

Visa, passport and investments in Panama



Panama is one of the **most popular places to emigrate worldwide** and, according to Forbes, one of the **most interesting real estate locations worldwide** ([info link](#)). If you want to emigrate to Panama or **apply for a second residence or passport in Panama**, our team of lawyers will be happy to assist you. Panama makes it relatively easy for interested people to obtain an official residence permit or passport in Panama.

Overview of the main types of visa in Panama

1. **Friendly Nations Visa** (rules until 06 August 2021)
2. **Friendly Nations Visa** (rules from 06 August 2021)
3. **Golden Visa / Qualified Foreign Investor Visa**
4. **Investor Visa**
5. **Pensioner Visum**

1. **Friendly Nations Visa** (rules until 06 August 2021)

- For selected nations (list at the end of page 4).
- Permanent residence permit in Panama.
- Requirements: Open a bank account (minimum deposit 5,000 USD) & incorporate a company.
- Easiest way to obtain a permanent residence in Panama.
- Applications submitted in person in Panama by the above date and visas already issued are valid under these regulations.

- Approximate costs (subject to change, as of July 2021):
 - ★ Visa: 3.750 USD one time
 - ★ Company foundation: 1.500 USD one-time
 - ★ Bank lobby service for account opening : 550 USD one-time (if desired)
- You should plan two trips to Panama. The first trip (min. 10 - 14 days) is to apply for and receive the temporary residence permit. The second trip is then to collect the permanent residence permit. This is possible after 4-6 months.

2. Friendly Nations Visa (rules from 06 August 2021)

- For selected nations (list at the end of page 4).
- Two-year temporary residence permit and afterwards application for permanent residence permit in Panama (provided the following requirements still hold in two years).
- Requirements at application: a) Own a property with a minimum value of 200,000 USD already registered in land register in your personal name or your company / foundation name or b) a 3-year bank account fixed deposit or c) have a proven employment relationship in Panama.
- Approximate costs for variants a) and b) (subject to change, as of July 2021):
 - ★ Visa: 3,640 USD one-time / for the two-year residence permit
 - ★ Visa: 2,600 USD one-time / for the permanent residence permit that follows
 - ★ Bank lobby service for account opening: 550 USD one-time (account opening is not mandatory for a real estate purchase, but useful).
- The costs for variant c) "employment relationship" have not yet been published by the authorities.
- You should plan two trips to Panama. On the first trip (min. 10 - 14 days) you apply for and receive the temporary residence permit. On the trip after two years you apply for and receive the permanent residence permit. In addition for variant a) you must have purchased a property in Panama in advance, which usually also requires a trip.

3. Golden Visa / Qualified Foreign Investor Visa

- You can apply for it from abroad and receive the permanent resident card in 30 days.
- However, it requires the client to visit Panama to complete the application process and furthermore, to make the investment.
- Requirement: An investment.
- This could be real estate from 300,000 USD (after October 2022 it will be minimum 500.000 USD / in the personal name already registered in the land register).
- This also applies to 5 year CD bank account investment for 750.000 USD and to Panama stock market investment for 500.000 USD.
- The investment must be held at least 5 years.
- Approximate costs (subject to change, as of July 2021):
 - ★ Visa: 19.160 USD one time
 - ★ The fees and costs per additional dependant are significantly lower
 - ★ Bank lobby service for account opening : 550 USD one-time (if desired)

4. Investor Visa

- An investment is required, e.g. in real estate from 300,000 USD (in personal name or in the name of own company / foundation already registered in the land register).
- Two-year temporary residence permit and afterwards application for permanent residence permit in Panama (provided investment is still in force in two years).
- Approximate costs (subject to change, as of July 2021):
 - ★ Visa: 3.750 USD one time
 - ★ Bank lobby service for account opening : 550 USD one-time (opening an account is not mandatory, but useful for a real estate purchase / And the investment money must be transferred from abroad to this account to be recognized as a "foreign investment").

Real Estate Investments for the Investor Visa

- With the support of "FRAPAN-Invest", investors can invest directly in real estate and we can administer your property if required. Examples of real estate investments:
 - ☆ **Real estate in prime locations** for rent or for own use
 - ☆ **Restoration of a UNESCO colonial building** in Panama City
 - ☆ Purchase or development of an **island plot of land**
- By clicking on the following link you will find an [overview of investment opportunities](#)



5. Pensioner Visa

- For retirees who receive at least USD 1,000 monthly guaranteed pension from their home country.
- Permanent residence permit for Panama.
- Big discounts in restaurants, hotels, cultural events, hospitals, etc.
- Approximate costs (subject to change, as of July 2021):
 - ★ Visa: 2.600 USD one time
 - ★ Bank lobby service for account opening : 550 USD one-time (if desired)

- You should plan two trips to Panama. The first trip (min. 10 - 14 days) is to apply for and receive the temporary residence permit. The second trip is then to collect the unrestricted residence permit. This is possible after 4-6 months.

The following applies to all types of visa:

- Our team of lawyers in Panama will assist you with the opening of a bank account, the incorporation of companies, etc.
- Basically required documents: passport, identity card, police record (with apostille), proof of income
- In order to maintain the visa, one must visit Panama at least once every two years.

Citizenship and Panama passport

- After having held the permanent residence permit for five years, one can apply for Panama citizenship and Panama passport. For this you have to pass a Spanish test.

Who we are

Klaus Happ's real estate company "FRAPAN-Invest" (www.frapan-invest.com) advises investors who want to invest in real estate in Panama and also manages it. In addition, he supports companies that want to become entrepreneurially active in Panama ([Panama business consulting](#)). Klaus Happ is married to a Panameña, lives in Frankfurt and is in Panama every two months. Until 2017, he worked for 23 years as a capital market specialist at UBS and Dresdner Bank.

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Citizens of these countries can apply for the **Friendly Nations Visa** (as of June 2021):

Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Great Britain, Switzerland, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Letonia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay, USA, South Africa. Italy has a bilateral simplified agreement with Panama.

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