

A GUIDE TO BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESS COMPANIES

B.V.I. is an all-time favorite offshore jurisdiction. It is the Caribbean jurisdiction which consistently undergoes legislative changes and actively seeks innovation and alternatives to stay at the forefront of the offshore industry. Most professional intermediaries are based there; fund houses and banks readily accept them; and international corporations actively use the B.V.I. companies as part of their international strategy.

It is the jurisdiction of choice for anyone who wishes to use a jurisdiction that has been tried and tested. We continue to believe that B.V.I. is still synonymous with offshore and tax-free so it may not be the choice for someone seeking a low profile. Its higher government fee makes B.V.I. unsuitable for those who are price conscious. But if you want a jurisdiction which is tried and tested, this is it.

The British Virgin Islands are a collection of roughly 50 small islands in the Caribbean, of which around 16 are inhabited. They are located a few miles east of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The North Atlantic Ocean lies to the north of the islands, and the Caribbean Sea lies to the south. The largest islands of the group are Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost Van Dyke. Road Town, the capital and largest town, is situated on Tortola. B.V.I. is a self-governing U.K. colony. It is a member of the British Commonwealth.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS (B.V.I.)

Government & Political Stability	Excellent	U.K. Territory. Peaceful, stability. Her Majesty, the Queen of England is the Head of Government.
Location	Caribbean	On the Caribbean Sea and North Atlantic Ocean. East of Puerto Rico.
Type of Law		English Common Law.
Language	English	
Type of company	Private Ltd.	Also Available, Private Trust Companies, PLC, and more.
Tax on Offshore Profits	No	
Local Registered Office & Agent	Yes	
Minimum Director	1	
Local Director Required	No	
Corporate Directors Allowed	Allowed	Aspen recommends the use of our directorship services to ensure ease of bank account opening.
Minimum number of Shareholders	1	
Corporate Shareholders Permitted	Yes	Aspen recommends the use of our professional shareholder services to ensure ease of bank account opening.
Company Secretary Required	No	Aspen provides company management for individual company holders.
Bearer Shares	Yes	Bearer share companies incur a higher registration fee. Shares must be held by government approved custodians.
Annual Return Filing or Audited Accounts	No	
Shelf Companies Available	Yes	Incorporation can be done immediately.
Trusts	Yes	
Bank accounts & Bank services	Yes	B.V.I. is the preferred jurisdiction by banks worldwide.

For additional information on this jurisdiction or our current shelf list, please contact us via E-mail at: enquiries@aspenoffshore.com; or contact our Hong Kong office at 410 Des Voeux Road West, Hong Kong, S.A.R., Tel: (852) 3175-8758, Fax: (852) 3175 8456.