



## The world's most valuable passports

**A UAE passport is the most valuable of the GCC states, followed by Kuwait and Qatar, according to Arton Capital's latest global ranking.**

The Passport Index, published this month assigns a "visa-free" score to passports according to the number of countries the holder can visit visa-free or with visa on arrival, to measure the cross-border access each nationality brings.

The UAE ranks twenty-seventh in the world, with a visa-free score of 122, followed by Kuwait (fiftieth, with a score of 81). A Qatari passport is third best in the GCC (fifty-first, with a score of 77), followed by Bahrain (joint fifty-fourth with the Maldives, scoring 72), Oman (joint fifty-sixth with Botswana and Kazakhstan, all scoring 69), and Saudi Arabia, which ranks joint fifty-eighth with Lesotho, scoring 66.

The lowest-scoring Middle East countries are unsurprisingly war-torn Iraq and Syria, while the world's least-desirable passport goes for the second year to Afghanistan, with a score of 23. Pakistan, with a score of 26, Sri

Lanka (35), and India (46) highlight the continued lack of access for South Asian passports, Arton Capital said.

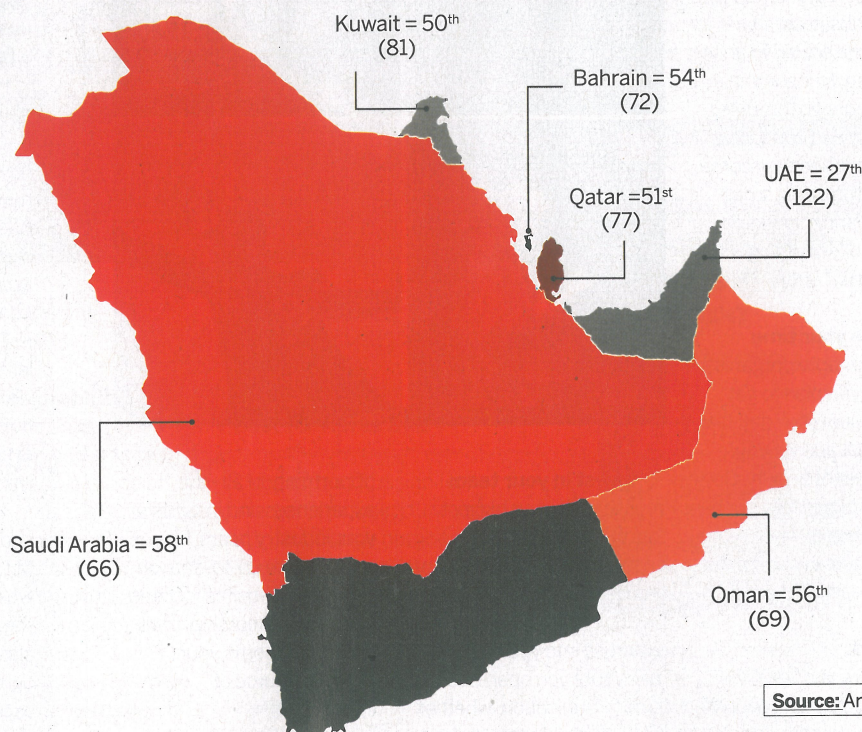
A total of 95 nationalities' passports are included in the ranking. Overall, Germany tops the list with a visa-free score of 157, followed by Singapore,

which has overtaken South Korea to become the highest ranking Asian passport with a visa-free score of 156, and Sweden, which also scored 156.

In joint third position, with a visa-free score of 155, are Denmark, Finland, France, Spain, Switzerland, Norway, the

UK and the US.

Arton Capital noted that 'citizenship-by-investment' had become a \$2bn global industry, with more than 20,000 investors each year seeking a second residency or citizenship to increase their cross-border mobility.



Source: Arton Capital