

# Invest in Guam





#### Guam. USA: An ideal investment location.

Guam is open and ready for you. As the westernmost territory of the United States, Guam presents a unique opportunity for investment in a truly transpacific location.

The foundation of Guam's economy has historically been based on a mature and thriving tourism industry and United States federal spending. While these two sources of revenue will continue to be the primary drivers of Guam's economy, the government of Guam is placing an increased emphasis on spurring economic diversification through the development and expansion of new and existing industries in Guam.

Guam is on the cusp of one of our most prolific eras of economic expansion, and the government of Guam is undertaking bold action to reposition the island for a robust economic future. Through the efforts of the Guam Economic Development Authority, an aggressive and extensive plan is underway to reinvigorate Guam's economy. This plan focuses on the restoration of existing industries while simultaneously promoting the establishment of new and emerging industries.

Guam is seeking investments in the following:

- Major tourist attractions & hotel development;
- Innovative agriculture, aquaculture & fisheries investments;
- Pharmaceutical production;
- High-tech manufacturing & services, such as additive manufacturing;
- Data center & colocation services;
- Healthcare services;
- Recycling & circular economy activities; and
- Captive insurance & Guam-based trusts.

The following provides some information on Guam's economic strengths.

Guam is open for business, and we invite you to learn more about how Guam is an ideal investment location.







#### **Guam's Economy**

Guam's economy has remained resilient and strong. As one of the largest economies in Northern Oceania, Guam has been able to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic with a renewed focus on the continuation of Guam's future economic growth. The challenges posed by COVID-19 have also presented opportunities to entice investment that will enhance the economic prosperity of Guam and its people, and there is confidence from investors that Guam's economy is poised for an unprecedented level of growth.

Over the last 20 years, Guam's economy grew steadily by an average of 1.33% annually. The most recent report from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis showed a significant growth in GDP of 5.1% in 2022. Current projections indicate that the economy will continue to grow in the upcoming year.

Guam's top economic contributors are US federal spending and tourism. As a territory of the United States, federal spending has seen exponential growth over the recent years and it is expected to continue until the end of the decade. In fiscal year 2023, there were \$2.7 billion in federal contracts awarded for Guam projects.

Tourism is Guam's largest industry, accounting for the largest portion of Guam's employment and revenue base. Visitor arrivals have increased year over year, with 2016, 2017, and 2018 each reaching over 1.5 million arrivals. Visitor arrivals for 2019 hit a record high of over 1.6 million arrivals. Although tourism arrivals were impacted by COVID-19, Guam has seen a steady recovery, with over 650,000 arrivals in 2023. Additionally, the Guam Visitors Bureau is projecting a

robust 1.1 million visitor arrivals in fiscal year 2024. It is clear that Guam's tourism industry is on the road to recovery.

Guam is making investments into diversifying its economic portfolio, by leveraging our strategic location and relationships with both the United States and the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, Guam has placed an emphasis on attracting companies in Asia looking to expand into the United States. With infrastructure upgrades, a strong economy and a positive outlook, the time to invest in Guam is now.



#### **Strategic Location**

Guam has been an important location in the Asia-Pacific region for hundreds of years. Located in the North Pacific Ocean, Guam is "America in Asia". This location offers a strategic advantage and an immense opportunity for Asian companies to expand into the United States and vice versa. With an average flight time between three to five hours to major Asian metropolitan city centers, Guam offers the convenience of conducting business on Asia's time, while being afforded all legal protections under U.S. law and a business-friendly tax structure.



# **Globally Connected**

Businesses in Guam enjoy the same advanced communications technology and high-speed internet access found in major metropolitan cities throughout Asia and the United States. Guam currently serves as a hub for approximately a dozen undersea fiber optic cables. In addition, Google has announced a large-scale investment that will bring at least three new undersea cables through Guam.

The island is also home to several cable landing stations and data centers. Guam hosts some of the world's largest communications providers, which has made the island a key communications gateway between Asia and America. Furthermore, Guam's geographic location and U.S. legal protections make the island an ideal conduit for submarine cables that span the Pacific Ocean.

As a result of this, Guam possesses high-speed broadband internet access capable of transferring large amounts of data anywhere in the world instantaneously. With the addition of 4G and the recent growth of 5G broadband cellular network technologies, Guam has the necessary telecommunications services to meet any business need.

#### **Workforce & Education**

As the most populous island in Micronesia, Guam retains a relatively large workforce. The workforce is trained in many different professions and trades, and the island's public education system is rooted in development of productive citizens. Guam's educational institutions are dedicated to providing quality training and education services to local residents as well as residents within the region. Guam also has numerous apprenticeship training programs that combine on-the-job training provided by employers with trade-related classroom instruction.









## **Quality of Life**

Steeped in history that goes back thousands of years, Guam has a rich cultural heritage that permeates all aspects of life in Guam. Our island is a tropical paradise featuring gleaming white sand beaches, a plethora of outdoor recreational activities, historical and cultural landmarks, world class shopping, international dining and active nightlife. Today, Guam is a truly international community with a unique cultural blend of native CHamoru, American, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Micronesian and many other residents that all contribute to our vibrant community.

However, Guam is more than an idyllic tourist destination. It is also a wonderful place to start a business and raise a family. With a comprehensive American education system, modern healthcare services, the stability of the United States and a dynamic blend of Pacific, Asian and American cultures, Guam has a great deal to offer potential investors and their families.







#### **Incentive Programs**

# **Qualifying Certificate (QC) Tax Benefit Program**

Qualifying Certificates are tax incentives based on eligible investment commitment, the creation of new employment and expanding the base of the island's economy through business activities deemed to be of value to Guam.

Tax incentives vary based on specific business activities, of which a QC beneficiary may be eligible for one or more of the following:

- Income Tax rebate;
- Business Privilege Tax abatement;
- Income tax rebate on dividends;
- Real Property Tax Abatement; and/or
- Use Tax exemption.

#### Foreign Assistance

Guam participates in several U.S. federal government initiated economic incentives, such as the EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022.

The EB-5 Investor Visa Program allows

qualified foreign nationals to obtain lawful Permanent Resident Status (Green Cards) through investment in a U.S. enterprise. Ten thousand (10,000) Immigrant Visas are available each year to foreign investors establishing a "new commercial enterprise" or those in the process of investing in an existing enterprise on Guam. Investors must meet minimum investment and employment requirements.









### **Investor Concierge**

The Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA) serves as the general concierge between potential investors, the government of Guam, and other private sector partners. Through its services and programs, GEDA aims to assist potential investors in the successful establishment of their business on Guam. GEDA manages tax incentive, finance, and other programs that cater to a variety of industries and activities.

GEDA is committed to providing potential investors with the necessary services to aid in the due diligence needed to consider an investment in Guam.