

2019

THE NOMAD BEACH INDEX



“
GO WHERE YOU’RE
TREATED BEST.

”
ANDREW
HENDERSON

ABOUT NOMAD CAPITALIST

Nomad Capitalist is a boutique tax and immigration consultancy built for the modern entrepreneur who demands result. It advises six - and seven - figure entrepreneurs on issues of legal offshore tax planning, citizenship and lifestyle planning, and international wealth.

The company was founded by perpetual traveler and serial entrepreneur Andrew Henderson in 2012, as a result of his struggles to find a “one stop shop” to assist him in his quest to become a global citizen.

Mr. Henderson is the author of the best-selling book Nomad Capitalist; in addition to the firm’s clients, his articles and videos reach six million annual viewers who wish to “go where they’re treated best”



The Nomad Beach Index was created in response to the realization that the many beach indexes that do exist fail to factor in all of the needs of Nomad Capitalists – millionaire investors and entrepreneurs who can live and work wherever they want. For someone with these kinds of freedoms and unique business interests, the regular “Top 10 Hottest Beach Destinations” created for tourists may not only be unappealing in general but could also present a disadvantage to their lifestyle of freedom and abundance.

Just as the Nomad Passport Index tailors its methodology to examine more than the basic passport privileges commonly used in other passports indexes, the Nomad Beach Index factors in more than just sand, water, and sun to determine the overall desirability of a specific location.

Aspiring global citizens do not look at potential travel destinations merely as places where they can take pictures to post on their social media. When you live and work overseas, the places you call home and visit on a regular basis can affect everything from your taxes to your freedom. The Nomad Beach Index was designed to capture this complexity by factoring in local services, taxes, immigration, and safety, along with the natural beauty of the location.

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02 | The Methodology

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The Nomad Beach Index is the result of aggregating data from over thirty unique sources and is based on priorities Nomad Capitalist believes are important to those who follow the advice to “go where you’re treated best,” even when searching for the best place to soak up some rays and relax on the beach. The index ranks the top 31 beach destinations in the world on a scale of 10 to 50 using the following five factors:

Beauty – 30%

While it is not where the index ends, beauty is obviously an important factor to take into account when searching for the perfect beach location. Beauty encompasses everything from the view to the cleanliness of the beach and water. We combed through the most popular beach indexes like US News, Conde Nast Traveler, Islands.com, Travel and Leisure, and more and compiled their rankings into one overall rating to reflect the beauty of each location.

Services – 20%

The kind of service you can expect to receive and the various types of activities available in a given location will largely impact your experience there. This index ranking looks at how diverse your options are for activities such as dining, shopping, or a night out. We also considered whether or not you would have access to basic services such as shoe repair, cell reception, dry cleaning, and ATMs. The ranking also includes more objective data like airport size and capability. Air travel is a particularly important service for globally mobile millionaires who need easy access in and out of their desired beach destination, even if it is remote.

Taxes – 20%

Taxation policies can impact both where successful entrepreneurs and investors travel, as well as how long they will stay there. This is reflected in how well each country performed on our index. A country like the United States that has worldwide citizenship-based taxation, for example, received the lowest score of 10, while zero-tax countries received the highest score of 50. The tax system in a country that scored a 30 may have some tax loopholes, while countries with territorial tax systems (that do not tax foreign-earned income) received a score of 40.

Immigration – 20%

For many Nomad Capitalists, the perfect beach country is a key element to their second passport portfolio strategy. Whether you are searching for a place to settle down or are simply in need of a second passport, a country's immigration laws are a key element to consider. Countries that offer citizenship by investment ranked the highest for this factor, while straightforward, easy residence by investment programs earned a score of 40. More complicated residence programs that require you to start a business or pay expensive fees – like Portugal – scored in the middle, while the more difficult countries for immigration ranked at the bottom.

Safety – 10%

Safety is always an important factor to take into account as it affects your freedom and well-being. A country could have the most beautiful beaches in the world, but no one is going to visit them if they cannot guarantee some level of safety and security. This factor looks at how safe it is for people traveling alone, how safe it is for families, and what the most common incidents were that happened to tourists. We used an aggregate of several indexes to compute this score, as well as the general experience of expats throughout our network and well-known expat blogs.

10. Mauritius

Mark Twain once stated that, “Heaven was copied after Mauritius.” The stunning beauty and unbeatable climate of this island country off the coast of Africa attracts over one million tourists to its beaches each year. Thanks to favorable taxation policies, Mauritius has long been one of the best places in Africa for investment and offshore company formation. This has contributed to the country’s development which, in turn, has ensured that travelers have access to basic services and a diverse range of activities across the island. Mauritius has one of the best passports for residents of the developing world and a fairly friendly and straightforward immigration process. The country is also considerably safe. Although petty crime is common, most crime is non-violent, so you can safely soak up the sun on beaches like Flic-en-Flac, Grand Baie, Le Mournie and Belle Mare.

Country stats



BEAUTY: 50
SERVICES: 50
TAXES: 50
IMMIGRATION: 30
SAFETY: 50

TOTAL: 46

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09. Budva, Montenegro

Just a short swim across the Adriatic Sea from Italy, Montenegro's beaches are just as gorgeous and charming as Italian beach towns like Cinque Terre... but for a fraction of the cost and with more benefits for those living the Nomad Capitalist lifestyle. Montenegro is one of the easiest places in Europe to do business with a low corporate tax rate of just 9%. With a strong focus on attracting investors, this small Balkan country has also made it exceptionally easy to become a resident or even a citizen. What's more, Montenegro earned our highest ranking for safety. Montenegro's beach appeal is seasonal, however; and, despite the booming development going on all along the coast, most of the hotels and Airbnbs are less than desirable. For those with an investment mindset, though, Montenegro would be a fantastic location to invest in Airbnb properties as the country continues to gain popularity as a travel destination.

Country stats



BEAUTY: 30
SERVICES: 30
TAXES: 40
IMMIGRATION: 50
SAFETY: 50

TOTAL: 38

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08. Vanuatu

The volcanic island country of Vanuatu consists of approximately 80 islands that stretch across over 800 miles of the South Pacific just west of the more well-known island nation of Fiji. Sandy beaches and clear-blue water can be found almost anywhere you go in Vanuatu, but some locations are harder to get to or have fewer services due to the remote nature of the islands. Where Vanuatu shines brightest in our rankings is in the area of taxes and immigration. As of 2018, Vanuatu is one of the only countries that allows you to pay for citizenship by investment directly in Bitcoin. What is more, the cost is relatively low at roughly \$200,000 including the donation and fees. Vanuatu has no income tax and, besides a rather lax VAT, has very little tax at all, making this a great potential tax residency for a Nomad Capitalist. The only real safety concern on Vanuatu is the fact that it is an active seismic zone prone to earthquakes and susceptible to tsunamis.

Country stats



BEAUTY: 30
SERVICES: 30
TAXES: 50
IMMIGRATION: 50
SAFETY: 40

TOTAL: 39

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07. Langkawi

Malaysia

Langkawi is an island district of Malaysia just off of the country's northwestern coast. Only 4 of the 99 islands are inhabited with most of the tourist population passing through the Southern Islands. Many of the beaches offer long stretches of white sand accompanied by a wide array of restaurants and bars with evening entertainment and live music. Besides the many water activities available on Langkawi, there are also majestic waterfalls and fascinating virgin jungle trails. There are several shopping malls, as well a cable car and sky bridge that will give you a stunning aerial view of the islands. Langkawi gets our highest safety ranking because the monkeys will be your biggest worry when it comes to pickpockets in the area. Malaysia offers an easy permanent residence program that is one of our top 12 second residencies through real estate investment. However, they do not make it as easy for foreigners to become Malaysian citizens. And, while Malaysia as a whole is not a tax-free country, Langkawi is a special economic zone for trade that is completely duty-free.

Country stats



BEAUTY: 40

SERVICES: 30

TAXES: 40

IMMIGRATION: 40

SAFETY: 50

TOTAL: 39

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06. Algarve

Portugal

The Algarve, in Portugal's southernmost region, is full of fishing villages, beaches, golf resorts and breathtaking cliffs. You can also find enchanting villas, hotels, restaurants, bars, and many other services that make The Algarve a highly desirable location for tourists and Nomad Capitalists alike. When it comes to taxes and immigration, though, Portugal gets just average marks. While Portugal's tax system as a whole adheres to the philosophies of the rest of Western Europe, the Portuguese government does offer zero-income tax for non-habitual residents. And though there is a Golden Visa program for qualifying investors, it has become incredibly inefficient. Along with its high level of services, The Algarve's strongest ranking was that of safety. Petty theft is a big issue throughout all of Portugal, but even so, it is one of the safest countries in Europe thanks to low crime levels.

Country stats



BEAUTY: 40
SERVICES: 50
TAXES: 30
IMMIGRATION: 30
SAFETY: 50

TOTAL: 39

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05. St Kitts and Nevis

The dual-island nation of St. Kitts and Nevis offers up panoramic views, picturesque sunsets, and long public beaches filled with restaurants and bars. And if you get your fill of the beach, you can turn to the islands' lush green mountains filled with vervet monkeys and hiking trails. While the islands scored on the lower-end of the scale for safety, it is easily overlooked due to the fantastic treatment you'll get as an investor. Zero taxes and citizenship are available to those willing to make an investment in the country.

Country stats



BEAUTY: 40
SERVICES: 30
TAXES: 50
IMMIGRATION: 50
SAFETY: 20

TOTAL: 40

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04. Crete, Greece

The remote Greek island of Crete is easily one of the most beautiful locations on this list. Pink sands, wildflowers, palm trees and the bright blue sea set Crete apart as a must-see location. Elafonisi and Vai Beach are tourist favorites while Achilia Beach and Dammoni Beach offer more seclusion. Crete also offers an abundance of activities and services and a high level of security. Surprisingly, Greece scores well on the immigration side of things as well. Greece's Golden Visa is the cheapest in Europe, available for a property investment of just €250,000. Once you have purchased the property and obtained your residence, you do not need to stay in Greece to maintain your permanent resident status. Supposedly, you can gain citizenship after seven years as a resident, but this is a rather nebulous process since Greece does not like handing out citizenship to those who are not ethnic Greeks. Greece is a great place to visit and, if you can avoid becoming a tax resident, a great place to obtain a second residency. But don't plan on staying too long or you will become subject to some of the highest tax rates around. At a rate of 48%, Greece has the 13th highest income tax in the world and will tax you on your earnings both in Greece and overseas.

Country stats



BEAUTY: 50
SERVICES: 50
TAXES: 10
IMMIGRATION: 40
SAFETY: 50

TOTAL: 40

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03. The Bahamas

The Bahamas is made up of 700 islands, so we'll just name our top three here. The sands at Pink Sands Beach have that lovely rosy hue found on Crete. The beach stretches out for three miles and is home to several resorts, restaurants and bars. If you're looking for white sand and clear turquoise water, head over to Pig Beach on Exuma where pigs literally paddle around in the water. And, if you prefer a bit of adventure via diving excursions and underwater caves, Gold Rock Beach is the right fit for you. The Bahamas gets high marks for taxes as the country has no personal or corporate income tax, no capital gains tax, no sales tax, no withholding tax, no gift or inheritance tax and no probate fees. Immigration is also pretty straightforward: you can purchase an annual resident permit from the government for \$1,000.

Country stats



BEAUTY: 50
SERVICES: 40
TAXES: 50
IMMIGRATION: 40
SAFETY: 30

TOTAL: 44

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02. Antigua and Barbuda

The dual-island nation of Antigua and Barbuda is home to numerous beautiful beaches. The island of Antigua alone has 365 beaches! A popular destination for cruise ships, these beaches have plenty of activities and services available to anyone looking for a little sun, sand, ocean, good food, and good fun. Favorite beaches include Ffryes Beach, English Harbour (also known as Galleon Beach), and Heritage Bay. Antigua and Barbuda is not a tax-free country, with a corporate tax rate of 25% along with a sales tax, stamp duty, property tax and other taxes. However, it is possible to live in the country for part of the year without becoming a tax resident. This is even possible for citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, as long as they spend less than 183 days of the year on the islands. And it is quite easy and affordable to become a citizen of Antigua by investing just \$125,000. This price applies to both individuals and families, making Antigua the cheapest citizenship by investment program for families.

Country stats



BEAUTY: 40

SERVICES: 40

TAXES: 50

IMMIGRATION: 50

SAFETY: 40

TOTAL: 44

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01. The Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands is a visually striking country with beautiful beaches and island landscapes and a warm and mild year-round climate. Seven Mile Beach is the most popular beach on the island with five and a half miles of public beach property that makes it ideal for long walks at sunset and endless hours playing in the clear blue water known for its calmness. You can establish Cayman Islands residency through a very straightforward process, but it comes with a hefty price tag. If you want to move to the island country, you will need to spend over \$1 million for a renewable temporary permit (that lasts 25 years) or over \$2 million for a permanent residence permit that will allow you to eventually acquire citizenship (if you meet numerous other qualifications). You could get twenty passports from other Caribbean countries for that price. However, there's a reason Cayman residency costs so much - it's worth it. Because of its long history as a haven for wealthy vacationers and expats, the Cayman Islands provides an abundance of services and activities that are unmatched throughout the Caribbean. Quality private hospitals, legal services, and education are accompanied by excellent infrastructure and two international airports. The Cayman Islands offer world class lifestyle options with high-end stores dotting the island and yachts filling its harbors. Best of all, The Caymans is a well-known tax haven with no income tax, no property tax, no company tax, and no capitals gains tax. In fact, the government has never levied any income, capital gains, or wealth tax.

Country stats



BEAUTY: 50
SERVICES: 50
TAXES: 50
IMMIGRATION: 30
SAFETY: 50

TOTAL: 46

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Country	Beauty 30%	Services 20%	Taxes 20%	Immigration 20%	Safety 10%	Total	Rank
 Cayman Islands	50	50	50	30	50	46	1
 Antigua and Barbuda	40	40	50	50	40	44	2T
 Bahamas	50	40	50	40	30	44	2T
 Crete, Greece	50	50	10	40	50	40	4
 Budva, Montenegro	30	30	40	50	50	38	5
 Langkawi, Malaysia	40	30	40	40	50	39	6T
 Vanuatu	30	30	50	50	40	39	6T
 Algarve, Portugal	40	50	30	30	50	39	6T
 St. Kitts and Nevis	40	30	50	50	20	40	9
 Mauritius	40	40	30	30	50	37	10T
 Mykonos, Greece	40	50	10	40	50	37	10T
 Jaco, Costa Rica	40	30	40	30	50	37	10T
 St. Lucia	40	30	20	50	40	36	13
 Santorini, Greece	40	40	10	40	50	35	14
 Cozumel, Mexico	40	50	20	40	30	37	15
 Dominica	50	10	20	50	50	36	16T
 Isla Colon, Panama	40	20	40	40	40	36	16T
 Cebu, Philippines	30	40	40	40	30	36	16T
 Roatan, Honduras	40	30	20	40	40	34	19
 Dominican Republic	50	40	20	40	20	37	20
 Balearic Islands, Spain	40	50	10	30	40	34	21T
 Corn Islands, Nicaragua	40	10	40	40	40	34	21T
 Hvar, Croatia	50	40	10	20	50	34	21T
 St. Vincent and the Grenadines	40	30	20	30	50	33	24
 Ambergris Caye, Belize	40	30	40	40	20	36	25

	Country	Beauty 30%	Services 20%	Taxes 20%	Immigration 20%	Safety 10%	Total	Rank
	Grenada	40	20	20	50	40	34	26
	Puerto Rico	30	40	30	20	50	32	27
	Hawaii, US	40	50	10	10	50	31	28
	Koh Samui, Thailand	30	30	40	30	30	32	29
	St. Maarten	30	40	30	20	40	31	30T
	Sarande, Albania	30	30	20	40	40	31	30T
	Bali, Indonesia	30	50	20	20	30	30	32
	Cook Islands	40	30	10	20	40	28	33T
	US Virgin Islands	40	40	10	10	40	28	33T
	Lombok, Indonesia	40	30	20	10	30	27	34