

## Mauritius: A journey of opportunity and warmth



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When I reflect on my journey, it's hard to believe how much has changed over the years. After completing my degree in South Africa, I took a leap and moved to England, where I spent five years working at two investment banks. The experience was invaluable, shaping my understanding of the financial world and giving me the confidence to eventually start my own business. I began by establishing my financial services firm in the Isle of Man, but as time passed, I realized there was something much bigger waiting for me back in South Africa. So, over 25 years ago, I took the step to apply for my financial license in my home country, setting the foundation for what was to come.

It was through my relationship with Investec Bank that I first heard about Mauritius as a growing financial hub. I learned that Investec had moved part of their operations to Mauritius, and after some research, I quickly saw the advantages. Business and operational costs in Mauritius were much lower than in the Isle of Man, and with the added benefit of being able to easily travel between South Africa and the island, the decision to expand my business to Mauritius seemed clear. Not to mention, the beauty of the island was a major bonus!

Relocating to Mauritius, however, was not without its challenges. Moving a business is never simple, and bringing my family along made it even more significant. Relocation involves far more than just paperwork - it's about finding a place where we could build a new life. But Mauritius, with its stunning beaches and tropical weather, felt very much like home to us, especially since we were accustomed to the beautiful coastal life of South Africa's East Coast.

What stood out to me the most, though, was the energy and ambition of Mauritius. For a small country with a small population, it carries big dreams and an even bigger vision for the future. The Mauritian government and its people are committed to making a

significant mark on the global financial stage. This drive to innovate and grow was inspiring, and it made establishing my business here an exciting venture. Moreover, the sense of safety and the welcoming nature of the Mauritian people made settling in even easier. We were made to feel like part of the community from the very start.

Mauritius offers something special. It's not just a place to conduct business; it's a place to grow, thrive, and enjoy life - or as we say live, work and play. The government is incredibly supportive of entrepreneurs, offering incentives that encourage foreign investment and nurture a positive environment for innovation and business development. This makes it a prime location for anyone looking to expand and build something enduring.

For us, the quality of life was just as important as business opportunities. The education system here is exceptional, with numerous international schools offering world-class education. This was crucial for us, as we wanted to ensure our children received the best possible schooling. The healthcare system, too, is excellent, with both public and private hospitals providing top-tier medical services.

Mauritius offers a lifestyle that is truly unparalleled. The island's natural beauty, from its pristine beaches to its lush forests, offers the perfect balance of work and leisure. We've loved exploring the island, immersing ourselves in its rich culture, and indulging in its delicious, diverse cuisine, which reflects the blend of influences that make this place so unique.

Looking back, moving to Mauritius was one of the best decisions I've ever made. It's a place where my business can flourish, my family can thrive, and we can all enjoy the incredible lifestyle the island has to offer.

