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# Living the dream: Choosing Mauritius as a second home

Having relocated to Mauritius from Guernsey in August 2022, Paul Schreibke of Oak Management explains how moving to the beautiful island can be a life-changing experience and why this island of opportunities deserves to be in the consideration set for every expat looking for a sustainable live-and-work option.

**R**elocating to Mauritius after a lifelong career in the Channel Islands was a challenging proposition – but it was equally an opportunity not to be missed. Indeed, I would go so far as to say that it was impossible to refuse such an offer. I moved here at the beginning of August 2022, after a long-haul flight of more than 12 hours from the Channel Islands, relinquishing my position as Managing Director of the Oak Guernsey office, to take up the role of Managing Director of the local Oak office in Mauritius.

I did not hesitate a second, and my wife and family had the same reaction! We packed our belongings, moved to this beautiful island and are now looking forward to the new lifestyle and culture.

## Relocating to Mauritius

Mauritius is a land of opportunities for people who are looking to relocate, invest and start a new episode of their life by choosing it as a jurisdiction to base their affairs. Just a hop from the African

Continent, Mauritius as an international financial centre is a major hub for investors into Africa.

For those that choose to physically move to the island, not only is the perfect vacation weather attractive, but so also is that sense of hospitality and generosity that we find in each and every Mauritian. The island is rich in culture, and, most importantly, it is both a peaceful and safe place to live.

### **The island of opportunities**

Mauritius offers numerous advantages, and as a result is attracting more and more potential investors and high net worth individuals to move here. Oak has seized this opportunity to set up an office in Mauritius a few years back to provide a full-fledged corporate and bespoke service to clients from Southern Africa. People increasingly value having that certainty, trust, and peace of mind when choosing an offshore jurisdiction to safely house their assets.

## Mauritius is considered one of the most business-friendly countries in sub-Saharan Africa

The Economic Development Board ('EDB') has in place a very attractive and advantageous scheme to help people relocate and move or set-up their business in Mauritius, for which they can obtain a residence or occupational permit. In terms of properties, potential investors can count on the ongoing luxury property developments across the island which they can acquire either by setting up a structure or by applying via the respective permits as outlined by the EDB.

No wonder then that Mauritius is considered one of the most business-friendly countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Indeed, the local regulators as well as different governing bodies are constantly implementing new

technologies to facilitate the various stages of moving to Mauritius such that potential investors do not to find themselves in a bottleneck during the different steps of their relocation or investment process.

### **A note on ESG**

With the focus being more and more on ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) factors, Mauritius is encouraging both local/international businesses and residents to engage themselves towards the implementation of sustainability goals, by, for example, investing in clean energy, a cleaner and greener Mauritius, protection of marine resources etc.

For this purpose, a number of renewable energy schemes are being created alongside the preservation of the fauna and flora and reforestation via different NGOs and others. Mauritius is a small island but with a vision which embraces the high-quality lifestyle that one would want for the entrepreneur, his family, and the next generation.

For all the reasons above, Mauritius appeals to me as an island of opportunities which offers the potential to grow on a sustainable basis.

### **The way forward to your relocation adventure**

If you are thinking of how and where to start to make that change that you have long been mulling over, and to embark on a new adventure by either relocating, acquiring a property, and/or setting up a business in Mauritius, you can count on the professionalism and expertise of the Mauritian people.

We are fortunate to have on this small island a ready supply of qualified people who would be pleased to assist you throughout your relocation process. Assistance is available to cover financial implications, tax considerations, setting up your structure, choosing the relevant permit that would suit your requirements and that of your family, and choosing your property, amongst others.

Why not relocate to a jurisdiction where you will profit not only from taxation benefits and service cost advantages, but from vacation weather all year round, freedom from stress, safety, and a friendly local population with well qualified professionals?

Make Mauritius your new home. Embark on a relocation adventure that changes your life.



**By Paul Schreiber, Managing Director, Oak Management (Mauritius) Ltd**