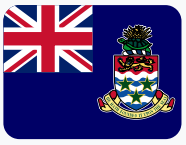
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Company formation in the Cayman Islands

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Flag

Common form	Exempted company
Registry	General Registry (Registrar of Companies)
Minimum capital	None
Directors	1 director
Local director	A registered office in the Cayman Islands is required
Corporate tax	None
VAT / sales tax	None
Typical timeline	Often within 1–2 working days
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [5]
Currency	Cayman Islands dollar (KYD)

In short: To set up a company in the Cayman Islands, most founders form an exempted company, registered with the General Registry (Registrar of Companies). Minimum capital: none. Corporate tax: none. Registration: often within 1–2 working days (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries (reviewed 29 May 2026); company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the General Registry (Registrar of Companies) before filing.

The Cayman Islands levy no income, corporate or withholding tax. **Exempted companies**, which mainly do business outside the islands, are registered with the General Registry; economic substance and beneficial ownership rules apply.

Business structures

Most founders in the Cayman Islands form an exempted company, registered with the General Registry (Registrar of Companies). Other forms are listed below.

- **Exempted company** – the usual company form for private businesses

Requirements

Minimum share capital in the Cayman Islands (2026): none. Directors required: 1 director. Local resident director: a registered office in the Cayman Islands is required.

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: none.
- Directors: 1 director.
- Local residency: a registered office in the Cayman Islands is required.
- A registered office address in the Cayman Islands.
- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in the Cayman Islands (2026): often within 1–2 working days. 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 General Registry (Registrar of Companies).
4. Receive the company's registration number, and pay in the share capital where required.
5. Register for corporate tax with the Department for International Tax Cooperation.

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in the Cayman Islands in 2026 is none. Standard VAT or sales tax: none.

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	None
VAT / indirect tax	None
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	0%

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in the Cayman Islands: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the Department for International Tax Cooperation, and keep their details up to date with the General Registry.

Double tax treaties

The Cayman 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%

Domestic rates from the PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries withholding tax quick chart (November 2026). 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 Cayman Islands?

Typical registration time in the Cayman Islands: often within 1–2 working days (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 Cayman Islands?

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

What is the corporate tax rate in the Cayman Islands in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in the Cayman Islands in 2026 is none. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

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

Yes, for most activities, though some sectors restrict foreign ownership or require approval. Local director rule in the Cayman Islands: a registered office in the Cayman Islands is required.

What withholding tax applies to dividends paid from the Cayman Islands?

The Cayman 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

The official websites of the General Registry (Registrar of Companies) and the Department for International Tax Cooperation have not yet been verified by our editors, so they are not linked here. Use the names above to find them, and beware of unofficial look-alike sites.

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. Cayman Islands: Corporate – Taxes on corporate income (reviewed 29 May 2026) . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
2. Quick charts: Corporate income tax (CIT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
3. Quick charts: Value-added tax (VAT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
4. Quick charts: Withholding tax (WHT) rates . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.
5. Cayman Islands: Corporate – Withholding taxes . PwC Worldwide Tax Summaries. Accessed November 2026.

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