

The Mauritius Advantage

The attractiveness of Mauritius is consolidated by the fact that it enjoys a solid reputation as a well regulated centre. It also provides for guaranteed confidentiality for those engaged in legitimate business through express provisions and customary laws governing relationships between banks and customers and between professionals and clients. Some of the advantages are:

- **Availability** of legal, accounting, finance professionals and highly credible banking institutions with global links.
- **Political stability** guaranteed by a parliamentary democracy based on the Westminster model.
- An **efficiently regulated financial services centre** committed to investors framework modeled on the industry's "best practice rule" and compliant to internationally accepted norms of supervision.
- A **committed jurisdiction** cooperative with such organizations as OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), FATF (Financial Action Task Force) and the UN which is an added attraction to businesses all over the globe engaged in cross-border investments and trading.
- One of the unique elements that makes Mauritius a competitive investment location is the preferential market access to the EU (under the Cotonou Agreement), US (under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act- AGOA) and Africa (under the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa - COMESA and under the Southern African Development Community - SADC).
- **Strategic time zone** (GMT +4) - business can be transacted with the Far East in the morning, Europe around midday and with the US in the late afternoon.
- A hybrid **legal system** based on English and French laws. The highest Court of Appeal is the Privy Council of the UK.
- It is **sovereign** and **independent**.
- Membership of the International Court of Justice, the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).
- **Guaranteed confidentiality** for those engaged in legitimate business through express statutory provisions and customary laws governing relationships between banks and customers and between professionals and clients.
- Frequent **air links** to major European, African and Asian cities.
- State-of-the art **communication facilities** such as digital, mobile and virtual telephony, ISDN, Internet access and video conferencing facilities. **Connected to SAFE** (South Africa Far East) fiber optic network.
- Mauritius is signatory of the **Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)**, a trade agreement between the USA and sub-Saharan countries.
- Mauritius has concluded a number of Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (IPPAs).

Mauritius – a range of International Agreements

- ✔ International Court of Justice
- ✔ Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- ✔ International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes
- ✔ 1958 New York Convention on Foreign Arbitration Awards
- ✔ United Nations and its agencies
- ✔ International Monetary Fund
- ✔ World Bank
- ✔ African Development Bank
- ✔ World Trade Organisation
- ✔ Organisation of African Unity
- ✔ African, Caribbean, Pacific Countries (ACP) Group (Signatory of the Lome Convention)
- ✔ Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- ✔ Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- ✔ Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-Operation (IOR-ARC)
- ✔ Hague Convention on cross border securities
- ✔ African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) – trade agreement between the USA and sub-Saharan countries
- ✔ Member of the British Commonwealth
- ✔ Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (IPPAs) with 18 countries, Trade and Investment Framework Agreement with the US & Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements with 35 countries.

Mauritius International Benchmarks

Mauritius is recognised by international organisations for the continuous improvement in its doing business regime and **ranks 1st** in Africa.

Index	Global Rank (Mauritius)	Africa Rank (Mauritius)
World Bank Doing Business 2014	20 out of 189 countries	1st
Global Competitiveness Index 2013-2014	45 out of 148 countries	1st
2014 Index of Economic Freedom	8 out of 178	1st
Global Enabling Trade Report 2014 - World Economic Forum	29 out of 138 countries	1st
Global Information Technology Report 2014	48 out of 148 countries	1st
Social Progress Index 2014	34 out of 132 countries	1st
Environmental Performance Index 2014	56 out of 178 countries	1st
Forbes Survey of Best Countries for Business 2013	29 out of 145 countries	1st
Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance 2013		1st
Fraser Institute Economic Freedom 2013	6 out of 152 countries	1st
Mercer's 2012 Quality of Living Survey	82nd	1st
Democracy Index 2012		1st
Economist Intelligence Unit	18 out of 167	1st
Knowledge Economy Index 2012 - World Bank	62 out of 145 countries	1st
ITU - United Nations Agency for Information and Communications - ITU's Digital Access Index 2012	74 out of 155 countries	2nd
The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness 2013	58 out of 140 countries	2nd
Human Development Index 2013	80 out of 187 countries	3rd