

Ideal countries

This chapter will provide you with an overview about the countries I consider ideal for the purpose of obtaining more citizenship. This is of course subjective and I can only tell you what criteria I personally care about. I will also give you an example about how you could start your citizenship quest. I will only consider countries that do not have a single negative or uncertain point in their current legislation. That means:

- They officially allow unrestricted multiple citizenship
- They do not have military conscription or it can be easily avoided
- They have no overly restrictive provisions for a revocation of citizenship or naturalization
- They offer decent freedom of travel
- They are not permanently on the brink of crisis or bankruptcy

After applying these criteria, this leaves us with the following countries:

Albania, Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica*, Chile, Czechia, Dominica, France, Grenada, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius*, New Zealand, Norway, Panama*, Peru*, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, Sweden, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu

The marked* countries do not officially allow multiple citizenship for everyone, but in practice do not really care.

Notable countries failing one of these requirements are Argentina (always on the verge of crisis), Bulgaria (multiple

citizenship only for EU/EEA/North Macedonia citizens or upon marriage), Cyprus (has military conscription, but this can usually be avoided by living abroad), Paraguay (revocation of naturalization if living abroad for more than 3 years without justification, though this hardly ever happens), Russia (has military conscription, but many evade), St. Vincent & the Grenadines (only allows multiple citizenship on birth, marriage or for naturalized foreigners), Switzerland (has military conscription, but this can usually be avoided by living abroad) and Venezuela (has military conscription and is always in a crisis).

If you additionally want to consider tax levels and discard all countries that I like to call 'tax hells' or 'tax deserts', the list gets a lot shorter:

Antigua & Barbuda, Costa Rica, Panama, Seychelles, St. Kitts & Nevis, Vanuatu

Since these are so few countries, I will add the ones with a somewhat reasonable, at least not excessive tax level:

Albania, Chile, Czechia, Georgia, Grenada, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, Romania, Tonga, Uruguay

This leaves us with 16 countries that I would consider to be suitable for me personally, at least if only looking at the pure legal side of things. So, how would I go about collecting as many of these as possible, if this were a goal I would devote my life to?

First, I would want another EU/EEA citizenship that later serves as a replacement for my German citizenship, as Germany would not allow me to have more than one or two outside the EU. Liechtenstein sadly falls out. As much as I would like to be

a citizen of that country, living there for 10 years is not an option. That leaves us with Czechia and Romania. In the Czech Republic, I would only need to live for 3 years since I am already an EU citizen. This same applies to Romania, where I would need to live for 4 years. I could probably pick up the citizenship of Panama in parallel. While you officially have to 'live' there for 5 years, it can be enough to just visit regularly (every ~2 months) if you have substantial investments or economic interests inside the country. This does not always work out, but it can. At the latest, I would pick it up while living for 5 years in Chile or Uruguay or for 7 years in Costa Rica while enjoying the (at least through special programs) territorial taxation these countries offer. My German citizenship would now be gone anyway, so I can safely spend the ~140.000-300.000 USD to become a citizen of Antigua & Barbuda, another ~160.000-250.000 USD to do the same in St. Kitts & Nevis, ~170.000-300.000 USD for Grenada and finally an additional ~130.000 USD to become a citizen by investment in Vanuatu. I would pick these up along the way whenever I feel like it. Of course, saving up the funds for such a donation or investment every couple of years is not trivial, but certainly possible if you are a successful entrepreneur and set this as the highest goal you want to achieve in your life. Certainly, I would not forget looking for a spouse that is happy to have our children in Brazil and Mexico. They are not listed above, but simply making sure your child is born in Brazil or Mexico and then living there for 1 or 2 years to obtain citizenship is something I would not miss out on. Ideally, said spouse also already has one or two other citizenship I could easily pick up by living in her country for one or two years.

We are now about 15-20 years into the future and I have picked up something between 5 to 12 citizenship along the way. Apart from collecting the other ones I already told you about, somewhat easy to pick up would be Albania, Georgia

and Tonga with 5 years of residence. I would pass on the Seychelles as their requirements are too hard, but evaluate if spending another 500.000 USD to only need to live 2 instead of 6 years on Mauritius before naturalization is actually worth it (I guess not). I would consider Liechtenstein as the final crown jewel for retirement - though I can hardly imagine sitting in a small village in an alpine valley for 10 years straight and I doubt that is going to change, no matter how much I like the nation for what it represents.

All combined, provided the legislation of these countries stays the same (which it will not, but maybe it will become even better), it is possible to pick up almost every of the above listed citizenship within 40 years and definitely about 10 different ones within 20 years. I think I will not actually set this as a life goal of mine, but I hope I inspired you to think about all the possibilities you just have to embrace.

If you are looking to maximize your travel freedom, the easiest way to do that is - surprise - to become a citizen in a country that offers great travel freedom. I use the [Passport Index](#) as a reference (it currently takes Covid-19 related restrictions into account, I do not). The greatest travel freedom is offered by The United Arab Emirates, followed by all EU/EEA countries, South Korea, Japan, United States, Singapore, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Brazil, Chile and Argentina. If you are a citizen of one of these nations, there is not too much room for any more improvement. The easiest to obtain from these are Argentina and Brazil.

But at some point, you should think about quality of countries instead of quantity. Would it be a gamechanger for you if you could go to the Congo, Sudan or Turkmenistan without applying for a visa in advance? Probably not. As an avid country collector that will have visited every nation and

autonomous state in the world soon, I know that every place in the world offers something that makes it worth visiting. But if you only go there once in your life, there is not much point in being able to do it visa-free. I think it is quite funny that some people are proud about the number of countries they could potentially be visiting visa-free shown in some ranking and occasionally mentioned in a newspaper article, but actually do not use that possibility at all. Anyway, being able to enter China, the European Union, Russia or the United States whenever you like? That has quite a bit of value, especially since many other countries are attached to these powers. So if you are able to go to all of these areas visa-free, there is hardly anything left in the world where you would still need a visa.

If your current citizenship does not permit you to enter the European Union visa-free, your best option to change that is citizenship in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Peru, Honduras, Paraguay or of course any EU country you are able to obtain a residence visa for. If you consider citizenship by investment, you can also add Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and Vanuatu to the list. All these countries allow you to visit for 90 days within a 180 day timeframe.

For the United States, you should consider Australia (90 days) and Canada (180 days). Since this list is rather short, you can also add Chile and most EU countries to it, but naturalization in these nations takes a little bit longer.

If you would like to enter Russia more often, the best countries are Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras and Paraguay. Actually, obtaining a residence permit or becoming a Russian citizen yourself is not too difficult either. If you consider citizenship by investment, you can also add Antigua &

Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and Vanuatu. All these countries allow you to visit for 90 days.

For entering China frequently, the citizenship most easy to obtain are Armenia (90 days) and Ecuador (30 days). The only citizenship to obtain by investment would be Grenada (30 days). Other good countries which take a little longer for naturalization are Fiji (30 days), Mauritius (60 days), Serbia (30 days) and Tonga (30 days).

Keep in mind that if you really only care about easy and extended travel to these countries, a permanent residence permit in them would also work and will allow you to go there whenever and for how long you like. However, these are rather hard to obtain in China and the US. It may also mean you are treated as a resident for all tax and regulatory purposes even if you do not actually spend most of your time there. In the EU and Russia this is usually not the case, though of course you need to have a look whether you are required to spend a certain amount of days inside the country for your residence visa to remain valid.

A honorable mention goes to Brunei, which is the only nation that offers visa-free travel to all 4 of these areas: 90 days to EU/Schengen, 90 days to the United States, 14 days to Russia and 15 days to China. Sadly, Brunei does not officially allow multiple citizenship, and you can only be naturalized there if you live in the country for 25 years or if you are a female marrying a Brunei citizen. There is also little chance for your children, as birth in Brunei only grants them citizenship if they are 'commonly accepted as belonging to one of the indigenous groups of the Malay race', which is rather hard to achieve if you are not already a native.