



**MERIDIAN TRUST**  
CORPORATE AND FIDUCIARY SERVICES LTD

# Meridian Trust - Corporate & Fiduciary Services



**It's not what we do, it's the way that we do it.**





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# About Meridian Trust

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**Meridian Trust is one of the leading corporate and fiduciary service providers in Cyprus.**

We have been established for over ten years. In that time, we have not only become one of the most trusted company incorporation agents on the island, but we have also built a solid reputation as international tax planning experts.

Our service is flexible, reactive and highly efficient. For example, when you register a company in Cyprus, you can have documents at your desk within 48 hours - and often in as little as 24 hours.

Our clientele includes professional intermediaries such as financial advisors, international law firms, business consultants and international tax advisors.

We offer genuine global coverage, with a worldwide network of corporate lawyers and company consultants, active in all key offshore company jurisdictions: Cyprus, the British Virgin Islands (BVI), the Seychelles, Belize, St Vincent, Bahamas, Cayman Islands and others.



# Why Meridian Trust?

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**We have the experience. We have been established for over ten years.**

We have been helping businesses and their advisers to form companies, as well as offering expert advice on the establishment and implementation of complex cross-border tax planning arrangements, for more than a decade.

Many corporate law firms, business consultants, financial advisers and other intermediaries from all over the world entrust us to hold assets on their behalf, knowing that those assets are being managed solely for the benefit of their clients.

Unlike ordinary and unqualified company formation agents, our practising business lawyers, tax professionals and auditors are required to adhere to the strict codes of conduct and ethics imposed by their governing bodies.

Although we are based in Cyprus, our network of business consultants, lawyers and tax professionals enable us to provide company formation and tax planning services across many jurisdictions, including the British Virgin Islands, Seychelles, Belize, St. Vincent, Bahamas, Cayman Islands and others.



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# It's not what we do, it's the way that we do it.

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**The difference between Meridian Trust and other tax and business lawyers is that with us, it's personal.**

We're a small, highly professional and cohesive team. We understand that our role is essentially a very simple one: we exist to make it as easy as possible for you to establish a business presence here in Cyprus.

Do you want us to form a limited liability company using your own company name or brand? Or perhaps you would prefer a ready-formed entity, in which case your IBC could be up and running by this time tomorrow. Just tell us what you want and we'll handle it from there: quickly, quietly and efficiently.

The people at Meridian Trust comprise of expert corporate lawyers and specialist tax advisors with extensive experience and knowledge in International Tax Planning. We act not only as your company formation agents, but as your specialist company consultants that will guide you on how to incorporate and set up your company in the most efficient way, so as to reduce your company taxes and maximize your profits.



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# No problems — just solutions

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**At Meridian Trust, the right hand always knows what the left hand is doing.**

When you want action taken, you only have to tell us once. You'll have a dedicated case handler who will stay with you from start to finish. In the event that you need to speak to one of our company lawyers or tax professionals, he or she will have all the background they need to provide you with fully informed answers to your questions.

Another point of difference is that we are very willing to work with third parties, including tax lawyers, accountants, bankers and business consultants. So nobody has a better understanding of the situation from your perspective — or what you're looking for in terms of service and value for money — than we do.

Put us to the test and you'll see what we mean. And once your IBC is set up, our team of accountants, bankers, lawyers and tax professionals will ensure that you extract maximum financial value from the arrangement.



# Cyprus company: what are the benefits?

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## Cyprus offers excellent business conditions.



Cyprus, through its remarkably beneficial tax system, is proving to be one of the most popular jurisdictions from where to perform international business. It is no wonder that the World Bank has described Cyprus as the "region's miracle".

Fundamental reasons why an Offshore Cyprus Company is one of the most popular company vehicles with which to conduct business:

- Lowest corporate tax rate in EU at only 10% on net profits
- Lowest VAT at 17%
- No withholding tax on dividends
- Excellent network of double taxation treaties
- Access to EU directives and EU VAT registration
- Excellent infrastructure
- Significant tax savings
- Non-disclosure and anonymity
- No exchange control restriction
- Reduced operating expenses
- Significant degree of privacy and confidentiality



# What activities can your Cyprus company do?

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## **Your Cyprus company is multifunctional.**

There are a number of company activities, tax wise, that are most effectively operated through offshore Cyprus companies.

The most common examples are outlined here; however the possibilities can be endless:

- International Trading
- International Property
- Investment Holding Companies
- E-Business
- Insurance and Re-Insurance
- Provision of Services
- Financing
- Property Ownership
- Leasing
- Employment
- Shipping and Ship Management Companies



# How does your Cyprus company work in practice?

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## **Your Cyprus company operates in the same way your local company would.**

You run your business in Cyprus in the same way as you would run it at home. Your company can be 100% foreign owned (you don't need a Cypriot business partner) and unless you provide financial services, there's no minimum investment level. Having country-resident nominee directors does however enable the company to a tax residence certificate with the attendant tax benefits.

You can use your Cyprus company to issue sales invoices for the goods and services you supply to your customers or clients. Your suppliers address their invoices to your Cyprus company. Electronic payments and payments received by cheque or cash are banked in the usual way through your Cyprus bank account.

### **Your company *must* have:**

- A registered office, which can be an office you set up and lease, or a business centre facility (provided by Meridian Trust)
- A tax number which must appear on the company's sales invoices

### **Your company *can* have:**

- Employees: all of whom must be registered with the *Department of Social Insurance*
- Employees can be Cypriots or expatriates — the choice is yours
- A business telephone and fax line
- A business website and an e-mail address



# Our services

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**At Meridian Trust we offer a full range of corporate services.**

**Cyprus Company Registration:** we can register a new company in Cyprus for you, or offer you a ready company (also known as shelf, off-the-shelf, or ready-made company), and a Cyprus bank account, so that you can start your business in Cyprus in as little as 24 hours.

**Opening of Bank Accounts:** we can open a company bank account in Cyprus on the same day, as well as arrange to open an offshore bank account for your offshore company.

**Offshore Company Formation:** offshore companies registered in zero taxation countries (often referred to as 'tax havens') offer obvious benefits for business owners. International jurisdictions we work in include the British Virgin Islands (BVI), Belize, the Seychelles, St. Vincent, Bahamas, Cayman Islands and others.



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# Our services

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**At Meridian Trust we offer a full range of corporate services.**

**Company Management and Company Administration:** we can manage and maintain your Cyprus corporation on your behalf, with every legal aspect taken care of.

**Virtual Office:** we can provide telephone lines, call answering, secretarial support, voicemail, local fax lines and fax forwarding, mail forwarding, operating your local bank account, legal support, management of local tax, and accounting issues.

**Corporate Accounting & Audit, and Cyprus Tax & VAT:** expert, reliable, financial management for your Cyprus corporation by experienced professionals who will take care of all your VAT and tax planning affairs.

**International Tax Planning. We Help to Reduce Tax:** expert international tax planning services, exclusively through financial advisors, lawyers, tax experts and accountants.



# Our services: Cyprus company registration

## Which kind of Cyprus company do you want?

### **Option A: a ready company in Cyprus**

This is the easiest and quickest option. All you do is choose a name you like from our list of ready companies and leave it to us to get on with it. Knowing the company name and structure has been pre-approved removes doubt and allows you to start trading within 24 – 48 hours. Directors and shareholders are Meridian nominees.

Click the link to [register your ready company in Cyprus](#)

### **Option B: a made-to-measure (new) Cyprus company**

This is more flexible than option A. It allows you to create a name of your choice for your Cyprus company and to appoint if you wish your own directors and shareholders from scratch. There is a 3 working day wait for your company name to be approved by the Registrar of Companies but subject to that proviso, you will have the benefit of applying your own identity or branding to your company. Following the Registrar's approval of your name, the Cyprus company formation documents will then be submitted for approval. The company will be ready to start business within 20–30 days, or if you are in a hurry, within 2–3 days, provided a small premium fee of EUR 300 is applied.

Click the link to [register your new Cyprus company](#)



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# Our services: opening of Cyprus bank accounts

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## Opening of bank account in Cyprus in 24 hours

We can establish bank accounts of any type, for individuals or companies of any nationality.

You can open a bank account independently, or include this service within your Cyprus company incorporation or Ready-made company. Click the link to [open a Cyprus bank account](#)

Our preferred banking partners are: Bank of Cyprus; Marfin Laiki Bank; Hellenic Bank; Eurobank; Loyal Bank and FBME. Having opened an account with one or more of those banks, we can (if you want) administer it on your behalf.

Once your local bank account is open, we can operate it on your behalf by arranging for loan facilities, providing signatory services, obtaining debit and credit cards, and arranging online banking.

Some of the banking-related services our specialised bank account support department provide are:

- Issuance of named credit and debit cards
- Issuance of anonymous credit cards
- Deposit accounts
- Same day secure international payments
- Loan facilities
- Internet banking services
- Private banking services
- International factoring
- Escrow account services
- Direct debits and standing orders



# Our services: offshore company formation

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## Choose the location that best suits your needs.

You can register your offshore company (sometimes called "off shore company" or "offshore business") within 24 hours or choose a ready made (shelf) company in BVI, Belize, Seychelles and Marshall Islands.

**International jurisdictions we work in include:** British Virgin Islands (BVI), Belize, Seychelles, St. Vincent, Bahamas, Marshall Islands, Cayman Islands and others.

Jurisdictions in which offshore companies are registered, often referred to as tax havens, do not impose any corporate tax, thus offer an obvious benefit for business owners.

However, for most clients, we normally use offshore company jurisdictions in conjunction with a company in Cyprus. This allows the business to keep its European "face", while also realising the benefits of favourable tax rates elsewhere.

To discuss the pros and cons of different jurisdictions for your business, just contact our business specialist on +357 24812050, email [info@meridian-trust.com](mailto:info@meridian-trust.com).

Click the link to order an [offshore company formation](#).



# Our services: Cyprus tax and tax planning

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## **Generous tax incentives**

Cyprus not only has one of the most favourable tax regimes in Europe, it also has double taxation agreements with a wide network of countries so that the possibility of an individual or a business being taxed twice is eliminated.

## **Business and corporate tax**

Where the company is a Cyprus-resident company which is managed and controlled from Cyprus, the IBC's profits are subject to only 10% corporation tax on its net profits.

Furthermore, the beneficial owners of the company are not liable to any tax on dividends or profits over and above the amount paid by the entity itself.

## **Business and corporate tax specifics**

- Dividends, interest payments and royalty payments are not subject to withholding tax
- All capital gains are fully exempt from capital gains tax
- Corporation tax – a fixed, flat rate of 10% and no more
- 17% VAT – the lowest permissible EU VAT rate



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# Our services: Cyprus tax and tax planning

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**It's highly likely that our recommendations will do much to increase the profits of your business.**

By combining our expert tax planning services with our bespoke corporate services, our tax-related recommendations can be implemented quickly and easily, without having to involve a third party such as a tax law firm.

Taking into account your business goals, we will identify any areas where making some changes could reduce tax and by doing so, make a real difference to your bottom line. Areas for consideration include:

- International trade and property
- Insurance and re-insurance
- Provision of services
- Investment holding companies
- Financing
- Property ownership
- Leasing
- Employment
- Ship registration and management

## **The significance of Double Taxation Treaties.**

Businesses or individuals who reside in one country, but make a taxable gain in another country, may find that they are required by domestic law to pay tax on that gain in their country of residence and pay tax again in the country where the gain was made. A double taxation treaty prevents that from happening by protecting an individual or a corporate entity from paying tax twice on the same income, asset or financial transaction.

Request a free consultation on +357 24812050, email: [info@meridian-trust.com](mailto:info@meridian-trust.com).



# Our services: accounting and audit

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## Cyprus VAT and income tax.

Our qualified, local accountants will ensure that your accounts are not only complete and accurate, but also meet national and international accounting standards. The specific accountancy-based services our tax professionals offer include:

- The preparation of accurate and comprehensive financial records (in as many currencies as required) and filing those accounts securely
- The preparation and submission of your quarterly IBS accounts
- The preparation and filing of your Cyprus VAT returns
- Carrying out audits and preparing reports in accordance with international tax and international financial reporting standards

Request a free quote on +357 24812050, email: [info@meridian-trust.com](mailto:info@meridian-trust.com).



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# Our services: management services

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## **"Virtual" company management, administration and legal services.**

If your Cyprus company has to be more substantive than simply an office address backed up with local representation — but you don't wish to employ staff — we can run your business for you.

We'll set up a telephone line for customers who want to make contact on a local number. We'll deal with the calls answering them politely and professionally in your IBC's name and passing on any messages accurately and quickly. Or if you prefer, your calls can be diverted to any land line of your choosing. Our e-mail, fax and postal forwarding services ensures that all your in-coming written communications go exactly where you want them to go and in good time.

We can also deal with your out-going correspondence, set up appointments for you, manage diaries and deal with your suppliers. Our legal team can review and prepare any legal documentation your company needs including the management of local taxes and compliance with general legal and accounting issues.

Request a free quote on +357 24812050, email: [info@meridian-trust.com](mailto:info@meridian-trust.com).



# Our services: management services

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## **Company Management and Nominee Services**

It is important at all times to demonstrate to the Cypriot authorities that the company has "substance". It is not enough just to register your Cyprus company here — it must also be managed and controlled from Cyprus. For this reason, the majority of Cyprus company directors should be resident in Cyprus.

Through our Director nominee services, we manage the company on the client's behalf so as to prove that management and control comes from within Cyprus. It's also important to remember that a Cyprus company's tax residency certificates are issued by the Cyprus Tax Authorities, only if the majority of the directors are resident in Cyprus. (If anonymity is required, shares in your IBC can be held in trust by nominees.)

Request a free consultation on +357 24812050, email: [info@meridian-trust.com](mailto:info@meridian-trust.com).



# Free initial consultation

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## **Because we care about you and your business.**

We know that choosing the right overseas location for your business is not a task to be taken lightly. We also understand that because we are on the spot and you are not, you may have questions that aren't answered on this website.

That's why we offer a free 15-minute consultation, either over the telephone, via *Skype*, or via email.



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# Contact us

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## **Meridian Trust - Corporate and Fiduciary Services**

1 Arch. Kyprianou,  
1st Floor, Damali Court,  
Larnaca 6016, Cyprus  
Telephone: +357 24812050  
Fax: +357 24812051  
E-mail: [info@meridian-trust.com](mailto:info@meridian-trust.com)

Websites:

[www.cypruscompany.net](http://www.cypruscompany.net)  
[www.meridian-trust.com](http://www.meridian-trust.com)