



## KEY FACTS

### HISTORY

- Nevis was discovered by Christopher Columbus on his second voyage in 1493. Rich in both scenic beauty and history, it is one of the Lesser Antilles and was claimed by Spain but was not settled by Europeans until the English arrived in 1628. Nevis remained a British colony from 1628 until 1983, when it became independent and joined the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis.
- Nevis is situated near the top of Lesser Antilles Archipelago, about 200 miles South of Puerto Rico and west of Antigua.
- The population of Nevis is approximately 11,000 mostly of African origin.
- English is the official language and the literacy rate is 96%, one of the highest in the Western Hemisphere.

### INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

- No taxes are levied in Nevis on income earned outside of the jurisdiction by a Nevis company.
- Financial returns need not be prepared or filed in Nevis.
- Shareholders, directors, officers, managers and members can be of any nationality and reside anywhere.
- No annual or other reports are required to be filed in the public records of Nevis.
- Beneficial ownership information is confidential.
- A company's records and its principal office may be located anywhere.
- A corporation formed in another jurisdiction may redomicile to Nevis.

### GOVERNMENT & LEGAL SYSTEM

- The Federation of St Kitts and Nevis is an active member of the British Commonwealth and the United Nations. Nevis is a vigorous democracy based upon the British Parliamentary system with an elected local assembly. The largest expenditure by Government is for education. Combined with a low crime rate, full employment and lack of drug-related difficulties, Nevis is politically stable. The political parties reflect this stability in that they are both centrist and do not have substantial ideological differences.



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THE ECONOMY

- The telecommunications system operated by Cable and Wireless of England is a state-of-the-art fibre-optic digital system. Any part of the world may be direct dialed from Nevis without difficulty.
- Nevis has connecting flights to Antigua for the USA and Britain; St Kitts for the USA and Canada; and St Martin for the USA, Holland and France. There is a daily ferry boat service to St Kitts eleven miles distant.
- The local currency in Nevis is the Eastern Caribbean dollar, which is pegged to the US dollar and has a set rate of exchange of US\$1.00 equaling EC\$2.70.

TREATIES

- Nevis is not party to any treaties against double-taxation except for a treaty between Nevis and the United Kingdom dating back to 1948 which provides for relief against double taxation on income for limited transactions. Only local companies can benefit from the provisions of this treaty.
- The Federation of St Kitts and Nevis has signed a mutual legal assistance treaty with the US which provides for cooperation in criminal investigations.

MERIDIAN TRUST COMPANY LIMITED

- Meridian Trust Company Limited is an independent trust company affiliated with Morning Star Holdings Limited, the largest and oldest licensed company agent in Nevis. We are licensed by the Nevis Government to act as a trustee of Nevis International Trusts and to provide fiduciary, corporate management and administration services in Nevis.
- We provide a broad range of corporate and fiduciary services including:
  - Acting as Trustee and Co-Trustee
  - Registration of Trusts
  - Formation of Companies
  - Administration of Nevis Companies and LLCs
  - Acting as Directors of Companies
  - Providing Nominee Shareholders
- Meridian Trust Company Limited adheres to due diligence standards followed in all the major offshore jurisdictions.
- Appropriate professional and banking references are required prior to our accepting fiduciary and administrative appointments.
- A copy of the Nevis Exempt International Trust Ordinance and our Terms of Business are available on our website [www.meridiannev.com](http://www.meridiannev.com).
- We recommend that individuals and companies wishing to make use of Nevis as a trust or administrative domicile obtain specialist advice from appropriate professional advisors.

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