



BERMUDA, A LEADING TRUST JURISDICTION

Market Profile

Bermuda was one of the first international trust jurisdictions. Over many decades it has become known as a premier jurisdiction for trusts and other private client structures. Bermuda has a superior regulatory framework, and judicial system, as well as internationally recognised trustees and lawyers that serve a broad spectrum of international businesses and high-net-worth clients.

PROVEN TRUST SOLUTIONS: A REPUTATION YOU CAN COUNT ON

Experience

Experience is key to a successful private client jurisdiction. Bermuda's trustees have extensive experience with complex private client structures, charitable/philanthropic vehicles, commercial trusts, limited partnerships, family offices and private trust companies. Bermuda trustees, lawyers and other professional service providers are accustomed to working with clients, lawyers, accountants and professional advisers located throughout the world.

Reputation

Since the early formation of Bermuda's international business sector, the Government has fostered a strong working relationship with the private sector to attract reputable business(es) to Bermuda. The reputation of Bermuda's financial services industry is evident as the Island is home to the third-largest insurance market in the world. Bermuda was also the first offshore jurisdiction to be placed on the OECD's White List as a result of substantially implementing the internationally agreed tax standard. The Government is dedicated to preserving our reputation across all sectors.

Talent

Bermuda has internationally recognised and award-winning trustees, lawyers and service professionals. The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), has an active membership of 176 full members and students in Bermuda, evidencing the depth of experience available. The private-client sector is able to draw on the high concentration of distinguished lawyers, accountants, investment managers and other service providers to handle all their human resources needs.

English Common Law

Trust and related fiduciary principles originated and are deeply rooted in English law. While Bermuda has had its own Parliament since 1622, Bermuda's legal system has its roots in English common law, having adopted the doctrines of equity and English statute law in force in 1612. Although Bermuda's trust law reflects English law and principles of equity, Bermuda has enacted legislation designed to facilitate the use of trusts for modern commercial or private-client applications. While the domestic legislation has kept Bermuda's trust laws progressive and innovative, UK case law remains of persuasive authority today, providing certainty and comfort to international families and their advisors.

Regulation

Consistent with Bermuda's desire to preserve its reputation as a high-quality, stable, predictable, highly-regarded and secure jurisdiction, Bermuda has sought to keep its legislation well rooted in sensible trust concepts while providing the tools and flexibility required when planning for sophisticated international families and commercial transactions.

Stability

Bermuda is politically and economically stable. Its well-developed infrastructure and sensible regulation relating to the provision of trust services and tax neutrality make Bermuda a world leader in trust services.

Useful links:

Regulator: www.bma.bm
STEP Bermuda: www.stepbermuda.org

For a full listing of Bermuda Trust service providers, visit bda.bm.

"A principal objective of our Government is to promote the growth of our economy and we look to encourage this by providing the highest level of services to our clients. The Bermuda Government is fully committed to the goal of maintaining and building upon Bermuda's excellent reputation, continuing to offer innovative solutions across a growing number of business sectors and regularly reviewing and improving upon governmental processes, to ensure responsiveness to our clients' requirements."

- Dr. E. Grant Gibbons, JP, MP, Minister of Economic Development



THE BERMUDA REPUTATION

Tax Neutrality

Bermuda does not have income, profit, corporate, or capital gains taxes. The Minister of Finance has the authority to grant assurance to Bermuda companies that they will not be liable to pay such taxes until at least 2035.

Proximity to the US, UK & Canada

Bermuda is a two-hour flight from New York, most East Coast gateway cities and three hours from Miami. There are regularly scheduled direct flights to Toronto and London. US Customs and Border Protection provides pre-clearance of all US bound flights at Bermuda's L.F.Wade International Airport.

Structure & Infrastructure

Bermuda has a stable government and political structure as well as a secure, modern and world-class physical and technological infrastructure, including excellent telecommunications, broadband and the fully electronic Bermuda Stock Exchange.

Quality of Life

Bermuda enjoys a high standard of living, supported by its education and healthcare systems. Bermuda also offers breath-taking natural beauty and a comfortable sub-tropical climate.

GLOBAL STANDARDS

The European Union (EU) and the BMA have signed a Cooperation Agreement regarding the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (AIFMD). These cooperation agreements are a key element in effective supervision of non-EU AIFMs and are a pre-condition in allowing non-EU AIFMs access to EU markets or to perform fund management activities on behalf of EU managers. As part of its AIFMD compliance initiatives, the BMA aims to develop an opt-in regime to enable Bermuda-based AIFMs to maintain seamless operations across the European market.

The BMA is a full member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), and a founding member of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS).

Bermuda was the first offshore jurisdiction elevated to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) "White List" category. The OECD's most recent assessment rated Bermuda favourably on international standards of tax transparency (the same level as the US, the UK and Germany).

The Island is also recognised for its leadership within the OECD Global Forum and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for its robust KYC, AML and ATF controls.

Bermuda has 41 signed bilateral TIEAs and more than 80 multilateral TIEA partners through Bermuda's recent adoption of the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Assistance in Tax Matters. In December 2013, post G20 meetings, the Financial Stability Board affirmed Bermuda as having sufficiently strong adherence to regulatory and supervisory standards on international cooperation and information exchange standards.

Bermuda is a member of the Group of International Finance Centre Supervisors.

The Bermuda Stock Exchange (BSX) is a full member of the World Federation of Exchanges, and an affiliate member of IOSCO. It is recognised by the SEC as a Designated Offshore Securities Market; the UK FCA as a Designated Investment Exchange; the UK HM Revenue & Customs as a Recognised Stock Exchange; and most recently has been designated by Canada's Ministry of Finance.

Bermuda has signed Model II Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGAs) with both the US and the UK under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA). Under this arrangement, Foreign Financial Institutions (FFIs) registered in Bermuda have direct control over the information collected and reported to the IRS. Switzerland and Japan have also elected the Model II IGA route.

ABOUT THE BDA

The BDA encourages direct investment and helps companies start up, re-locate or expand their business in Bermuda. An independent, public-private partnership, we connect prospective business to industry professionals, regulatory officials, and key contacts in the Bermuda Government to facilitate jurisdictional decision-making. To learn more about Bermuda as a world-class financial centre or connect with a BDA representative, go to bda.bm.



BERMUDA
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

bda.bm
+1 441 292 0632



Maxwell Roberts Building ■ 6th Floor ■ I Church Street ■ Hamilton HM 11 ■ Bermuda