

THE TENTH ANNUAL EDITION OF

NOMAD PASSPORT INDEX 2026

[NOMADCAPITALIST.COM](https://nomadcapitalist.com)

**NOMAD
CAPITALIST®**

ABOUT NOMAD CAPITALIST

***GO WHERE
YOU'RE
TREATED
BEST[®]***

– ANDREW HENDERSON

Nomad Capitalist is a boutique tax and immigration consultancy for high-net-worth individuals who want more freedom, less tax and a stable, global lifestyle.

Founded in 2012 by perpetual traveller and serial entrepreneur Andrew Henderson, the firm helps six- and seven-figure clients legally reduce their tax burden, obtain second citizenship and build international wealth strategies.

Frustrated by the lack of clear, results-driven advice, Andrew Henderson created the company he wished existed – a one-stop-shop for modern entrepreneurs seeking to go where they're treated best.

Today, he's the author of the best-selling Nomad Capitalist book, and his advice reaches more than six million viewers annually through articles, videos and client consultations that cut through the noise to deliver real-world strategies.

MALTA

THIS YEAR'S  **HIGHEST RANKING PASSPORT**



PURPOSE

To Debate:

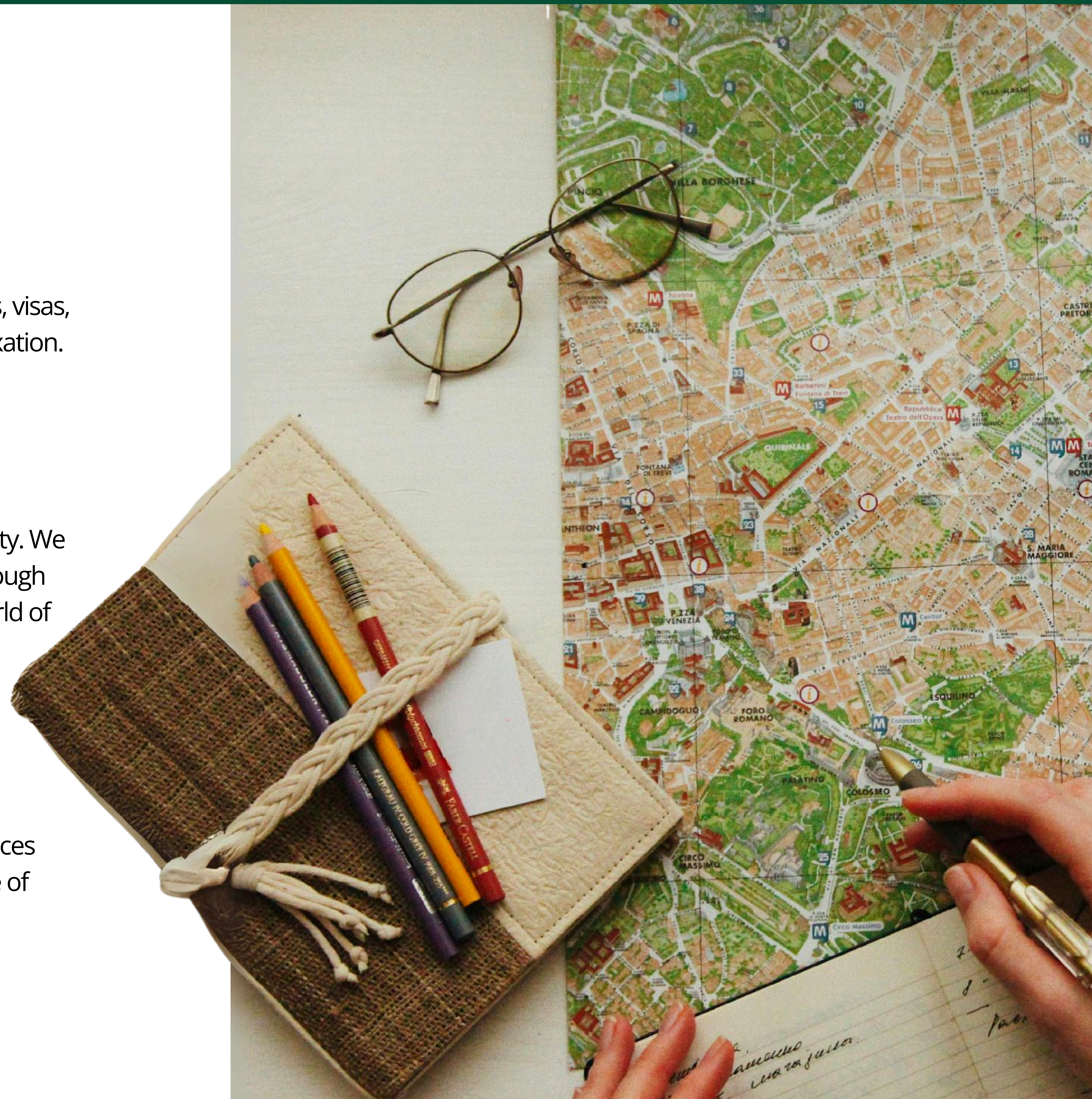
We wish to open up debate on topics like freedom of travel, borders, visas, citizenship rights and other key policy areas like immigration and taxation.

To Educate:

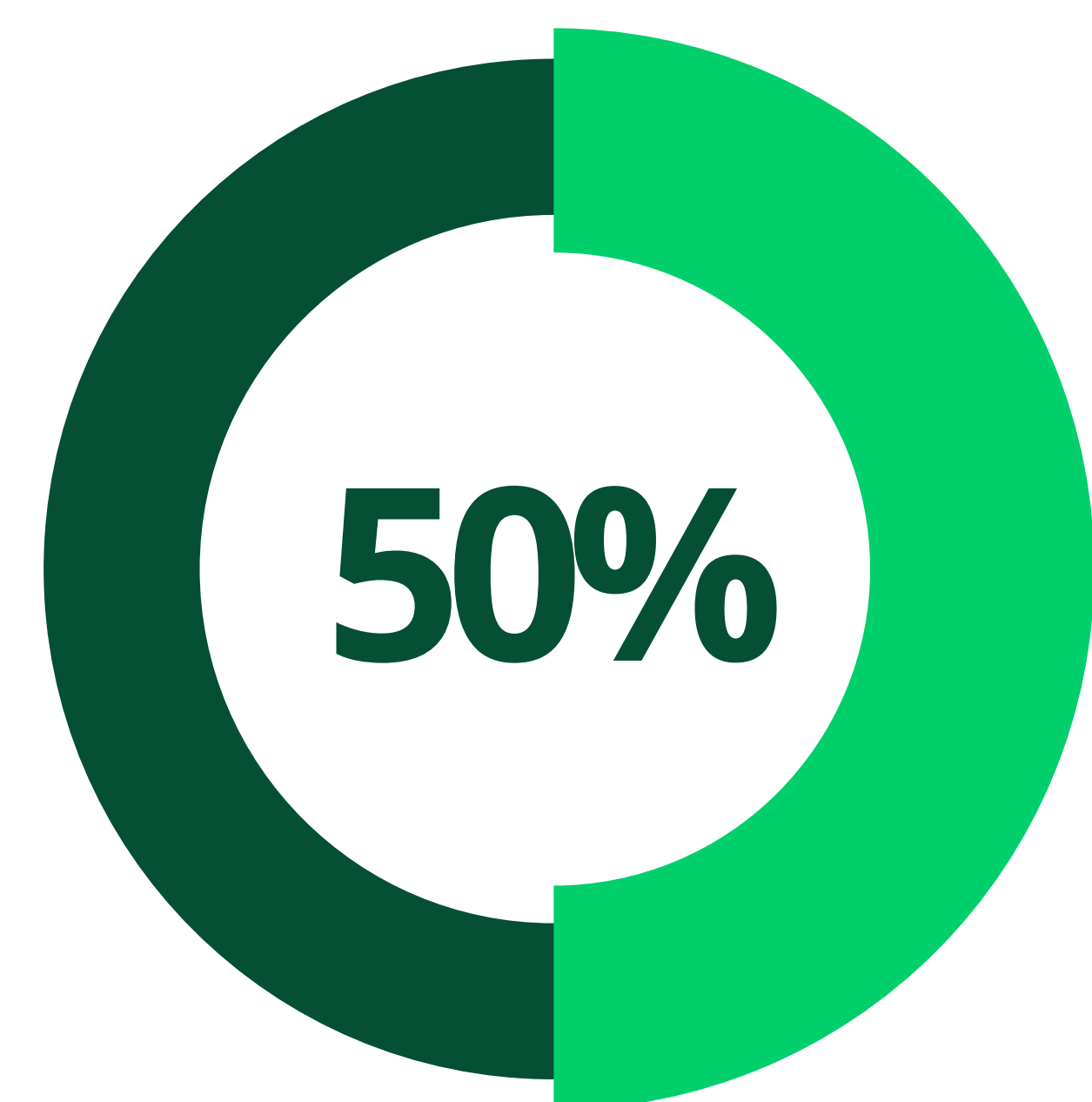
A passport is more than a travel document – it helps form our identity. We aim to show how a second citizenship can be truly empowering through removing restrictions, expanding your freedom and unlocking a world of new opportunities.

To Elevate:

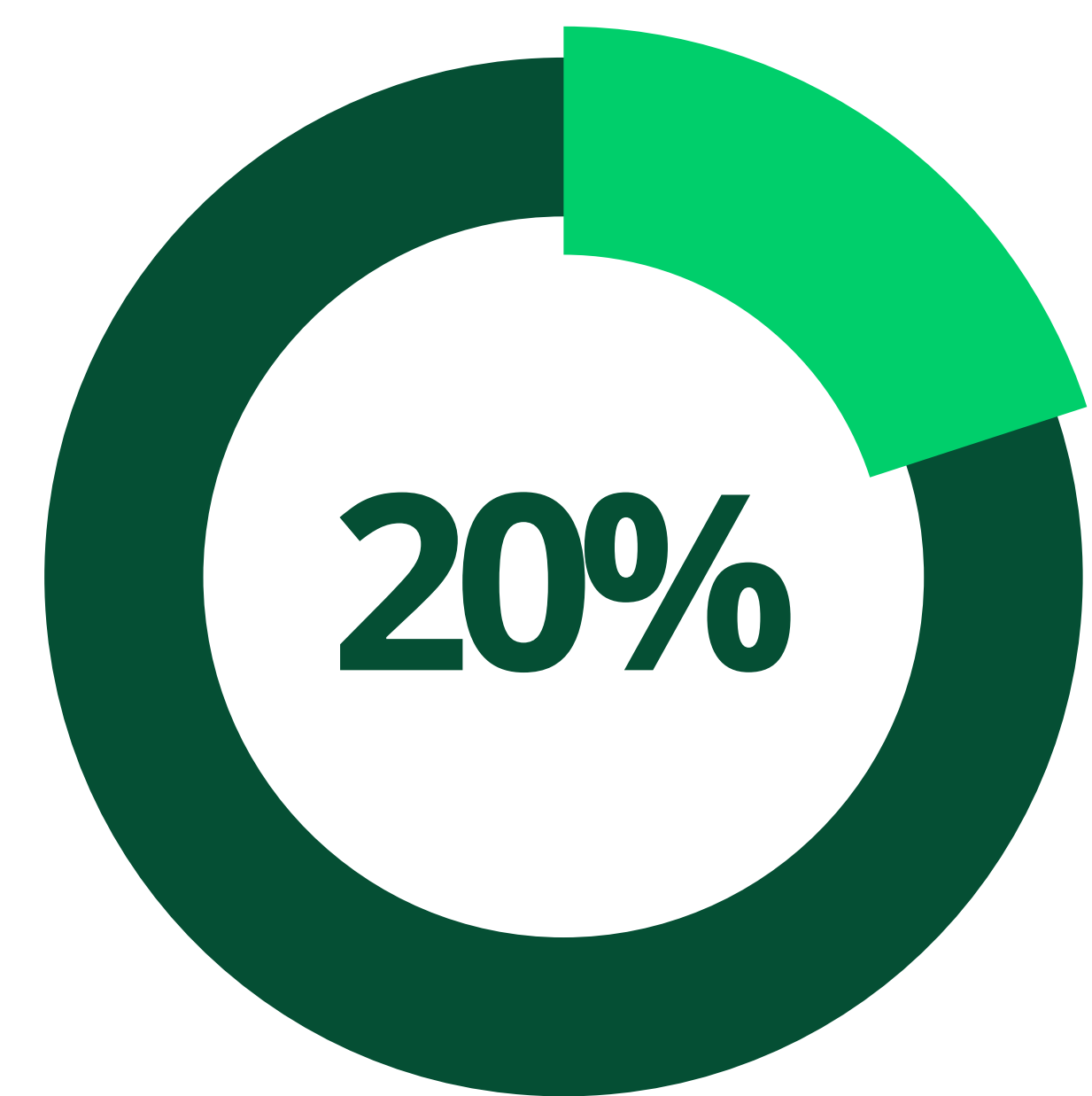
Having a second citizenship lets you transcend boundaries. It enhances your freedom to travel, work and do business while providing peace of mind in a volatile world.



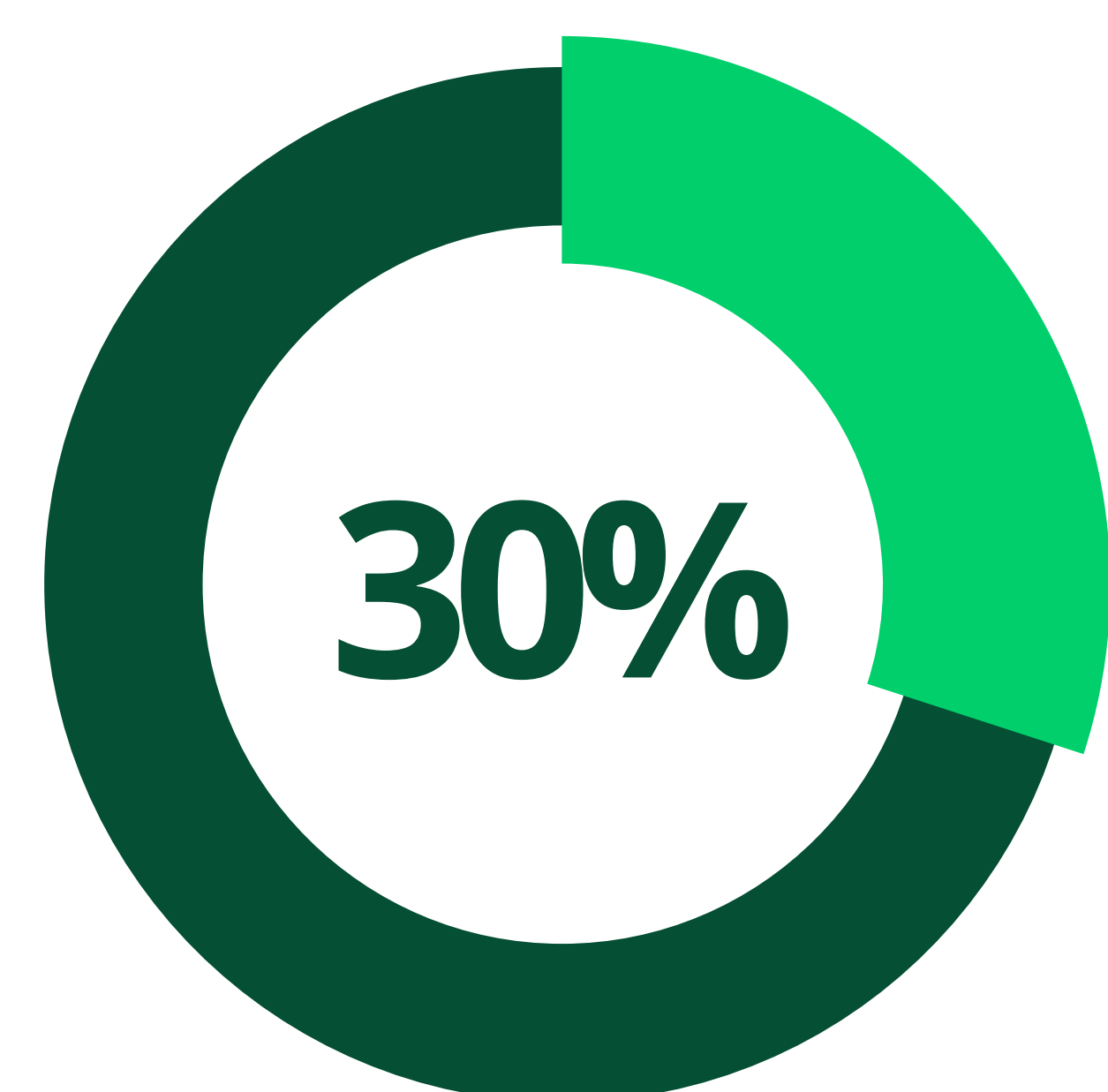
INDEX METHODOLOGY



VISA-FREE TRAVEL



TAXATION OF CITIZENS



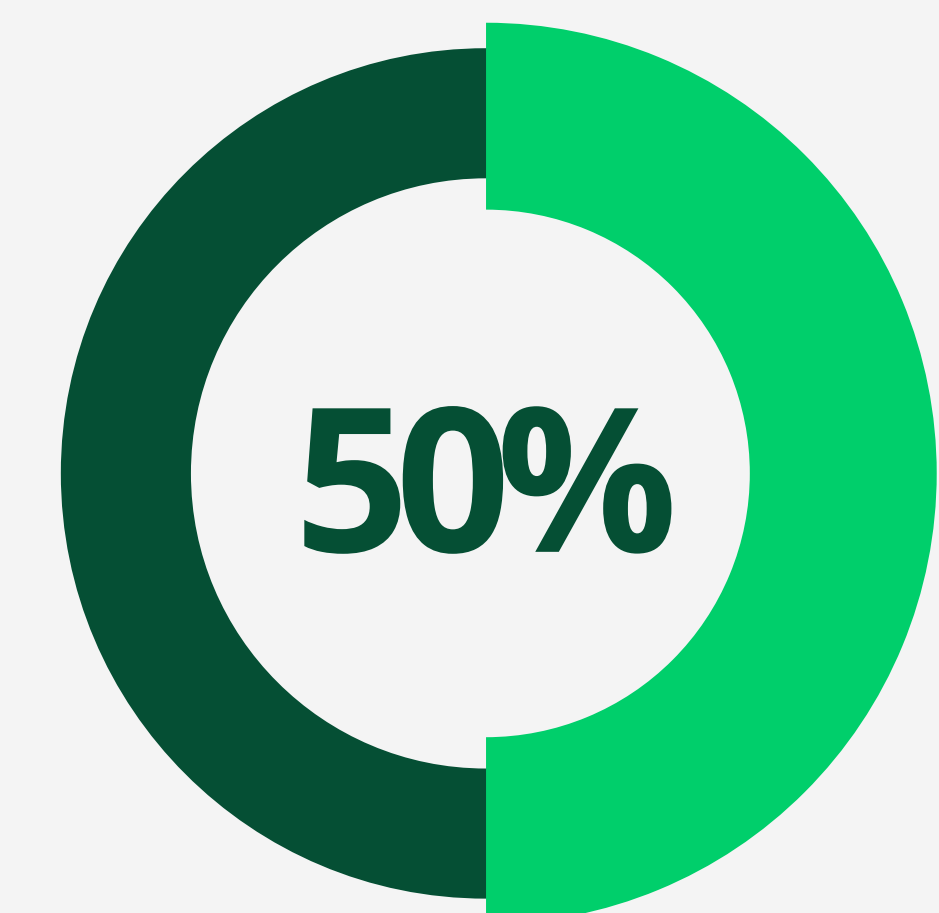
PERCEPTION, DUAL
CITIZENSHIP, FREEDOM

THIS INDEX RANKS PASSPORTS ON FIVE FACTORS:

1. Visa-Free Travel ----- **50%**
2. Taxation of Citizens ----- **20%**
3. Perception ----- **10%**
4. Dual Citizenship ----- **10%**
5. Personal Freedom ----- **10%**

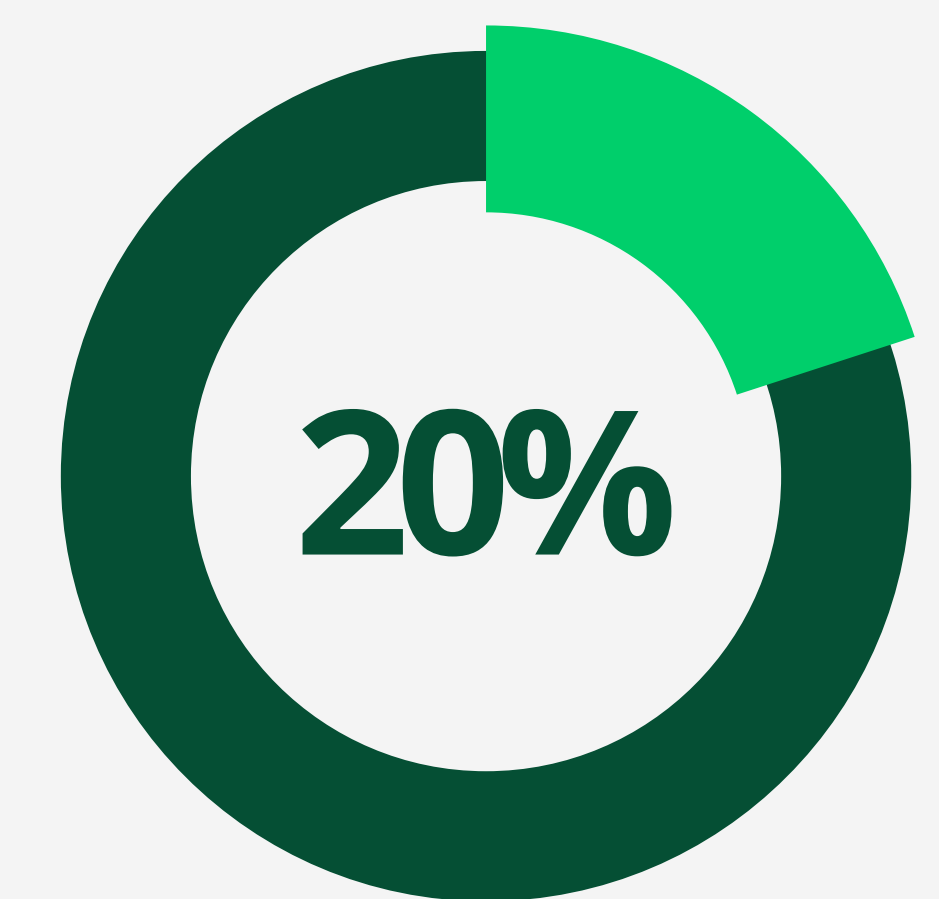
The Index is the result of aggregating data from nearly twenty unique sources and based on priorities that Nomad Capitalist believes are important to citizens and potential citizens of each given country.

HOW WE RANK PASSPORTS



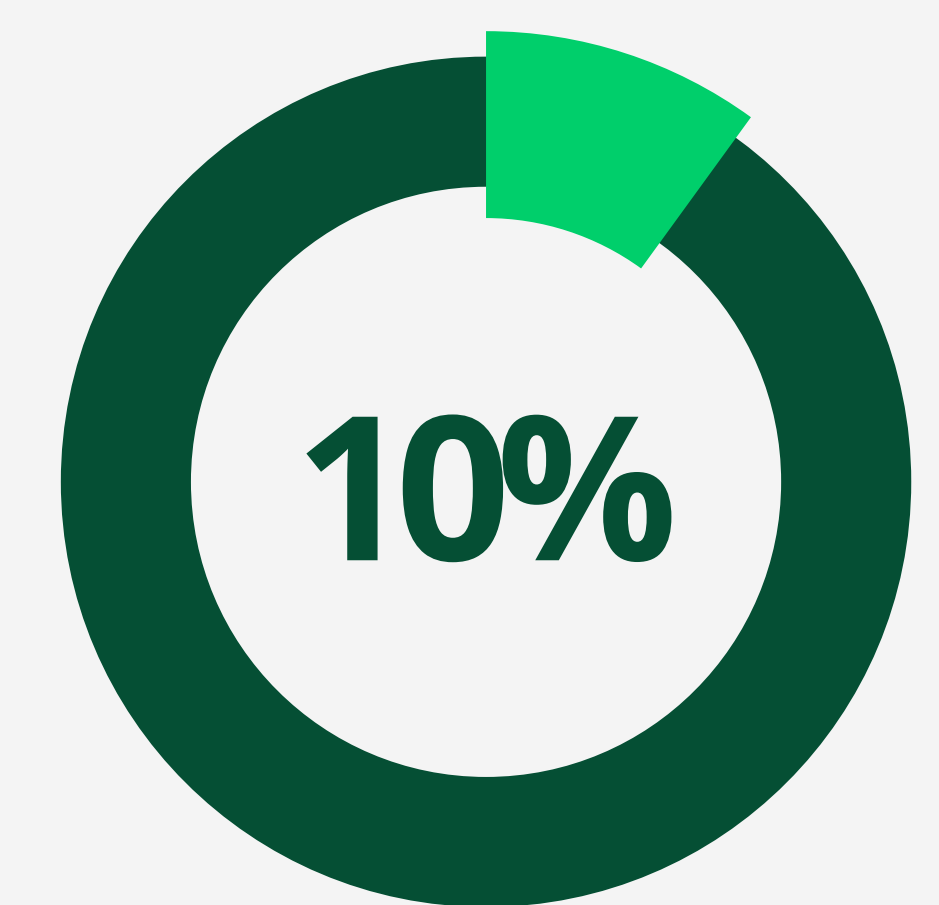
TRAVEL

We relied on government data from 199 passport-issuing countries and territories, combined with real-time intelligence and proprietary research. This factor includes a MobilityScore (MS) measuring ease of travel, which focuses on visa-free (VF) travel, visa on arrival (VOA), and electronic travel authorizations and e-visas issued within three days.



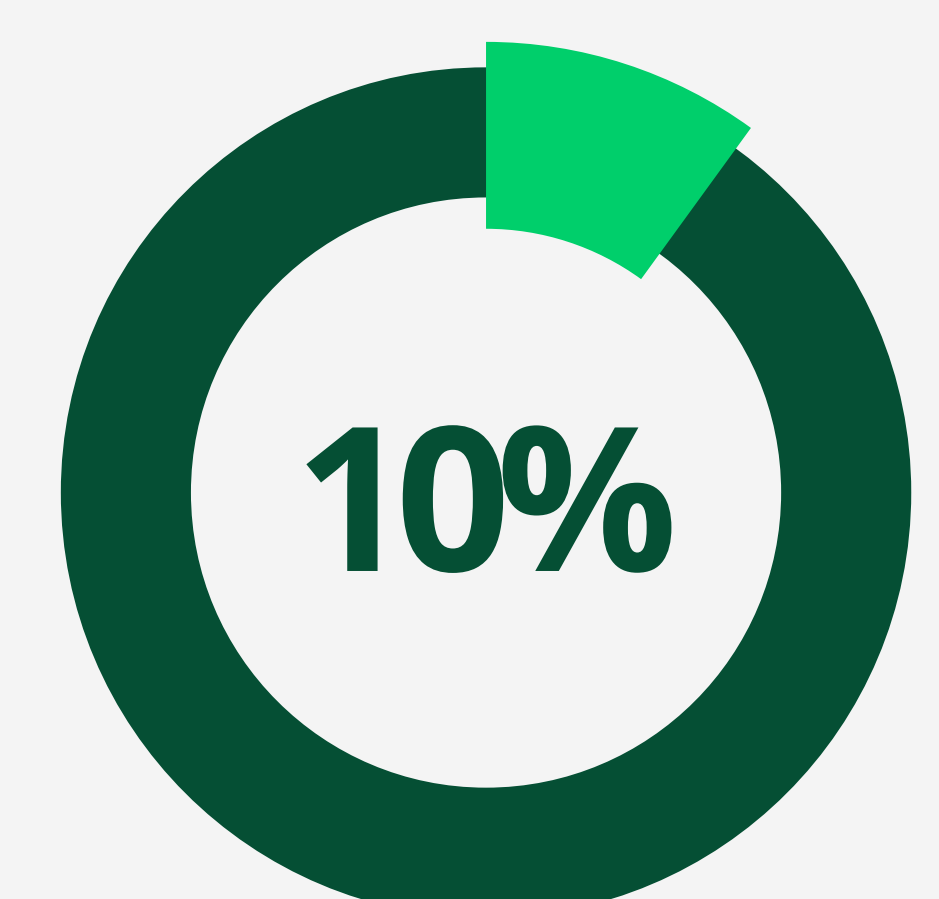
TAXATION

We relied on data from our network of tax vendors, news sources and tax authorities. We assigned the lowest score of 10 to countries that tax citizens no matter where they live (e.g. the United States); scores of 20 or 30 to countries that allow citizens to relocate and change tax residence to reduce or avoid tax (e.g. Finland); 40 for those that generally don't tax foreign income of resident citizens under a territorial or remittance-basis approach (e.g. Panama); and 50 for countries with no personal income tax (e.g. Vanuatu).



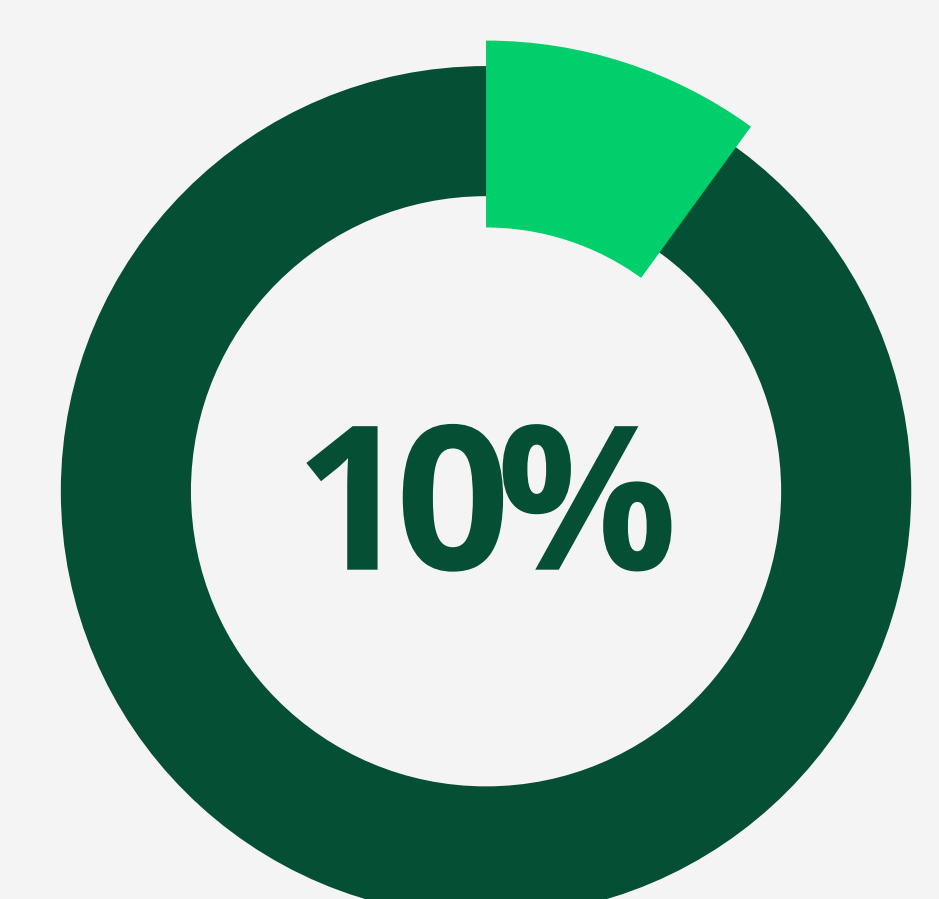
PERCEPTION

We relied on the World Happiness Report, the Human Development Index and subjective factors from our network's experiences to determine how each country's citizens are perceived, received and recognised around the world.








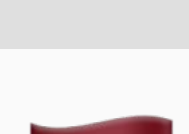


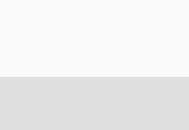

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

We relied on embassy data and our experiences to assess the ability to hold dual citizenship ranging from a score of 10 for strictly forbidden (e.g., China) to a score of 50 for freely allowed (e.g., Canada).





FREEDOM

We relied on data and news reports about mandatory military service, government surveillance, press freedom and other factors to determine the personal freedom of citizens, travellers and expats, with scores ranging from 10 to 50.


| Country | Rank | Travel | Taxation | Perception | Dual Cit | Freedom | Total Score |
|--|------|--------|----------|------------|----------|---------|-------------|
|  Malta | 1 | 172 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 109 |
|  Greece | 2T | 174 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 108 |
|  Ireland | 2T | 174 | 30 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 108 |
|  Romania | 2T | 172 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 108 |
|  Cyprus | 5 | 171 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 107.5 |
|  Bulgaria | 6T | 172 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 107 |
|  Czech Republic | 6T | 172 | 30 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 107 |
|  Italy | 6T | 174 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 30 | 107 |
|  New Zealand | 6T | 172 | 30 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 107 |
|  Hungary | 10T | 173 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 30 | 106.5 |
|  United Arab Emirates | 10T | 179 | 40 | 40 | 20 | 30 | 106.5 |
|  Belgium | 12T | 174 | 20 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 106 |
|  Denmark | 12T | 174 | 20 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 106 |
|  Finland | 12T | 174 | 20 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 106 |
|  Latvia | 12T | 172 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 106 |
|  Luxembourg | 12T | 174 | 20 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 106 |
|  Norway | 12T | 174 | 20 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 106 |
|  Sweden | 12T | 174 | 20 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 106 |
|  Switzerland | 12T | 174 | 20 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 106 |
|  Croatia | 20T | 173 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 105.5 |
|  Germany | 20T | 175 | 20 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 105.5 |
|  Liechtenstein | 20T | 171 | 40 | 50 | 20 | 50 | 105.5 |
|  Singapore | 20T | 175 | 40 | 50 | 10 | 40 | 105.5 |







| Country | Rank | Travel | Taxation | Perception | Dual Cit | Freedom | Total Score |
|--|------|--------|----------|------------|----------|---------|-------------|
|  France | 24T | 174 | 20 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 105 |
|  Portugal | 24T | 174 | 20 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 105 |
|  Australia | 26T | 171 | 20 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 104.5 |
|  Monaco | 26T | 167 | 50 | 50 | 10 | 50 | 104.5 |
|  Poland | 26T | 173 | 20 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 104.5 |
|  Slovenia | 26T | 173 | 30 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 104.5 |
|  Iceland | 30 | 170 | 20 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 104 |
|  Estonia | 31T | 173 | 30 | 40 | 20 | 50 | 103.5 |
|  Lithuania | 31T | 171 | 30 | 50 | 20 | 50 | 103.5 |
|  Slovakia | 31T | 173 | 30 | 40 | 30 | 40 | 103.5 |
|  Spain | 31T | 175 | 20 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 103.5 |
|  Canada | 35T | 169 | 20 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 102.5 |
|  South Korea | 35T | 173 | 20 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 102.5 |
|  United Kingdom | 35T | 169 | 20 | 50 | 50 | 40 | 102.5 |
|  Austria | 38T | 174 | 20 | 50 | 10 | 50 | 102 |
|  Malaysia | 38T | 174 | 30 | 40 | 10 | 40 | 102 |
|  Netherlands | 38T | 174 | 20 | 50 | 10 | 50 | 102 |
|  Japan | 41 | 173 | 20 | 50 | 10 | 50 | 101.5 |
|  Brazil | 42 | 163 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 100.5 |
|  United States | 43 | 168 | 10 | 50 | 50 | 40 | 100 |
|  San Marino | 44 | 161 | 40 | 50 | 10 | 50 | 99.5 |
|  Barbados | 45T | 156 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 99 |
|  Hong Kong | 45T | 162 | 50 | 50 | 10 | 20 | 99 |














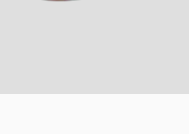
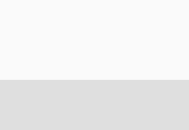
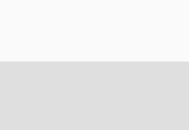




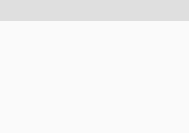
| Country | Rank | Travel | Taxation | Perception | Dual Cit | Freedom | Total Score |
|--|------|--------|----------|------------|----------|---------|-------------|
|  Andorra | 47 | 161 | 40 | 40 | 10 | 50 | 98.5 |
|  Argentina | 48T | 162 | 20 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 98 |
|  Chile | 48T | 162 | 20 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 98 |
|  Saint Kitts and Nevis | 50T | 149 | 50 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 97.5 |
|  Uruguay | 50T | 151 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 97.5 |
|  Bahamas | 52 | 154 | 50 | 40 | 20 | 40 | 97 |
|  Vatican City | 53 | 150 | 50 | 40 | 30 | 40 | 96 |
|  Costa Rica | 54 | 144 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 95 |
|  Brunei | 55T | 155 | 50 | 40 | 10 | 20 | 94.5 |
|  Saint Vincent & the Grenadines | 55T | 147 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 94.5 |
|  Seychelles | 57 | 149 | 40 | 40 | 20 | 50 | 93.5 |
|  Trinidad and Tobago | 58 | 144 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 93 |
|  Mexico | 59 | 153 | 20 | 40 | 50 | 30 | 92.5 |
|  Antigua and Barbuda | 60T | 144 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 92 |
|  Mauritius | 60T | 142 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 92 |
|  Peru | 60T | 150 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 92 |
|  Grenada | 63 | 141 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 91.5 |
|  Paraguay | 64T | 144 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 91 |
|  Saint Lucia | 64T | 140 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 91 |
|  Israel | 66 | 153 | 30 | 10 | 50 | 20 | 90.5 |
|  Macao | 67T | 143 | 50 | 40 | 10 | 20 | 88.5 |
|  Panama | 67T | 141 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 88.5 |
|  Dominica | 69 | 137 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 87.5 |












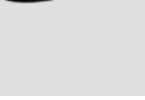



| Country | Rank | Travel | Taxation | Perception | Dual Cit | Freedom | Total Score |
|--|------|--------|----------|------------|----------|---------|-------------|
|  Solomon Islands | 70 | 137 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 86.5 |
|  Samoa | 71T | 132 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 86 |
|  Serbia | 71T | 134 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 86 |
|  El Salvador | 73T | 132 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 85 |
|  Tuvalu | 73T | 130 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 85 |
|  Ukraine | 73T | 146 | 20 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 85 |
|  Honduras | 76 | 131 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 84.5 |
|  Colombia | 77 | 136 | 20 | 40 | 50 | 30 | 84 |
|  Georgia | 78T | 133 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 83.5 |
|  Guatemala | 78T | 133 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 83.5 |
|  North Macedonia | 78T | 133 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 83.5 |
|  Taiwan | 81 | 128 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 50 | 83 |
|  Montenegro | 82 | 131 | 30 | 40 | 30 | 40 | 82.5 |
|  Palau | 83T | 122 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 50 | 82 |
|  Tonga | 83T | 128 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 82 |
|  Kiribati | 85 | 129 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 40 | 80.5 |
|  Marshall Islands | 86 | 126 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 50 | 80 |
|  Bosnia and Herzegovina | 87T | 124 | 30 | 30 | 40 | 40 | 79 |
|  Moldova | 87T | 124 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 79 |
|  Micronesia | 89T | 121 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 78.5 |
|  Turkey | 89T | 123 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 20 | 78.5 |
|  Albania | 91T | 122 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 78 |
|  Nicaragua | 91T | 126 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 10 | 78 |

| Country | Rank | Travel | Taxation | Perception | Dual Cit | Freedom | Total Score |
|--|------|--------|----------|------------|----------|---------|-------------|
|  Qatar | 93 | 119 | 50 | 40 | 10 | 20 | 76.5 |
|  Venezuela | 94 | 125 | 30 | 10 | 50 | 10 | 75.5 |
|  Kuwait | 95 | 111 | 50 | 40 | 10 | 30 | 73.5 |
|  Russia | 96 | 124 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 10 | 72 |
|  South Africa | 97T | 110 | 20 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 71 |
|  Vanuatu | 97T | 96 | 50 | 30 | 50 | 50 | 71 |
|  Maldives | 99 | 102 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 70 |
|  Ecuador | 100 | 102 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 69 |
|  Belize | 101T | 100 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 68 |
|  East Timor | 101T | 100 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 68 |
|  Jamaica | 101T | 100 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 68 |
|  Guyana | 104 | 98 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 67 |
|  Bahrain | 105T | 101 | 50 | 40 | 10 | 10 | 66.5 |
|  Saudi Arabia | 105T | 101 | 50 | 40 | 10 | 10 | 66.5 |
|  Fiji | 107 | 98 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 66 |
|  Nauru | 108 | 90 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 65 |
|  Bolivia | 109T | 88 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 64 |
|  Thailand | 109T | 96 | 30 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 64 |
|  Kosovo | 111 | 93 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 63.5 |
|  Botswana | 112 | 84 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 50 | 63 |
|  Dominican Republic | 113 | 84 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 62 |
|  Kazakhstan | 114T | 93 | 40 | 40 | 10 | 20 | 61.5 |
|  Oman | 114T | 97 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 10 | 61.5 |

| Country | Rank | Travel | Taxation | Perception | Dual Cit | Freedom | Total Score |
|--|------|--------|----------|------------|----------|---------|-------------|
|  Morocco | 116 | 85 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 59.5 |
|  Namibia | 117 | 80 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 59 |
|  Indonesia | 118T | 92 | 30 | 30 | 10 | 20 | 58 |
|  Suriname | 118T | 88 | 30 | 30 | 10 | 40 | 58 |
|  Armenia | 120 | 81 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 57.5 |
|  Kenya | 121 | 78 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 57 |
|  China | 122 | 93 | 20 | 40 | 10 | 10 | 56.5 |
|  Belarus | 123T | 92 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 56 |
|  Tunisia | 123T | 78 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 56 |
|  Cape Verde | 125T | 75 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 55.5 |
|  Ghana | 125T | 75 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 40 | 55.5 |
|  Lesotho | 127T | 82 | 40 | 20 | 10 | 30 | 55 |
|  Papua New Guinea | 127T | 88 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 55 |
|  Zambia | 127T | 76 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 55 |
|  Eswatini | 130 | 81 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 20 | 54.5 |
|  Azerbaijan | 131T | 86 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 54 |
|  Mongolia | 131T | 78 | 30 | 30 | 10 | 50 | 54 |
|  Gambia | 133T | 74 | 30 | 30 | 40 | 30 | 53 |
|  Malawi | 133T | 80 | 30 | 10 | 30 | 30 | 53 |
|  Kyrgyzstan | 135T | 75 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 52.5 |
|  Philippines | 135T | 77 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 52.5 |
|  Rwanda | 135T | 73 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 20 | 52.5 |
|  Uganda | 135T | 73 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 20 | 52.5 |

| Country | Rank | Travel | Taxation | Perception | Dual Cit | Freedom | Total Score |
|---|------|--------|----------|------------|----------|---------|-------------|
|  Benin | 139T | 70 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 30 | 51 |
|  Senegal | 139T | 68 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 51 |
|  Zimbabwe | 139T | 72 | 40 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 51 |
|  Sao Tome and Principe | 142 | 71 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 50.5 |
|  Cambodia | 143T | 68 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 20 | 50 |
|  Sierra Leone | 143T | 68 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 30 | 50 |
|  Tanzania | 143T | 76 | 30 | 30 | 10 | 20 | 50 |
|  Algeria | 146 | 69 | 30 | 30 | 40 | 20 | 49.5 |
|  Burkina Faso | 147T | 68 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 20 | 49 |
|  Mozambique | 147T | 68 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 20 | 49 |
|  Gabon | 149T | 69 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 48.5 |
|  Tajikistan | 149T | 71 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 48.5 |
|  Togo | 149T | 67 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 20 | 48.5 |
|  Uzbekistan | 149T | 75 | 30 | 30 | 10 | 10 | 48.5 |
|  Angola | 153T | 64 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 30 | 48 |
|  India | 153T | 74 | 20 | 30 | 10 | 30 | 48 |
|  Madagascar | 153T | 70 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 48 |
|  Vietnam | 153T | 70 | 20 | 30 | 50 | 10 | 48 |
|  Egypt | 157T | 65 | 30 | 30 | 40 | 20 | 47.5 |
|  Jordan | 157T | 65 | 30 | 30 | 40 | 20 | 47.5 |
|  Comoros | 159T | 63 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 20 | 46.5 |
|  Guinea | 159T | 63 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 20 | 46.5 |
|  Bhutan | 161T | 66 | 30 | 30 | 10 | 30 | 46 |

| Country | Rank | Travel | Taxation | Perception | Dual Cit | Freedom | Total Score |
|--|------|--------|----------|------------|----------|---------|-------------|
|  Cuba | 161T | 74 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 46 |
|  Guinea-Bissau | 161T | 60 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 30 | 46 |
|  Ivory Coast | 161T | 66 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 46 |
|  Liberia | 165T | 59 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 30 | 45.5 |
|  Sri Lanka | 165T | 57 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 30 | 45.5 |
|  Lebanon | 167 | 58 | 40 | 10 | 50 | 20 | 45 |
|  Djibouti | 168T | 63 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 44.5 |
|  Mali | 168T | 61 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 10 | 44.5 |
|  Niger | 170 | 64 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 10 | 44 |
|  Haiti | 171T | 61 | 30 | 10 | 50 | 10 | 43.5 |
|  Republic of the Congo | 171T | 57 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 20 | 43.5 |
|  Cameroon | 173T | 60 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 43 |
|  Chad | 173T | 60 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 43 |
|  Equatorial Guinea | 173T | 66 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 43 |
|  Turkmenistan | 173T | 64 | 40 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 43 |
|  Central African Republic | 177 | 61 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 10 | 42.5 |
|  Nigeria | 178 | 54 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 42 |
|  Mauritania | 179 | 65 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 41.5 |
|  Laos | 180 | 62 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 41 |
|  South Sudan | 181 | 53 | 30 | 20 | 50 | 10 | 40.5 |
|  Burundi | 182 | 58 | 30 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 40 |
|  Libya | 183 | 53 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 10 | 39.5 |
|  Bangladesh | 184T | 50 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 39 |

| Country | Rank | Travel | Taxation | Perception | Dual Cit | Freedom | Total Score |
|--|------|--------|----------|------------|----------|---------|-------------|
|  Nepal | 184T | 54 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 30 | 39 |
|  Ethiopia | 186T | 55 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 38.5 |
|  Sudan | 186T | 53 | 30 | 10 | 40 | 10 | 38.5 |
|  Democratic Rep. of the Congo | 188 | 54 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 37 |
|  Myanmar | 189T | 58 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 36 |
|  Yemen | 189T | 46 | 30 | 10 | 50 | 10 | 36 |
|  Somalia | 191 | 45 | 30 | 10 | 50 | 10 | 35.5 |
|  Palestinian Territory | 192 | 50 | 30 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 35 |
|  Iran | 193 | 55 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 34.5 |
|  Pakistan | 194 | 45 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 33.5 |
|  North Korea | 195 | 50 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 32 |
|  Iraq | 196 | 44 | 20 | 10 | 30 | 10 | 31 |
|  Eritrea | 197T | 51 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 30.5 |
|  Syria | 197T | 39 | 30 | 10 | 30 | 10 | 30.5 |
|  Afghanistan | 199 | 38 | 30 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 28 |

ABOUT THIS INDEX

10-YEAR TREND LINES FOR THE NOMAD PASSPORT INDEX (2017–2026)

Nordic and core EU passports stayed in the blue-chip tier.

Over ten editions, countries like Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Ireland, Belgium, and Denmark rarely left the top band. They traded places among themselves, but consistently offered the same formula: top mobility, strong freedoms, open dual citizenship, and boringly reliable institutions.

SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE MOVED FROM “NICE” TO “NECESSARY.”

Passports from Portugal, Italy, Greece, Malta, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and Romania began the decade as secondary options and end it at the center of strategy. With EU access plus flat-tax, non-dom, or low-rate regimes, they steadily climbed until Malta reached No. 1 in 2026 and Ireland, Greece, and Romania tied for No. 2.

THE UAE’S RISE AND CORRECTION DEFINED THE “TAX-FREE” STORY.

The United Arab Emirates went from high-mobility outlier to No. 1 in 2023, powered by visa-free deals and a tax-free brand, then eased back to a tie at No. 10 once corporate tax arrived and the index gave more weight to its still-narrow dual-citizenship framework and ongoing civil-liberties concerns. The pattern: residency alone is not enough if the passport itself has structural limits.

ANGLO-SAXON GIANTS NEVER BROKE INTO THE TRULY ELITE TIER.

Across ten years, the US, UK, Canada, and Australia stayed clearly above average but never cracked the very top. The US has been stuck mid-table (now No. 43) under the weight of citizenship-based taxation. The UK slid from upper-tier to a tie at No. 35 as the non-dom regime disappeared. Canada (No. 35) and Australia (No. 26) remained superb lifestyle passports, but their high, residence-based tax systems kept them just outside the first rank.

THE DECADE ENDS WITH A CLEAR “BARBELL” STRATEGY.

By 2026, serious global citizens are no longer chasing a single perfect passport. Instead, they pair a blue-chip lifestyle passport (Nordics, core EU, Canada, Australia) with one or more efficiency passports or residencies (Southern/Eastern Europe, Gulf, selected LatAm/Caribbean) to blend reputation, mobility, tax flexibility, and exit options.



ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

TOP RANK CLIMBERS & FALLERS (BY POSITIONS GAINED)

| Country | 2025 Rank | 2026 Rank | Change |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Bulgaria | 29T | 6T | ▲ 23 |
| Hungary | 32T | 10T | ▲ 22 |
| Cyprus | 26T | 5 | ▲ 21 |
| Romania | 21T | 2T | ▲ 19 |
| Czech Republic | 13T | 6T | ▲ 7 |
| Malta | 5T | 1 | ▲ 4 |
| New Zealand | 10T | 6T | ▲ 4 |

| Country | 2025 Rank | 2026 Rank | Change |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Netherlands | 13T | 38T | ▼ -25 |
| Portugal | 4 | 24T | ▼ -20 |
| Switzerland | 2T | 12T | ▼ -10 |
| Germany | 13T | 20T | ▼ -7 |
| Luxembourg | 7T | 12T | ▼ -5 |
| Finland | 7T | 12T | ▼ -5 |
| Norway | 7T | 12T | ▼ -5 |

WHO ENTERED THE TOP 10

ROMANIA
BULGARIA

CZECH REPUBLIC
HUNGARY

WHO EXITED THE TOP 10

SWITZERLAND
PORTUGAL

LUXEMBOURG
FINLAND

NORWAY

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

G7 RANKS (2025 → 2026)

| Country | 2025 Rank | 2026 Rank | Change |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Italy | 5T | 6T | ▼ -1 |
| France | 21T | 24T | ▼ -3 |
| Japan | 37T | 41 | ▼ -4 |
| Germany | 13T | 20T | ▼ -7 |
| United Kingdom | 21T | 35T | ▼ -14 |
| Canada | 40T | 35T | ▲ +5 |
| United States | 45T | 43 | ▲ +2 |

KEY INSIGHTS:

- Italy is now the only G7 country consistently inside the Top 10
- The UK and Germany experience the sharpest relative declines
- The G7 is no longer clustered, it spans Top 10 to mid-40s

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

BRICS RANKS (2025 → 2026)

| Country | 2025 Rank | 2026 Rank | Change |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Brazil | 43T | 42 | ▲ 1 |
| South Africa | 100T | 97T | ▲ 3 |
| Russia | 95 | 96 | ▼ -1 |
| China | 119T | 122 | ▼ -3 |
| India | 148T | 153T | ▼ -5 |

KEY INSIGHTS:

- Brazil remains the only BRICS passport in the top quartile
- China and India remain firmly in the bottom third
- Changes are marginal, rankings are structurally stable

Additional Notes

Malta claims the top spot in this year's Nomad Passport Index, taking No. 1 and finally displacing last year's leader, Ireland. The story here is not that Ireland has fallen so much as Malta has edged ahead: Ireland now shares No. 2 with Romania and Greece, while Malta stands alone at the top thanks to strong EU mobility, fully liberal dual citizenship, and a remittance-basis regime for non-doms that is more accommodating for globally mobile individuals than Ireland's more restrictive tax structure.

Romania delivers one of the decade's biggest jumps, leaping into that tie for No. 2 after years outside the absolute top tier. A low flat tax, full EU and now Schengen-aligned mobility, and an open dual-citizenship stance allow it to overtake several older Western European leaders and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Ireland and Greece.

Greece likewise cements its place among the elite, joining Ireland and Romania in the No. 2 group. Its flat-tax regime for new residents and pensioners, deep EU mobility, and full dual-citizenship access have turned it into a headline option, while Ireland offers long-established reputation and a common-law system, and Romania brings one of the most clearly attractive special flat-tax options in the EU.

Just below the summit, Italy, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and New Zealand cluster together at No. 6. Italy stays in the upper ranks by pairing EU access with its lump-sum and pension regimes. The Czech Republic and Bulgaria showcase the rise of Central and Eastern Europe—EU mobility plus simpler, often lower taxes and open dual citizenship—while New Zealand holds its ground on lifestyle, institutions, and liberal dual-cit rules despite a more traditional tax system.

Cyprus, at No. 5, shows how a focused regime can propel a small country near the top. EU travel, non-dom treatment, a relatively short path to tax residence, and open dual citizenship keep it ahead of the larger pack tied at No. 6.

Further down the upper tier, Switzerland, Norway, and Luxembourg now share No. 12. They remain among the world's most desirable places to live, with outstanding mobility and top freedom and perception scores, but high worldwide tax and a lack of newcomer-focused regimes have pushed them from the very top into the low teens. High-tax, high-freedom models alone no longer guarantee a top-five spot.

The United Arab Emirates, which topped the index only a few years ago, now sits in a tie at No. 10. Best-in-class mobility and no personal income tax for most individuals still support a strong position, but corporate tax and a narrow, exception-based dual-citizenship policy have allowed EU and OECD passports with more open nationality rules to move ahead.

Portugal, once the poster child for combining EU access with a headline special regime, is now tied at No. 24. It is still a strong passport, but the end of its broad Non-Habitual Resident regime and a shift to a narrower innovation-focused framework have eroded the tax edge that once set it apart, especially now that Malta is No. 1, Greece is tied at No. 2, and Italy shares No. 6.

Among non-European heavyweights, the rankings highlight the gap between reputation and flexibility. The United States sits at No. 43, far below what its economic weight might suggest. Strong mobility and a powerful brand cannot outweigh citizenship-based worldwide taxation and a heavy compliance burden, particularly when many countries with similar mobility let citizens fully exit their tax net by moving abroad.

The United Kingdom, once comfortably near the front, is now tied at No. 35. Abolishing the non-dom regime and moving toward full worldwide taxation for residents has sharply reduced its appeal as a base for globally mobile wealth. Mobility, courts, and dual-cit rules remain strong, but the tax framework now looks like a typical high-tax OECD system with fewer planning options. Canada, also tied at No. 35, tells a similar story. It is an excellent lifestyle and reputation passport, but its conventional, high-tax, residence-based system keeps it firmly in the upper-middle tier rather than in serious contention for the top group.

Australia, tied at No. 26, sits somewhat above Canada and the UK but still well behind the new leaders. World-class living standards, good mobility, and liberal dual citizenship are tempered by a straightforward high-tax, residence-based regime that offers less flexibility than the systems powering the rise of Malta, Greece, Romania, or Cyprus.

Taken together, these shifts produce a top ten that looks markedly different from last year's. Malta rises to No. 1, Ireland is joined at No. 2 by Romania and Greece, Central and Eastern Europe move decisively into the upper ranks, and Gulf and Anglo-Saxon passports drift further down the table. The change reflects a higher bar: to sit at the very top now requires not just great mobility or a strong brand, but a coherent mix of travel freedom, tax flexibility, dual-citizenship openness, and durable democratic institutions.



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