

## MOVING TO MAURITIUS

**JOIN THE OTHER 7500 SOUTH AFRICANS WHO HAVE MADE MAURITIUS THEIR HOME**



Known as the tiger of the Indian Ocean, gateway into Africa and ease of accessibility into Asia, Mauritius is known to be the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean cosmopolitan island.

Political, social and economic stability, ease of relocation and index of doing business as well as the <live, work and play> lifestyle is attractive to many expats.

More than the “work from anywhere” culture, spending the best years of your life watching your beloved ones next to you and also making memories in a safe and secure context, in a conducive environment as making sure that your daily go-to brands are present on the island and not too much of a culture shock.

South African wines, family first culture – with a lot of dining options, outdoor and extreme sports, South African Culture (DSTV), English biltong.mu streaming radio channel, rugby and jazz music festivals, the ability to swim in shark free zones and surf at some of the world’s UNESCO heritage sites, typical Nescafe’s famous Ricoffy (scafe' Ricoffy is a blend of coffee and chicory) and access to Roobois tea off the shelves, fresh fruit and veg from Food Lovers and South African family go – to – Nando’s and Ocean’s Baskets – are some of the names on the Island that will make you feel like you never left home but are back home.

There has been a growing wave of business and long-term expatriation wave of South African families, packing up their bags and setting sails to new horizons of Mauritius. A growing population of South African expats are enjoying the benefits of moving to Mauritius and are witnessing their best years in the making - exploring the islandish lifestyle (outdoors, beauty, sun, sand and seas, adopting the live, work and play model - think Azuri / Gated communities - in the North: Grand Baie, Moka and preference for Coastal Zones. They enjoy fusion cuisine and cultures that they can easily adapt to, the accessibility of pro-business incentives put in place by the Government and also have their imported go-to food necessities (Food lovers, Nando's, Ocean Basket....) and braai places with your favourite spices. And oh - if you think of surfing, we have that as well. Tell me about Biltong.mu that just launched and provides island-wide delivery to your doorstep. Indulge in the best of all things, and best of all. You can actually live a nomad lifestyle by the beach.

South African big brands like Woolworths clothing and accessories, grocery-outlet and supplier: Food Lovers, restaurants: Nando's, Ocean Basket, pop up African labels (Ankara....) and pan-African Banks like Absa and Investec have branches here on the island. We also like Heinz ketchup and import all Palmolive and bacon products. You won't miss home, because Mauritius has its horse racing, destinations, cricket and rugby clubs, championship golf courses, nature parks – well okay, no venomous snakes and no extreme sun heat waves nor freezing cold snow or temperature dips.

**MAURITIUS - YOUR NEW HOME! TRAVEL TO MAURITIUS FOR A LOOK AND SEE**



Mauritius is opening its borders to international travelers on Thursday 15 July. Between 15 July and 30 September, international tourists will be required to spend a minimum of 14 days at their hotel, whereafter they are free to explore the Island, subject to them having a negative PCR test.

From 1 October 2021, fully vaccinated tourists may visit Mauritius without any *quarantine* restrictions.

As in all jurisdictions, a non-citizen needs to have a permit to live and work in a country if one is not a citizen. Whilst the processing of these permits in other jurisdictions can take years to finalise, the process in Mauritius can be achieved in as little as 2 days for a premium visa or two to three months for an investor or occupational permit.

LET US EXPLORE THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO ACHIEVE YOUR OBJECTIVE OF LIVING IN MAURITIUS

PREMIUM VISA



The recently introduced permit is a useful permit for anyone you want to *look and see* before taking a final decision to move to Mauritius on a more permanent basis.

The visa is issued for a period of 1 year and may be extended for a further period of 1 year.

To make this Premium visa more encouraging, no tax liability will arise in Mauritius if one stays in Mauritius for a period of less than 183 days.

Where the holder of a premium visa is in Mauritius for more than 183 days, only income from a Mauritian source will be taxed in Mauritius if remitted to Mauritius. In terms of the Mauritian tax legislation, any money spent in Mauritius through the use of a foreign credit or debit card, is taxable in Mauritius, but this section is suspended for the holder of a premium visa. Finally, any income brought and deposited in a bank account in Mauritius is subject to tax unless a declaration is made by the holder of a Premium Visa that the required tax has been paid thereon in his country of origin or residence. The transfer of capital to Mauritius is however not taxable.

These tax proposals are due to be effective from 1 November 2020, subject to the passing of the Finance Act, which is expected to be passed by Parliament at the beginning of August 2021.

The most commonly issued visa would be an occupation permit. There are various categories of occupation permits, namely investor permits, professional permits and retiree permits.

An investor permit is available to any person who wishes to invest USD50 000 in Mauritius. This investment can be satisfied by establishing a company and loaning USD50 000 to this company. That loan may be repaid subject to the cash flow requirements of the company.



A professional permit is available to a person holding a tertiary qualification who is employed in Mauritius.

The permit grants residence to the applicant, spouse and children. There is no restriction on the ages of the children.

In terms of a proposal made in the June 2021 Budget, the validity of these permits has been extended from 3 to 10 years. In addition, the spouse of an occupation permit holder is permitted to work in Mauritius without any additional permit requirement. Mauritius has introduced a new category of visa being the 10-Year Family Occupation Permit for those contributing USD 250,000 to the COVID-19 Projects Development Fund.



**ACQUISITION OF  
IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

A non-citizen who purchases or otherwise acquires an apartment which is used, or available for use, as a residence, in a building of at least 2 floors above ground floor, for at least USD 375,000, will be issued with a residence permit, including his dependents, and exempted from the requirement of a work or occupation permit.

A person who has held an investor permit or professional permit for three years and has earned at least MUR150 000 (ZAR51 000) per month for each of those three years, is entitled to apply for a 20-year residence permit.

**PERMANENT  
RESIDENT PERMIT**



**RETIREE PERMIT**

The final category of visa is available is a retiree permit. This is available to all persons over the age of 50 years. A retiree must introduce USD1 500 per month into Mauritius, which can be done monthly, a lump sum payment or as a series of lump sum payments.

All permit holders, regardless of category may apply for visas for their parents to live in Mauritius.

The permit is valid for 10 years.



**GROWING AND  
MANAGING YOUR  
ASSETS FROM  
YOUR NEW HOME**

In terms of the amendments to the South African Exchange Control Regulations, you can transfer ownership of your assets to Mauritius allowing receipt of dividends from South African companies in Mauritius. This has the effect of reducing the South African dividends tax rate from 20% to 5% and ensuring that the proceeds arising on the sale of those assets may be remitted to Mauritius.

In addition, as Mauritius has no exchange control regulations, investments on international markets is that much easier without the need to obtain a tax clearance certificate prior to investing the funds.

The further advantage is that if the investment returns are not transferred to Mauritius, that income is not taxable in Mauritius. This is in addition to the fact that capital gains are never taxed in Mauritius.

## HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

At JurisTax, we are able to assist you in relocating to Mauritius.

In this regard we can assist you:



With liaising with real estate agents in Mauritius to acquire immovable property both for rental and purchase.



In applying for a visa to live and work in Mauritius.



In opening a bank account in Mauritius for you prior to your arrival in Mauritius.



With the establishment of an appropriate holding structure in Mauritius, be it a trust, a global business company or a combination of both.

**BOOK 15 MINUTES WITH US TO TALK TO OUR TAX  
EXPERT AND OUR TEAM ON A NON-COMMITTAL BASIS**