulders.

So, with so much experience to hand, it's fair to say that Antiguan know a thing or two about yachting and sailing – especially since the island's National



Sailing Academy offers sailing as part of schools' national curriculum, getting them started early. And it would also be fair to say that with the long tradition of the luxury tourism market in the twin islands, that they also know something about good service. Not only that, with Antigua known as the "Varnishing Capital of the World" their artisanal, refit and refurbishment skills are in high demand onboard. With the islands open for tourism and yachting, all the exciting and high-profile yachting events are back on track for the 2021 season. This includes, of course, the world-famous Antigua Sailing Week held at the end of April, but there are also countless other events such as RORC Caribbean 600, the impressive Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta and the Superyacht Challenge. Exciting for both participants and spectators alike, these events add to the buzzy atmosphere that the winter season always brings to this paradise island. So, give a wide berth to 2020 and take to the water in Antigua in 2021. ●

ARTS
& CULTURE



WORLD NEWS

Iran's Virus Fight

OPINION

HER STORY

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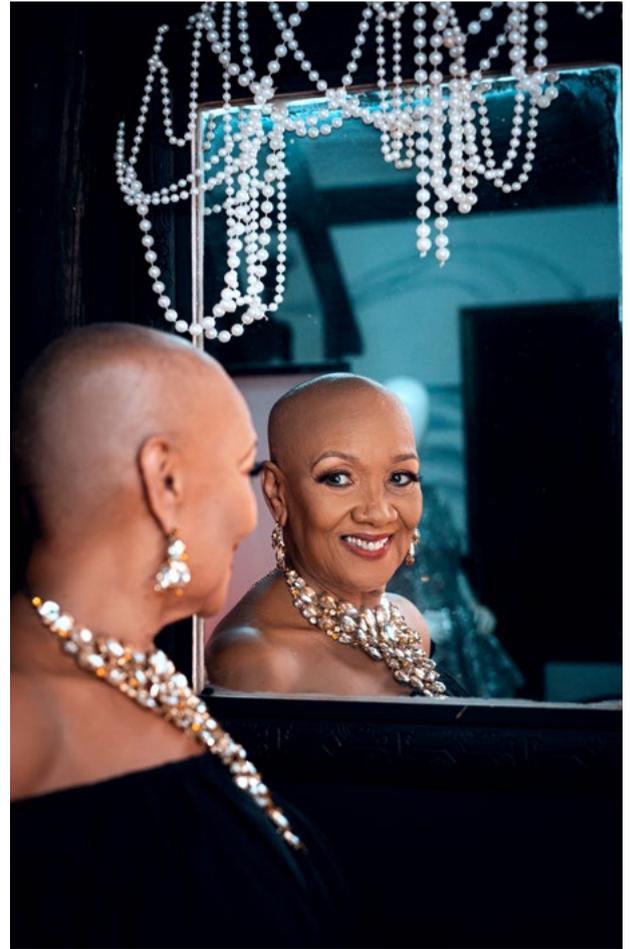
Multitalented Heather Doram, MFA, GCM, has been described as a national treasure and we would tend to agree. Both a veteran and Antigua & Barbuda's leading contemporary artist, she is also an actress, educator and activist as well as the designer behind Antigua & Barbuda's national dress.

Heather believes in art as a catalyst of change. "We have the power to raise consciousness, stimulate debate, and promote change," she says. "My work, which incorporates traditional women's techniques, like sewing, has a rich sense of place, and explores being black and female in a world that centres males." Her sense of purpose notwithstanding, Heather loses herself in the creative process, open to intuition and to "playful abandon".

She completed her Masters' at one of the US's leading art institutes, the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). There, she was named in the Who's Who in American College Universities and her art was selected to represent the college at the Venice Biennale. Not only that, but the college also purchased almost her entire thesis show for its permanent collection.

Heather's work celebrates womanliness while also acknowledging its complexity. Most emblematic of this has been her signature show Strength of a Woman. But it runs throughout all of her major series. "My pieces acknowledge femininity, sexuality, nurturing, identity, aging, women's roles in society, and the wonder of creation," the artist explains.

Her Grand Cross of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit was bestowed in 2002 for her contribution to the arts. And although she retired in 2006 after peaking as culture director, she continues to blaze a trail for other artists, especially for girls and women. ●



Heather Doram



The Village



Peace in a Pandemic



My Soul is Free

Nature



Positive Vibes





CONSERVATION

THE TROPICAL RAINFORESTS OF THE SEA



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Like undersea cities, coral reefs are teeming with life. Schools of psychedelic fish dart across shimmering gardens made up of intricate and fluorescent formations, most of which have been around for thousands of years. Although they account for just 0.1 percent of the ocean floor, the reefs provide refuge and home for nearly a quarter of all ocean species, with up to two million different animals thriving in this delicate ecosystem – a biodiversity rivalled only by that found in the Amazon. Little wonder then that coral reefs are commonly known as the rainforests of the oceans. And while we all know the urgency of protecting the rainforests on the surface of our planet, why is it just as important to preserve their underwater counterparts? According to a presentation at the Ocean Sciences Meeting in California earlier this year, 50 percent of the world's reefs have already been lost and this figure will rise to 90 percent by 2050. The clock is ticking. A spike of a mere one to two degrees Celsius causes corals to expel the symbiotic algae that lives in their tissues which produce the incredibly vivid colours corals are known for – and if this rise in temperature and other stresses continue for several weeks, bleaching occurs leading to eventual death. These underwater habitats are key indicators of global ecosystem health. By observing how coral reefs are faring, an idea can be made about what is around the corner for other less sensitive but also vulnerable ecosystems, such as river deltas, if our climate problems aren't addressed. It is due to their sensitivity that coral reefs may in fact become the world's first ecosystem to become extinct if nothing is done.

WHAT IS CORAL?

Coral polyps are tiny, soft-bodied invertebrate animals belonging to the Cnidaria family. Although they can live on their own, they usually live in colonies of hundreds of thousands of genetically identical polyps with the original polyp literally growing copies of itself. There are around 800 species of reef-building hard corals in the world and soft corals such as sea fans, sea feathers and sea whips are distinguishable from the hard variety as they resemble brightly coloured plants. Coral reefs have evolved on earth over the past 200 to 300 million years and are part of a larger ecosystem that includes mangroves and seagrass beds.



The effects of this would be devastating for nature and humankind alike. As well as providing food and shelter for a kaleidoscope of marine and fish species, coral reefs do a magnificent job of protecting our coastlines from storm surges and the power of waves, preventing shoreline erosion, and flooding of low-lying coastal areas. Additionally, a study from Princeton University suggests that healthy coral reefs provide significantly more protection from deadly tsunami waves than unhealthy or dead reefs. It is fair to say that healthy coral reefs literally keep us alive. Into the bargain, billions of dollars a year are saved in insurance and reconstruction costs from this incredible natural barrier. And it's not just lives that are in danger from the disappearing coral reefs. They also have a huge economic importance on local communities and beyond. According to the National Marine Fisheries Service, the commercial value of fisheries

from coral reefs in the US alone, is worth over US\$100 million and an estimated one billion people globally have some kind of dependence on coral reefs for food income. Furthermore, this fragile ecosystem also plays a huge role in attracting tourists. Even if your trip to Antigua & Barbuda isn't specifically to explore its reefs and marine life, where do you think that sand originally came from on that picture-perfect beach you're lying on? Where was that succulent fish that you ate for dinner last night caught? And there are many who cherry pick their holiday destination based on easy access to healthy reefs. In fact, it is thought that reefs collectively support over 70 million trips annually and in the Caribbean generate around US\$3 billion yearly in both tourism and fishery revenues. There are about 62 coral species to be found in the Caribbean Sea. Unfortunately though, its coral reefs have declined by



As well as providing food and shelter for a kaleidoscope of marine and fish species, coral reefs do a magnificent job of protecting our coastlines from storm surges and the power of waves, preventing shoreline erosion and flooding of low-lying coastal areas.

more than 50 percent since systematic monitoring began in the late 1970s. In addition to the negative effects of climate change, overfishing, coastal development, boat anchors, chemicals – such as those from suntan lotions - and other factors like the invasive lionfish who are decimating reef fish populations, are all playing their part in their rapid decline. Antigua & Barbuda is a country with environmental and sustainability practises at the forefront of many of its policies and tourism as the engine of its economy. It is no surprise then that they are taking measures to protect this most vital of habitats.

One of the many industries that directly depends on the existence of healthy coral reefs is the diving and snorkelling sector. Antigua & Barbuda has become the first English-speaking country in the western hemisphere to implement a UN programme to conserve its coral reefs through environmentally friendly guidelines for the diving and snorkelling tourism industry. Coordinated by the Reef World Foundation for the UN, the Green Fins initiative is helping the thirty or so operators who provide this type of activity to tourists in the twin islands.

As an island with fishing at its core, Barbuda's coastal and ocean ecosystems have been degraded due to overfishing in recent years. The Blue Halo initiative, launched as partnership between the Barbuda Council and the Waitt Institute, has implemented a sustainable ocean management plan by designating one third of its coastal areas as marine sanctuaries. One of its main policies is to ban all catches of parrotfish. Why single out these creatures? According to experts, the best way to save reefs is by saving the parrotfish, which clean the reef of algae which otherwise would hinder coral growth. Indeed, some of healthiest Caribbean reefs are those that have an abundance of parrotfish.

Around the world, scientists are working against the clock to find new, innovative ways to protect coral, whether it's through working with local communities - which has been so important in successfully implementing the Blue Halo initiative in Barbuda - or by methods such as coral gardening or reef planting, which was first developed in the Caribbean.

Back in the early 2000s, the Reef Ball Foundation helped create the largest fringing breakwater reef system in the world at that time. By constructing 1,000 concrete modules that mimicked natural reefs, 5,000 coral colonies made up of 30 different species were propagated as well as saving multiple tons of corals from dredging operations around the island.

The fight is on and scientists are not giving up. But one thing is for certain - without urgent action on climate change and the way we manage our coastal environments, the future looks grim for these fragile, beautiful and vital ecosystems. ●

25 PERCENT OF ALL KNOWN MARINE SPECIES LIVE IN CORAL REEFS.

THERE ARE OFTEN MORE TYPES OF FISH LIVING IN A TWO-ACRE AREA OF HEALTHY CORAL THAN THERE ARE BIRD SPECIES IN THE WHOLE OF NORTH AMERICA.

IT TAKES AROUND 100,000 TO 30,000,000 YEARS FOR A BARRIER REEF TO REACH FULL MATURITY.

ONE FIFTH OF ALL THE CORAL IN THE WORLD HAS DIED SINCE 2015.

THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF CORAL REEF FORMATIONS – BARRIER REEFS, CORAL ATOLLS AND FRINGING REEFS.

CORAL REEFS GROW AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF TWO CENTIMETRES PER YEAR.

THEY ARE FOUND IN TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL WATERS, LIVING LESS THAN 150 FEET FROM THE SURFACE.

WITHOUT LIVING REEFS, FLOOD DAMAGE COSTS AROUND THE WORLD WOULD DOUBLE, INCREASING FROM US\$4 BILLION TO US\$8 BILLION ANNUALLY.



CASA ROOTS

*We are what we eat –
don't forget your roots.*



CHEF
OF THE
QUAR
TER



When you walk in the door of Casa Roots restaurant next to Antigua's famous Runaway Bay, the first thing that hits you is the blend of casual French elegance and Caribbean rustic chic. And that is exactly what owner and head chef, Frenchman Sylvain Hervocho and his wife Nadine set out to do when they opened the eatery back in 2019. By creating the type of place that they themselves would like to hang out; somewhere unpretentious and cosy, chic and earthy, with locally sourced organic food, the restaurant's philosophy is to stimulate your senses through delightful decoration and ambiance, impeccable service, and an amazing culinary experience.

Sylvain's 30 years of chef experience has taken him around the globe; from owning a restaurant in France, working in the Galapagos islands to his most recent position as Executive Chef at Rosewood Jumby Bay. But opening Casa Roots was like coming home for the pair, and that is exactly how diners feel after spending a leisurely lunch or dinner with friends at the laid-back restaurant.

The food philosophy is taking the freshest local ingredients available, and elevating them with the creative touch of the Chef, making a delicious blend of West Indian food with that French *je ne sais quoi*. As Sylvain says, "It's all about simplicity when the ingredient is the star, I just need to enhance it with the right balance of spice and love."





GIVING FOR ART'S SAKE

“Without culture there is no future” reads the banner waved defiantly in a recent protest about the future of the arts and culture sector, echoing the voice of millions of artists around the world. And whilst no one can deny that the current global crisis has impacted economies across the planet, the arts and culture sector has been particularly devastated. But the precarious situation of this sector is really nothing new.

Over the past few years, as budgets have tightened around the globe, it has often been the arts and culture sector that has taken the brunt of funding cuts, with it often falling to private donors to bolster the beleaguered sector. And whilst art and patronage have gone hand in hand since the beginning of time, some philanthropists are reluctant to support the arts.

Their simple logic is based on a belief that there are more worthy causes out there. Crudely put, surely hunger, poverty, education and health are more critical than a few paintings or theatre plays? But with what yardstick can we truly measure which causes are more worthy than others? One thing is for certain; arts are a vital part of human life. Even prehistoric man found time out of his busy schedule of surviving to daub paintings onto his cave shelter. And although today the word “patronus” has become rather more familiar as Harry Potter’s magical charm to summon mystical guardians for help in times of need, the word actually originates from another type of guardian, that of wealthy benefactors who provided crucial financial aid to artists in need in Ancient Rome. Indeed, a glance back through history shows us how kings, popes and the wealthy have all supported painters, musicians and sculptors who otherwise wouldn’t have

been able to bring their creations to fruition. So, even taking into account the many worthy causes out there, why are some philanthropists today reluctant to support the arts?

As donors are increasingly keen to find returns on their philanthropic investments and understand how their money is being used, lack of measurability is undeniably arts and culture’s Achilles heel. With it already being difficult to measure the impact of causes such as eradicating hunger, at least there is an expected causal link between effort and outcome. Arts and culture are challenging – the effects are unpredictable and what exactly constitutes a positive outcome? The number of visitors to a museum, or spectators at a ballet? How the painting moves the mind and soul? Unfortunately, it is impossible to measure how art projects work on the imagination or emotions of consumers.

However, saying all this, if you take a look at high-net-worth (HNW) individuals, you’ll see that in this socioeconomic strata, seven out of ten of households do in fact contribute to the arts, with it being the third most widespread category in their charitable giving - at least in the United States. So what do these HNW philanthropists see that others perhaps don’t?

Although artists sometimes like to flatter themselves that those whose careers generate wealth lead unfulfilling lives and thus utilise philanthropy to live vicariously in the rather more fulfilling cultural domain, that doesn’t take into account that many donors are



more than content working in their own fields, thank you very much. Perhaps it is to do with the fact that the richer you are, the more exposure to culture you have, which in turn leads to a passion for it.

So, should arts philanthropy remain a pursuit limited to the super-rich to satisfy their personal whims? The answer should be a resounding no.

The first thing to point out is that arts and culture comes in many forms. Donors can choose between supporting high-brow activities such as theatre, dance, museums and orchestras, or more community-based projects such as grassroots art centres or providing creative outlets for disadvantaged and marginalised youngsters. It certainly doesn't need to be elitist.

So why support the creative industries? Although we sometimes think of art just feeding our souls, it also feeds

Should arts philanthropy remain a pursuit limited to the super-rich to satisfy their personal whims? The answer should be a resounding no.

the economy. In the US alone, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the National Endowment for the Arts, the contribution of the sector to the economy was more than US\$800 billion – bigger than the economic output of Sweden or Switzerland. And providing more than 30 million jobs worldwide, it certainly is not a sector to be sneezed at.

And although the value of arts and culture as a way of illuminating our inner lives and giving us a sense of self is unmeasurable, the social impact is something about which funders and researchers are continuously learning. By contributing to the regeneration of city and town spaces and providing a sense of community identity, arts and culture can significantly impact our quality of life. Studies in New York have shown that having cultural resources in lower-income districts lead to better health outcomes for their residents and interestingly, at the same time lower crime rates and create better academic outcomes for the local children. As it is often said, “the arts make more things possible”.

In today's uncertain world, the importance of culture and creativity is clear. The availability of cultural content directly contributes to mental health and psychological resilience by unleashing the imagination and by simply making us feel good. But paradoxically, at the time when people are most in need of arts and culture for their wellbeing, it is when the sector is facing its biggest crisis. Arts and culture philanthropy has never played such an important role as it does today to ensure the future of this vital sector. ●

WORTH NOTING



RORC CARIBBEAN 600 ON SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

The Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) 600 is scheduled to start off Fort Charlotte in Antigua on 22nd February 2021. Starting and finishing in Antigua, the challenging 600-mile race sees competitors sail around eleven Caribbean islands over eight days. According to the Club, the race is receiving many entries and enquiries, demonstrating how eager the sailing community is to resume racing as soon as possible.



TEAM ANTIGUA IN THIS YEAR'S TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC CHALLENGE

Two young Antiguan, Travis Weste and Joseph Nunes, are representing the twin islands in the annual Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. The gruelling 3,000-mile race is dubbed "the world's toughest row" and left from La Gomera in the Canary Islands on 12th December and culminates in Nelson's Dockyard in Antigua in early 2021. Raising money for the Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown, they are the fourth team and the first pair to represent Antigua & Barbuda in the event.





LEADING HOTEL EXPANSION OPEN FOR INVESTORS

Investors are being invited to be part of the expansion of two popular properties in Antigua which Alpha Hotel Investments will be carrying out. COCOS Hotel and the Keyonna Beach Resort will get 30 new cottages in an expansion project which is set to start in 2021 with 10 cottages to be built at COCOS Hotel whilst the other 20 at Keyonna Beach Resort. Investors can expect to receive eight percent interest per annum on their bonds at the end of four years when the investment will be reimbursed in US dollars.



LIAT BACK IN THE SKIES

LIAT made its first commercial flight in seven months on November 1st from Antigua to Dominica. As of 30th November, the airline has resumed a limited service between seven Caribbean islands; Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Kitts and St Vincent.

BEACHLIMERZ LAUDED BY TRIPADVISOR

Beachlimerz, located on Fort James Beach, has been named amongst the top ten percent of eateries in the world by renowned travel website TripAdvisor in its Travellers' Choice 2020 listings. Each year, the website gathers all the reviews and ratings from its users across the globe to highlight the best in nine categories.



WADADLI CARGO TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2021

Antigua-based Wadadli Cargo is set to start operations with a 737-800F and an ATR 72-200F in the second half of 2021 and will be the twin islands' only national cargo carrier.





ANTIGUA TO BE THE FIRST ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRY IN THE CARIBBEAN TO HOST INTERNATIONAL CYCLING EVENT

Approval has been given for the twin islands to host a Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI)-sanctioned event in August next year. A SUBWAY 3-Stage Race has been placed on the UCI's calendar for its 2021 Road Racing season. This exciting development will put the islands on the international cycling map.



"YOUR SPACE IN THE SUN" CAMPAIGN WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

The Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority's (ABTA) campaign "Your Space in the Sun" has won the prestigious Magellan "Travel Destinations" Gold Award awarded by Travel Weekly. The campaign was devised to position the islands as the perfect place for travel in today's world as tourists are increasingly looking for space and freedom to move after a period of confinement.

REVERSE OSMOSIS PLANT TO INCREASE WATER SUPPLIES IN ANTIGUA

A new reverse osmosis plant has been built in Antigua, which will be able to increase water supply to the island by 400,000 gallons a day when it is up and running in early 2021. The US\$2 million needed for the project was given by the Japan International Corporation System (JICS) to the Ministry of Agriculture.



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CALVINAIR HELICOPTERS TO ASSIST ABSAR AND ANTIGUA COAST GUARD IN EMERGENCIES

CalvinAir Helicopters has agreed to assist Antigua & Barbuda Search and Rescue (ABSAR) and Antigua Coast Guard in emergencies involving boats in the waters around the islands. After receiving approximate coordinates, the helicopters will head to the area to locate the vessel so that ABSAR/Coast Guard can send a boat to carry out the rescue. The helicopters will also provide emergency medical transfers.



FLIGHT DEMAND INCREASES FOR THE TWIN ISLANDS

As well as Air Canada resuming its weekly service between Toronto and Antigua, American Airlines is now operating an additional daily flight to Antigua from Miami and its daily flights from JFK in New York started on December 18th. Delta Airlines have also ramped up their service from one to five weekly flights as well as starting flights from New York in January.



AFRICAN-THEMED RESORT IN THE PIPELINE

Dr Olawanle Akinboboye, the founder of La Campagne Tropicana Beach Resort in Lagos, Nigeria, is looking at developing a sister resort in the twin islands. Currently in discussions with the government, the likely location is Willoughby Bay and will be an investment of US\$20 million.

The award-winning property in Nigeria is a four-star, African-themed resort which has been praised for its architectural design and ecotourism approach. This theme would continue in the property in Antigua, building on the islands' African heritage.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR OCEANOGRAPHY AND THE BLUE ECONOMY

The Government of Antigua & Barbuda will be supporting the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy at the UWI Five Islands Campus. The centre aims to advance intellectual progress and strengthen institutional capacity in the areas of marine science and the blue economy whilst capitalising on the economic opportunities for the Caribbean within this emerging sector.

TWIN ISLANDS HAVE ATTRACTED NEARLY A BILLION US DOLLARS TO ITS ECONOMY

The Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU) of Antigua & Barbuda have processed 2,687 applications since the unit was created back in 2013. These applications have helped attract nearly US\$1 billion to its economy. Investing with the National Development Fund (NDF) has represented about 81 percent of all applications, real estate investments around 10 percent and the remaining was reserved for business investments and the University of the West Indies fund. Ms. Charmaine Donovan, CEO, stated, "The CIP has been significantly beneficial to the country. Not only has this programme generated considerable non-tax revenue to the government, but it has been critical to the energising of real estate and construction sectors, providing hundreds of jobs and sustained increase in payroll taxes and aggregate demand."

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2020

The Government of Antigua & Barbuda, in collaboration with the Economic Recovery Committee (ERC), hosted an investment forum at the end of November to highlight opportunities in the Dredge Bay Development, the Willoughby Bay Development and the Entrepreneurship Development. The ERC was established this year to help grow, stimulate and diversify the economy.



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TWIN ISLANDS NAMED AS LONELY PLANET'S EMERGING SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION OF THE YEAR

In the prestigious Lonely Planet's annual Best in Travel awards, Antigua & Barbuda were named 2021's Emerging Sustainable Destination of the Year. Thanks to the sustainable initiatives that have been introduced such as banning single-use plastics and a "Green Corridor" of environmentally friendly businesses, Antigua has been heralded as one of the destinations that are transforming the travel industry.

CONSTRUCTION STARTS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY POWER PLANT

Work has commenced on a hurricane-resistant clean energy plan in Barbuda. Using a US\$50 million fund from the UAE Caribbean Renewable Energy Partnership Fund, it is the largest renewable energy investment of its type in the region. The Green Barbuda project will develop Barbuda's solar energy resources through a hybrid solar power plant and will contribute to the country's goal of producing 15 percent of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2030.

CLASSICAL MUSIC STAR DONATES TO YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sheku Kanneh-Mason, the famous British cellist, has secured a substantial donation in his honour by a private donor to the Antigua & Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO). The Kanneh-Masons are a family of seven talented siblings of Antiguan heritage who are all rising classical music stars. Sheku himself played at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in front of two billion people and won the renowned BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2016.





ABSIP JOINS FORCES WITH SPARK NIAGARA

The Antigua Barbuda Science Innovation Park (ABSIP) and Spark Niagara have signed a MOU to cooperate and increase entrepreneurship and economic sustainability. Spark Niagara is a Canadian-based collaborative workplace community. This partnership will create business opportunities that will generate sustainable business enterprises in a variety of areas.



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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA CIP MAKES CHANGES TO ALLOW SIBLINGS, GRANDCHILDREN, AND DEPENDENTS

The Citizenship by Investment Programme has made changes to allow the extended family to qualify for citizenship. By broadening its definition of “dependents” to include siblings and grandchildren, it is now easier for investors and their families to reunite. The fees on adding existing dependents such as grandparents, spouses and children has also been greatly reduced and time restrictions on adding these dependents to the application has been removed.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA READY TO RECEIVE YACHTERS FOR WINTER SEASON

The twin islands are famous the world over for their excellent sailing and yachting conditions. Antigua & Barbuda are open for business including for their yachting guests. All protocols are in place of and marine service businesses, restaurants and stores are waiting to receive boats that have already set sail for the Caribbean. Plans are also in place to carry out all the yachting events on the busy sailing calendar which include the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta, the Superyacht Challenge Antigua and the world-famous Antigua Sailing Week.

CARIFESTA XV RESCHEDULED FOR 2022

The government of Antigua & Barbuda, in consultation with the CARICOM Secretariat, has announced that CARIFESTA XV scheduled for 12th to 22nd August 2021 in Antigua & Barbuda will now be held between 11th and 21st August 2022.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA RE-ELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY OF REGIONAL TELECOMS ORGANISATION

The twin islands have been re-elected to the position of President of the General Conference of Ministers of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) for a further two-year term. The country is represented by Melford Nicholas, Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Information Technology.

BLUE ECONOMY STUDY FOR WORLD BANK

Atkins, a global design, engineering and project management consultancy, will be undertaking Blue Economy assessments in the Eastern Caribbean region for the World Bank to help countries make more sustainable use of their coastal and marine assets. The assessments will study economic and environmental issues as well as opportunities relating to fisheries, sustainable tourism and waste management.



LEED CERTIFICATION FOR CHRISTIAN VALLEY INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Colin John Jenkins of CJC + Associates Inc Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED AP) has designed a ground-breaking construction project for the Department of Environment for its Christian Valley Interpretation Centre. With Jenkins as the only LEED and WELL Accredited Professional architect in the twin Islands and the wider Caribbean, the building has achieved Gold LEED certification in Design Phase which is an international green-building certification from the United States Green Building Council allowing for resource-efficient, high-performing, health and cost-effective buildings.

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