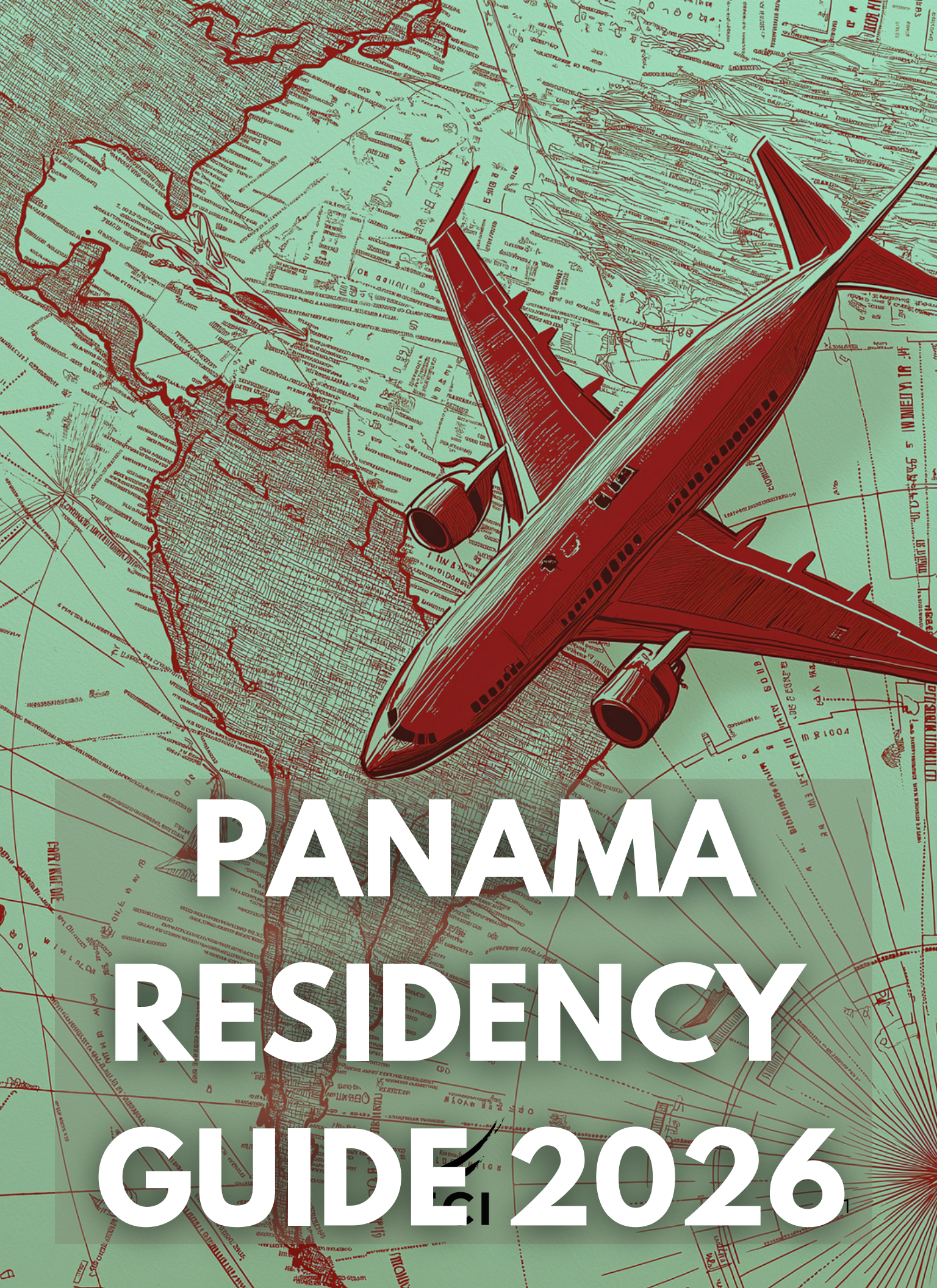




PANAMA RESIDENCY GUIDE 2026

Running From and Running Towards: Why Second Residency Matters

Having watched the need for a second residency change and evolve over the last 31 years, a simple analysis boils down the reasons people move into two main categories. People are either running towards a higher quality of life, a lower cost of living, and the enjoyment of activities, weather, and new intentional communities. Or people are running from something, generally with a political or economic cause. No matter the reason, having a formal and legal residency in your new country is critically important. This document outlines some of the more popular programs around the world. Because regulations and laws can change quickly and without notice, if you see a program that meets your needs, you will want to investigate further immediately.

Freedom in the Modern World: The Need to Secure a Strong Plan-B

In a rapidly shifting world, where uncertainty has become the norm, securing a second residency is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity for anyone valuing freedom, security, and opportunity. While we invest in protecting our financial assets—stocks, real estate, and even cryptocurrency—many of us overlook the most valuable asset we possess: ourselves. A second residency is your Plan B, a safeguard for your personal liberty and a gateway to untapped potential.

The Age of Location Independence

For the first time in history, the way we live and work has been decoupled from a physical location. This transformation, accelerated by technology and catalyzed by global events like COVID-19, has redefined how we perceive freedom. Remote work is no longer a privilege of the few but a growing trend embraced by professionals worldwide. This "Remote Revolution" allows individuals to design their lives around personal values rather than geographical constraints.

Countries around the globe are recognizing this shift and offering innovative residency programs to attract remote workers, retirees, and investors. Whether you seek the Mediterranean charm of Portugal, the tropics of the South Pacific, the vibrant culture of Latin America, or the pristine beaches of the Caribbean, the world is more accessible than ever before.

Why a Second Residency?

A second residency isn't just about having another address; it's about having options. It grants you access to stable economies, favorable tax systems, and unparalleled lifestyle benefits. In times of political unrest, economic uncertainty, or natural disasters, a second residency ensures you and your family have a safe haven.

For retirees, it provides the chance to stretch your savings while enhancing your quality of life. For investors and digital nomads, it opens doors to global opportunities and an enriched way of living.

Affordable and Accessible Options

Contrary to popular belief, securing a second residency doesn't require immense wealth. Many countries offer affordable programs tailored to diverse needs:

- Investors can benefit from programs like Panama's Friendly Nations Visa, which provide a pathway to residency through strategic investments.

These programs are designed not only to attract individuals but also to integrate them into thriving communities where they can prosper personally and professionally.

The Time to Act is Now

The global landscape is changing rapidly, and opportunities to secure your freedom won't last forever. Governments may tighten regulations as demand increases, and the cost of entry could rise.

By exploring and acting on these options now, you're taking a proactive step toward ensuring stability and freedom for yourself and your loved ones.

This guide is your roadmap to navigating the possibilities of a second residency in Panama. Whether you're seeking financial benefits, personal freedom, or a better quality of life, the tools to create your ideal future are at your fingertips.

The world is open—it's time to embrace it.



**MICHAEL
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CEO, ECI DEVELOPMENTS

Welcome to the New Era of Global Living

We live in unprecedented times—a world where technology is advancing at breakneck speed, fundamentally reshaping how we work, live, and connect. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated these changes, prompting people to pause, reflect, and re-examine their core values. As a result, you've seen a global shift in how we perceive our lives, where we choose to live, and what truly matters.

More than ever, individuals are seeking alignment between their lifestyle and their most cherished beliefs. This quest for balance has sparked what is perhaps the largest wave of migration in modern history. But this time, the driving forces are not only wars or economic hardship, but a strong desire to live in places that nourish the soul, where paradise is no longer a distant dream, but a tangible reality within reach. People are relocating not only out of necessity, but also out of a conscious preference—to live in environments that align with their ideals of happiness, freedom, and fulfillment.

Technology and the Rise of Remote Work

In tandem with this cultural shift, technological advancements have unlocked the freedom to work from anywhere. The rise of remote work and digital nomadism is no longer a niche lifestyle but an ever-growing global trend. Major companies are recognizing the benefits of embracing a remote workforce, enabling them to tap into the best talent from around the globe, regardless of geography.

For professionals, this means that "the office" is no longer a physical place. It can be a beachside bungalow in Costa Rica, a cozy apartment in Lisbon, or a mountain-view cabin in Bali. The world has become more accessible, flexible, and open to possibility. People now have the option to craft their lives around both work and personal well-being—no longer needing to choose between a successful career and the dream of living in paradise.

Global Mobility and Flexibility

Global mobility is at an all-time high, with countries implementing innovative agreements that allow seamless movement for individuals seeking new opportunities. Visa-free travel and bilateral arrangements are making it easier to work and live in multiple countries while maintaining professional connections across the globe.

Nature as a Core Value

Despite this surge in technological development, the human desire to connect with nature has never been stronger. Many remote workers, digital nomads, and retirees are now searching for homes where they can balance the convenience of modern infrastructure with the serenity of natural beauty. They are drawn to places where urban living and raw nature coexist harmoniously—a new definition of paradise that combines the best of both worlds.

Resiliency and Eco-Friendly Living

Many are also seeking eco-friendly destinations where sustainability is a way of life. Countries with commitments to green energy, affordable housing, and responsible tourism are becoming prime spots for global citizens who want to minimize their environmental footprint while enjoying the beauty of the world. Many also seek places and take control of their sustenance.

The Future of Residency and Migration

Governments around the world have taken notice of this shift. Many countries are creating innovative visa and residency programs to attract this new wave of global citizens. From tropical islands offering digital nomad visas to European nations with enticing residency programs, there is a growing acknowledgment that economic growth can be fueled by welcoming individuals who are seeking not only a new home but a new way of life.

This Panama Residency Guide is designed to help you navigate these exciting possibilities. Inside, you'll find insights into the country that have pioneered new visa and residency options, designed to cater to those who crave freedom, flexibility, and a more meaningful connection to the world around them.

In a world that's evolving faster than ever, this guide will serve as your roadmap to finding the perfect place to call home—a place where your values, your work, and your lifestyle come together in perfect harmony.

PANAMA

Panama is one of the most stable and strategically positioned countries in the Americas. Often called the “Bridge of the World,” it connects North and South America while linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through the Panama Canal - one of the most important trade routes globally.

Beyond its geopolitical relevance, Panama offers:

- A U.S.-dollarized economy
- A strong international banking system
- A territorial tax structure
- Modern infrastructure and world-class healthcare
- Direct connectivity to North America

Panama City combines cosmopolitan living with ocean views and modern skyline architecture, while the rest of the country offers mountains, beaches, and protected rainforests - providing a rare balance between lifestyle and opportunity.

For those considering a second residency, asset diversification, or long-term strategic planning, Panama remains one of the most attractive jurisdictions in Latin America.



RETIREMENT VISA (Pensionado Visa)

Who It's For:

- Individuals aged 18 and above with a guaranteed lifetime pension or annuity income, seeking permanent residency in Panama.

Eligibility:

- **Age Requirement:** Applicants must be at least 18 years old.
- **Income Requirement:** A minimum lifetime monthly income of USD \$1,000 from a pension or annuity. This income can originate from:
 - Government programs (e.g., Social Security, military pensions).
 - Private corporations, banks, insurance companies, or trusts.
- **Dependents:** An additional USD \$250 per month is required for each dependent (e.g., spouse, minor children).
- **Property Ownership Exception:** If the applicant purchases residential property in Panama valued at USD \$100,000 or more, the required monthly income reduces to USD \$750.

Duration:

Upon approval, the Pensionado Visa grants immediate permanent residency in Panama.

Benefits:

- Exemption from import duties on household goods up to USD \$10,000.
- Exemption from import duties on a new car every two years.
- **Residency Maintenance:** No requirement to reside full-time in Panama; must visit at least once every two years to maintain residency status.
- **Citizenship Pathway:** Eligible to apply for Panamanian citizenship after 5 years of permanent residency, subject to language and cultural knowledge requirements.

Additional Notes:

- **Work Restrictions:** Pensionado Visa holders are not permitted to work in Panama.
- **Dependents:** Spouses and children under 18 can be included in the application. Children up to 25 years old may qualify if enrolled in full-time studies.
- **Property Ownership:** There are no restrictions on foreign property ownership in Panama.

DIGITAL NOMAD VISA IN PANAMA

Who It's For:

Remote workers, freelancers, and entrepreneurs employed or contracted by companies outside of Panama, seeking to live and work remotely from Panama.

Eligibility:

- **Remote Employment:** Applicants must be employed by or provide services to a company or clients located outside of Panama.
- **Income Requirement:** Minimum monthly income of USD \$3,000 or USD \$4,000 if applying with dependents.
- **Health Insurance:** Proof of international health insurance coverage for the duration of the stay in Panama.
- **Clean Criminal Record:** A criminal background check from the applicant's country of residence, issued within the last six months.
- **Valid Passport:** A passport valid for at least six months beyond the intended stay.
- **Application Through Legal Representation:** Applicants must submit their application through a licensed Panamanian immigration lawyer.

Benefits:

- **Tax Advantages:** Panama operates on a territorial tax system, meaning income earned from sources outside Panama is not subject to local income tax.
- **No Local Employment Restrictions:** Visa holders are prohibited from engaging in local employment, ensuring compliance with Panamanian labor laws.
- **Access to Services:** Ability to open local bank accounts and access various services during the stay.
- **Residency Consideration:** Staying in Panama for more than 183 days may qualify the individual for tax residency, offering potential tax planning benefits.

Important Consideration

The Digital Nomad Visa is a temporary solution designed for short-term remote work stays (maximum 18 months). It does not lead directly to permanent residency or citizenship.

For individuals seeking long-term residency status, permanent residency eligibility, or a pathway toward citizenship, other programs such as the Friendly Nations Visa or qualifying investment structures may be more appropriate.

FRIENDLY NATION VISA IN PANAMA



Who It's For:

- Citizens of over 50 countries with professional, economic, or investment ties to Panama, seeking to establish residency.

Eligibility:

To qualify, applicants must:

- Be a citizen of one of the "Friendly Nations" countries.
- Demonstrate economic or professional ties to Panama through one of the following:
 - **Employment:** A job offer from a Panamanian company.
 - **Real Estate Investment:** Ownership of Panamanian property valued at USD \$200,000 or more.
 - **Fixed-Term Deposit:** A USD \$200,000 deposit in a Panamanian bank for a minimum of three years.

Duration:

- Initial 2-year temporary residency.
- Eligible to apply for permanent residency after the 2-year period.

Benefits:

- **Path to Citizenship:** After five years of permanent residency, applicants may apply for Panamanian citizenship.
- **Family Inclusion:** Spouses and dependent children can be included in the application.
- **Tax Advantages:** Panama's territorial tax system means foreign-sourced income is not taxed locally.
- **No Minimum Stay Requirement:** Maintain residency by visiting Panama at least once every two years.

TEAK ASSET-BASED STRUCTURE (USD 25,680)

Who It's For:

For applicants seeking the most cost-efficient and capital-preserving pathway under Panama's Friendly Nations framework, an asset-backed structure is available through government-approved reforestation ownership.

Duration:

- Initial 2-year temporary residency.
- Eligible to apply for permanent residency after the 2-year period, and citizenship after the 5-year period.

What's Included:

- 2 titled teak parcels in Panama
- Residency eligibility
- All legal and government residency fees included
- On-site legal support
- No requirement to live in Panama

Total Cost: USD 25,680 (Main Applicant)

Unlike traditional residency routes where capital remains idle or consumed by fees, teak ownership represents participation in a biological growth asset.

Based on historical teak pricing trends and projected timber yields, a single parcel has the potential to **generate over \$109,000 USD in gross harvest value over a 25-year cycle**, assuming standard growth patterns and market pricing.

This projection is derived from:

- Historical global teak price appreciation
- Biological tree growth compounding over time
- Conservative board-foot yield estimates

While returns are market-dependent and not guaranteed, teak has historically demonstrated resilience and demand in global hardwood markets.

In contrast:

- A \$200,000 bank deposit produces minimal yield
- Government bonds remain fixed-return instruments
- Legal fees are sunk costs

With the teak structure, residency qualification is paired with exposure to a long-term agricultural asset.

REFORESTATION VISA

The Reforestation Investor Visa is a path to residency in Panama, with a \$40,000 USD entry point, tax benefits, and flexibility. After two years of temporary residency, investors can apply for permanent residency, and after five years, they are eligible for citizenship.

Investment Options:

1. \$40,000 USD Investment:

- You will also need to purchase at least 5 hectares of land.
- This option grants temporary residency for 2 years and can be renewed, leading to permanent residency and potential citizenship after 5 years.

2. Larger Investments (e.g., \$80,000 or \$100,000 USD):

- Higher investments of \$80,000 USD or \$100,000 USD can provide a faster path to permanent residency. For instance, with a \$80,000 USD investment, permanent residency can be obtained after 1 year.
- These larger investments also often come with enhanced benefits, including more immediate access to residency and possible additional land rights.

Documentation:

- Proof of investment.
- Clean criminal record.
- Health certificate and valid passport.
- Application filed through a qualified immigration attorney.

Benefits:

- Tax Advantages: Panama's territorial tax system ensures that foreign income is not taxed in Panama. Investments in reforestation projects may also qualify for tax exemptions on the income generated from the harvested timber for up to 25 years.
- Citizenship: After holding permanent residency for 5 years, you are eligible to apply for Panamanian citizenship.
- No Minimum Stay Requirement: You are not required to stay in Panama for extended periods to maintain residency, but a visit to Panama every 18 months is required.

Duration:

- Temporary Residency: The visa initially grants 2-year temporary residency.
- Path to Permanent Residency: After 2 years, you can apply for permanent residency.
- Citizenship: After holding permanent residency for 5 years, you are eligible to apply for Panamanian citizenship.

While traditional reforestation visas typically require a \$40,000 minimum investment (plus land requirements), there are structured programs that allow investors to meet eligibility requirements in a more efficient way, without large land acquisition commitments.

Our Teak Residency Bundle (USD 25,680) provides:

- Two titled teak parcels
- Fully managed reforestation asset
- Residency legal processing included
- No need to purchase 5 hectares of land
- No separate legal or government invoices

This allows applicants to secure residency while preserving capital and maintaining exposure to a growing agricultural asset class.

Capital Efficiency Comparison**Standard Reforestation Route:**

- \$40,000–\$100,000 capital outlay
- Additional legal and filing costs
- Larger land management responsibilities

Teak Residency Bundle:

- \$25,680 total cost
- Fully managed structure
- Asset-backed qualification
- Lower entry point
- Clear residency pathway

Choosing the Right Residency Strategy

Panama offers multiple residency options. The key difference is not just eligibility - it is capital efficiency.

Some programs:

- Consume capital
- Immobilize large deposits
- Require unnecessary overexposure

The Teak Residency Bundle is designed for individuals who:

- Want residency with or without relocation
- Prefer asset-backed solutions
- Value flexibility
- Think long-term

If residency in Panama is part of your strategic planning - even as a Plan B - securing it through a capital-efficient structure may be the most intelligent decision.

For updated business plan details and residency processing timelines, contact your property consultant.

