

ESH Press Releases

Island Investment Opportunities

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Opportunities for investment on the island of St Helena were announced by Governor Mark Capes and Chief Executive for Economic Development, Enterprise St Helena, Dr Niall O’Keeffe at a function hosted by British Consul General Chris Trott in Cape Town.

“As the latest tourism destination to catch the eye of the international travel market, St Helena presents significant opportunity to early adopting investors with vision,” says Dr O’ Keeffe.

Previously only accessible by sea, the St Helena airport project is the biggest single investment in an Overseas Territory ever made by the UK Government. It is anticipated that air services, provided by Comair, will commence in early 2016, subject to confirmation pending airport certification.

Dr O’ Keeffe outlined a range of opportunities including specific land and buildings available for various types of development and added: “St Helena is looking for partners to benefit from the sustainable incremental growth of the tourism industry here. There are great opportunities for people and organisations who share the sense of heritage and culture on the Island.”

Investors wishing to enter St Helena will need to apply for a Long Term Entry permit which may be granted for any period over 6 months up to a maximum of five years. Separately, investors may need to apply for a work permit and pass a points-based assessment. There are specialist investor provisions for those investing in excess of £ 50 000. It is possible to purchase freehold or leasehold land in St Helena. Immigration permission is only applied where a person’s cumulative landholding is more than 2 acres. Final decisions on all business proposals will be made by Executive Council

“St Helena’s attraction does not only lie in its remoteness, but also in its unique character – contrasting and spectacular scenery, a rich cultural heritage and an environment extremely rich in biodiversity. The Island is already renowned as a snorkelling, scuba diving and sport fishing destination and the cliffs and rocky shores provides exceptional trail hiking routes. St Helena is also of great historic interest – it was used as a place of exile for key prisoners, including some 6 000 Boers, Chief Dinizulu, and of course Napoleon,” says Dr O’ Keeffe.

Amongst others, properties include a multi-layered fort at the top of Ladder Hill with commanding views over James Bay; barracks which can be used to create a world class hotel with stunning views; Bertrand’s Cottage across the road from Longwood House, the home of Napoleon between 1815 and 1821 and restored by the French Government; Farm Lodge, currently the premier small hotel on St Helena; Devil’s Punchbowl, 42 acres – 103 acres of green development land located between Jamestown and the airport; the Wharf in Jamestown dates back to the 16th Century. A particularly exciting opportunity involves potential to regenerate the wharf and waterfront, and create opportunities for cafes, green space, special retail, dive schools, hotels, bars and restaurants and a hub for water sports.

“We expect discerning visitors from all over the world to visit St Helena Island and this presents an opportunity for both local and new investors. We will be focusing on supporting projects which bring about sustainable, incremental growth,” says Dr O’Keeffe.