



# **Broad Strokes**

- Most countries tax based on residency... and most tax residents on worldwide income
- Some countries tax jurisdictionally... meaning you'll be taxed only if you earn income in the country
- Retirement income—social security, pensions, IRA withdrawals—is typically not taxed or falls under double taxation treaties

## Local Taxes

- Income Tax
- Capital Gains Tax
- Property Tax
- Import Duties
- Wealth Tax
- Sales Tax

## Local Taxes

### **U.S. Persons Abroad**

- Taxed on Worldwide Income
- Mitigating Factors
  - Foreign Earned Income Exclusion
  - Foreign Housing Exclusion
  - Foreign Tax Credit

# Foreign Earned Income Exclusion

Excludes from your U.S. taxes an amount up to \$107,600 for 2020 (indexed each year)

You qualify through one of two IRS tests:

- Bona Fide Residency Test
- Physical Presence Test (330 days)

# Foreign Housing Exclusion

- An additional exclusion if you rent your residence abroad but only reduces foreign earned income
- Maximum amount is 16% of FEIE
- Base amount deducted from actual expenses based on local housing index



# Foreign Tax Credit

- Applies to any taxes paid to another country even if you are not living outside the U.S.
- Intended to eliminate double taxation even if taxes are paid to a country without a taxation treaty with the U.S.

# Reporting Offshore Financial Accounts

- If you have foreign bank accounts, check the box on Schedule B for Form 1040
- If you have foreign bank accounts with an aggregate balance of US\$10,000 or more, you must fill out the FBAR also known as FinCEN Form 114
- Must file online New deadline April 15
- Penalties are disproportionate for not filing... so file

# Reporting Offshore Financial Assets

- If you have foreign financial assets you may have to file for 8938
- The thresholds for U.S residents are US\$50,000 on the last day of the tax year or US\$75,000 at any time during the tax year (double for a married couple)
- The thresholds for U.S persons living outside the U.S. are US\$200,000 on the last day of the tax year or more than US\$300,000 at any time during the year (double for a married couple)

OFFSHORE LIVING LETTER Diversify or Die Broke

#### Beholden To None: Your Path To Complete Independence

Aug. 15, 2019

Dear Offshore Living Letter Reader,

If you don't diversify, I promise you that you'll regret it.

No good reason exists to put yourself at the mercy of any one market, any one economy, any one currency, or any one government.

I've spent the past 20 years figuring out how to internationalize my life and diversify my assets, my business ventures, and my investments.

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