

## Investment Guide – Cook Islands

### Reasons to invest in the Cook Islands:

- A Government which welcomes and encourages local and foreign investment
- Attractive Life-style in a relaxed and safe environment
- Developed infrastructure for business, quality housing for expatriate staff and good health and education services
- No Foreign Exchange Controls
- Freedom to repatriate capital and profits
- No Wealth Tax
- No Gift Tax
- No Property Tax
- No Capital Gains Tax
- No Death Duty Tax
- Income Tax (company) 20% for residents, 28% for non residents
- Value added Tax - 15%
- Withholding Tax – Foreign pay-outs - 15%  
(On interest, dividend, and royalty)
- Sophisticated telecommunication links with the rest of the world and almost daily air services to New Zealand, Australia and the USA

### Strong support from:

#### Trading Banks:

- ANZ
- Westpac Banking Corporation
- Bank of the Cook Islands (BCI)

#### Airlines: International Daily:

- International Flights to NZ: Australia, Honolulu, Los Angeles on code-share services provided by Air New Zealand, Pacific Blue, & Tahiti Airlines.



- Domestic: Air Rarotonga flies daily to the Southern Group, and twice weekly to the Northern Group

#### Shipping:

- International: Monthly Break-bulk and containerised Shipping except Auckland, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga.
- Domestic: Scheduled Weekly Services to Southern and Northern Group Islands

#### Languages:

- English, Cook Islands Maori
- Pristine & Unspoiled Environment, No Dangerous Animals, No Poisonous Insects, No Lethal Viruses.

### **Reserved Investment Areas**

#### AGRICULTURE

- \* Commercial agricultural or food production
- \* MARINE RESOURCES
- \* Pearl farming
- \* Commercial aquaculture or harvesting of pearl shell, shell fish or other reef or lagoon products
- \* Commercial fishing (long line, purse seiner or similar)
- \* Fresh fish processing
- \* Fresh fish exporting
- \* Fish bait production

#### MANUFACTURING & PRODUCTION

- \* Food processing including freezing and drying, or drink bottling



- \* Screen printing of fabrics or other piece goods
- \* Garment manufacture
- \* Making of traditional or cultural handicrafts and artifacts (including commercial reproductions)
- \* Recordings of cultural performances \* Jewellery

#### TOURISM

- \* Visitor accommodation
- \* Motor vehicle rentals
- \* Diving operations
- \* Water-sports operations (water skis, parasailing, jet-skis, etc.)
- \* Tourist tours or transfers
- \* Eco-tourism

#### OTHER AREAS

- \* Cinema operations
- \* Cultural attractions (including cultural performances)
- \* Bakeries or pastry shops
- \* Grocery retail outlets (including sundry stores, superettes, and supermarkets)
- \* Ownership of galleries for paintings or other visual arts
- \* Motor vehicle dealers
- \* Restaurants, cafés, or other food preparation and sale operations



- \* Retail of traditional or cultural handicrafts and artifacts (including commercial reproductions)
- \* Sale or supply of computer hardware or related services   \* Trucking and cartage operations
- \* Taverns or public bars
- \* Duty free shops
- \* Laundry or dry-cleaning
- \* Places offering Internet access (e.g. internet cafés)   \* Audio or video production, hire, or sale
- \* Hair dressing salons, beauty parlors, or health spas

### **How to apply**

1. Complete the Short Term Business application form AF1001B
2. Provide all supporting documents listed in the Foreign Enterprise Checklist
3. Lodge your completed application together with your fee of \$750 NZD at our office in Avarua, Rarotonga by the 7th of each month
4. We will communicate with you once the application is received
5. Your application will take approximately 3 weeks to process
6. Your application is decided by a Board of 5 Directors that sits at the end of each month
7. The outcome of your application will be conveyed immediately after the meeting.
8. If you are approved other Government agencies are also advised in order to facilitate your entry to carry on business in the Cook Islands. These includes the Immigration Department for entry and work permits (visa), the Registrar of Companies for the registration of the company, the Management Revenue Division for tax registration, and the appropriate line Ministry responsible for the business sector you are in
9. If your application is declined by the Board you have 21 days from the date of that decision to appeal to the Minister responsible for the Business Trade & Investment Board.



**Registration Process:**

For those who would like to start or own a business in the Cook Islands, you will need to register with the Business Trade Investment Board for Foreign Enterprise registration. The BTIB Board grants the necessary approval to carry on business in the Cook Islands.

Please visit our download link page to access all the Application Forms: [Click Here](#)

If you are a current business owner in the Cook Islands and would like to sell your business to a non-Cook Islander you will need to do the following:

- Place an advertisement in 2 local newspapers for 3 months (1 placement per week, in two separate prints)
- We will also consider online advertising
- Keep a record of all local and foreign expressions of interest

Note: Advertising in local newspaper is compulsory.

**\*For further information, please contact:**

**Pacific Trade Invest China**

**+86 10 65326622**

**[info@pacifictradeinvest.org.cn](mailto:info@pacifictradeinvest.org.cn)**