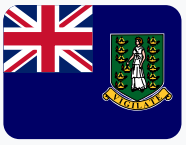
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Company formation in the British Virgin Islands

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Flag

Common form	BVI business company [1]
Registry	Registry of Corporate Affairs (BVI Financial Services Commission) [1]
Minimum capital	None [1]
Directors	1 director (corporate directors allowed) [1]
Local director	A registered agent and registered office in the BVI are required [1]
Corporate tax	None (BVI business companies are exempt)
VAT / sales tax	None
Typical timeline	Usually 1–3 working days through a registered agent [1]
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [4]
Currency	US dollar (USD)

In short: To set up a company in the British Virgin Islands, most founders form a BVI business company, registered with the Registry of Corporate Affairs (BVI Financial Services Commission). [1] Minimum capital: none. Corporate tax: none (BVI business companies are exempt). Registration: usually 1–3 working days through a registered agent (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from the sources listed under References; company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Registry of Corporate Affairs (BVI Financial Services Commission) before filing.

The British Virgin Islands, a British Overseas Territory, levy no corporate income tax, capital gains tax or withholding tax on BVI business companies. Companies are formed through a licensed registered agent with the **Registry of Corporate Affairs**; economic substance rules apply to certain activities.

Business structures

Most founders in the British Virgin Islands form a BVI business company, registered with the Registry of Corporate Affairs (BVI Financial Services Commission). [1] Other forms are listed below.

- **BVI business company** – the usual company form for private businesses

Requirements

Minimum share capital in the British Virgin Islands (2026): none. Directors required: 1 director (corporate directors allowed). Local resident director: a registered agent and registered office in the BVI are required. [1]

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: none.
- Directors: 1 director (corporate directors allowed).
- Local residency: a registered agent and registered office in the BVI are required.
- A registered office address in the British Virgin Islands.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in the British Virgin Islands (2026): usually 1–3 working days through a registered agent. [1] The usual steps are:

1. Choose the company form and check that the name is available.
2. Prepare and sign the articles of association.
3. File the registration with the Registry of Corporate Affairs (BVI Financial Services Commission).
4. Receive the company's registration number, and pay in the share capital where required.
5. Register for corporate tax with the International Tax Authority.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in the British Virgin Islands in 2026 is none (BVI business companies are exempt). Standard VAT or sales tax: none.

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	None (BVI business companies are exempt)
VAT / indirect tax	None
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	0%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in the British Virgin Islands: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the International Tax Authority, and keep their details up to date with the Registry of Corporate Affairs. [1]

Double tax treaties

The British Virgin Islands have no comprehensive double tax treaties; their international agreements cover tax information exchange.

Domestic withholding tax on payments to non-resident companies

Dividends	Interest	Royalties
0%	0%	0%

The BVI levies no withholding taxes.

Domestic rates from the sources listed under References. Treaty benefits require proof of tax residence and are subject to anti-abuse rules.

Frequently asked questions

How long does it take to register a company in the British Virgin Islands?

Typical registration time in the British Virgin Islands: usually 1–3 working days through a registered agent (as of November 2026), once all documents are ready. Opening a bank account and tax registrations can take longer.

What is the minimum share capital for a company in the British Virgin Islands?

Minimum share capital in the British Virgin Islands: none (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in the British Virgin Islands in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in the British Virgin Islands in 2026 is none (BVI business companies are exempt). See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

Can a foreigner own 100% of a company in the British Virgin Islands?

Yes, for most activities, though some sectors restrict foreign ownership or require approval. Local director rule in the British Virgin Islands: a registered agent and registered office in the BVI are required.

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from the British Virgin Islands?

The British Virgin Islands charges no withholding tax on dividends paid to non-resident companies under domestic law. See the Double tax treaties section.

Official registries and resources

- Registry of Corporate Affairs (BVI Financial Services Commission)

Figures as of November 2026. Rates, thresholds and procedures change; confirm with the official registry, the tax authority or a local adviser before filing.

See also

- Comparison of company formation by country
- Company formation in the United States
- Company formation in Canada
- Company formation in Mexico
- Company formation in Brazil
- All countries

References

Entries marked **Official** are the registry, government and tax authority sources for this country; footnote numbers in the infobox point to them.

1. Official Registry of Corporate Affairs (BVI Financial Services Commission) . Government of the British Virgin Islands. Accessed November 2026.
2. British Virgin Islands Highlights 2025 . Deloitte. Accessed November 2026.
3. BVI Companies: A guide (reviewed February 2025) . Mourant. Accessed November 2026.
4. Investing in 2024: British Virgin Islands . Chambers and Partners. Accessed November 2026.

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