

TOURISM SECTOR



Dominica is a Nature-Lover's paradise. Known as the **Nature Island of the Caribbean** for its lush green vegetation, pristine ecosystem, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, three national parks, 365 flowing rivers and an abundance of towering waterfalls, magnificent underwater world, this island nation of 289 square miles is sure to appeal to the best senses of the adventure seekers and nature lovers.



Situated in the centre of the Eastern Caribbean archipelago, Dominica has been characterized as an eco-adventure and is home to the Amerindian population, the Kalinagos, in the eastern Caribbean. The Nature Island has been developing a low impact, high value tourism product that is based on its unique environmental, heritage and cultural endowments, providing it with a tourism product based on nature, culture and adventure.

The island is currently on the cusp of a major transformation of its tourism industry with recent focus on improvement and expansion of the tourism plant and supporting infrastructure with the appropriate policies to guide the development of the sector. Dominica is seeking partnerships in the continued building of its tourism product, as new opportunities emerge for additional investments in the sector. Now is the time to consider Dominica for eco-tourism investment.



IDEAL CONDITIONS FOR INVESTING IN DOMINICA'S TOURISM SECTOR

There are several factors which help to make Dominica the ideal destination for sustainable investment in tourism.

- A government committed to investing in tourism related infrastructure and providing support to private investment in the sector.
- The island contains at least 60% of pristine rainforest, miles of unspoiled coast lines and extensive marine habitats which confirms its title as the Nature Island.
- With rugged, mountainous terrain Dominica has developed no mass tourism hence the available authentic natural product to visitors.
- Existence of the Morne Trois Pitons National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with significant natural features such as waterfalls, natural hot springs, lakes, an array of flora and fauna, Sulphur Springs, and the world's second largest Boiling Lake which provide countless opportunities for both adventure and rejuvenation.
- New health vacation trends and the desire for safer locations makes Dominica attractive to high spending visitors seeking exclusive privacy and those who wish to stay for long periods of time.
- The inadequacy of readily available quality accommodation to include high end villas, eco-resorts, hotels, glamping, and guest houses.
- Dominica is ideal for the ecotourism visitors as they are an active group of visitors keen to explore natural and cultural attractions. The existence of natural endowments and attractions that allows for the provision of added value services to visitors.

READY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We encourage investment projects which can yield high returns in the following areas:

- **Eco resorts and lodges**

Opportunities are available for hotel and resort developers who are willing to make a high commitment to the environment and involve local communities. These can range from luxurious villas to high end camping sites for visitors

- **Tour and wellness service providers**

Dominica offers a large portfolio of ecotourism activities such as hiking tours, wildlife tours, dive excursions, spa and wellness experiences and much more which showcase adventure, wellness, and natural healing

- **E-Commerce, branding and marketing of eco-tourism concepts**

Ecotourists are tech-savvy and rely on modern marketing methods. There is an increased need for developers of apps and online structures/platforms to attract and support adventure and eco-tourism activities particularly at this time with most services having to be accessed remotely and in real time

- **Clean technology**

With the pivot from traditional accommodation comes the opportunity for the retrofitting of existing accommodation infrastructure with renewable energy, water & waste management systems. Retrofitting enables businesses to meet ecotourism sustainability standards, increasingly demanded by the global travel industry.

- **Marina development**

The yachting sector has become a pivotal segment of the Dominica tourism industry requiring new investment in services being offered and the development of the infrastructure. Dominica's natural harbors make it a prime destination for yachties. Investment in a modern yacht marina is a major imperative for increasing the sector's contribution to the economy in Dominica.

INCENTIVES AND SUPPORT

The Invest Dominica Authority is among a plethora of public sector agencies in Dominica, working to provide support to investors and others working in the tourism industry. Invest Dominica plays the lead role in promoting and facilitating local and foreign direct investment in tourism and other key sectors.

Coupled with the legislative framework and policies that allows unhindered investment within the tourism sector, a slate of fiscal incentives from which investors can benefit are available. These include:

- Duty free importation of building materials, fixtures, and fittings articles of hotel, furnishings, equipment, appliances, and operations vehicle.
- Exemption from payment of VAT on capital imports up to commencement of operations.
- Foreign investors can repatriate 100% of their profits.
- Approved projects are allowed exemptions from payment of withholding taxes on dividends, interest payments, and other relevant external payments.



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