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Materials for language learning

Best places to retire

Level B1+/B2



Warm-up

- What comes to your mind when you think of retirement?
- Do people in your country look forward to retirement? Why / why not?
- Do you see retirement as an ending or as a new beginning?
- At what age do people usually retire in your country?



Where is the best place to retire?

Share two advantages and two disadvantages for each place.

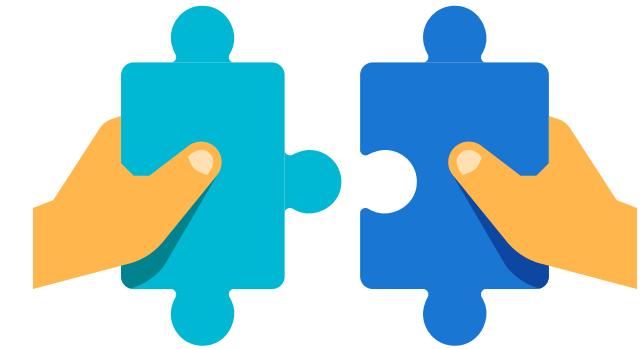
- seaside
- mountains
- countryside
- big city
- close to your friends & family
- far away from your family
- abroad

Think about:

- cost of living
- access to healthcare
- level of isolation
- quality of life
- infrastructure



Vocabulary Match



1. infrastructure
2. bureaucracy
3. financial benefits
4. stability
5. affordable
6. balance (n)
7. reputation
8. settle (v)

- A. to start living permanently in a new place
- B. money-related advantages
- C. not too expensive
- D. public offices and official procedures
- E. a stable and safe social or political situation
- F. the opinion people have about something
- G. a good mix between different parts of life
- H. systems such as roads, transport, hospitals, and electricity

Vocabulary talk!

1. Does your country have good **infrastructure** for retired people?
2. Is **bureaucracy** a problem where you live?
3. What **financial benefits** do retired people get in your country?
4. How important is **political stability** when choosing a place to retire?
5. What gives people a good work-life **balance** before retirement?
6. Which country has the best **reputation** for retirement in your opinion?



Before we read

We're going to read about the three best countries to retire in 2026. The list is based on the ranking made by **International Living**. The countries in the ranking are from all around the world. **What do you think are the best countries or cities to retire in?** Share your ideas!



The Best Places to Retire in the World

Every year, the International Living ranking presents a list of the best places in the world to retire. To create this ranking, experts take into account many detailed factors, such as cost of living, healthcare quality, climate, safety, infrastructure, and overall quality of life. They also analyse how easy it is for foreigners to settle, the level of bureaucracy, and opportunities for an active social life.



In the latest ranking, **Greece** takes first place. Greece attracts retirees with its warm Mediterranean climate, affordable living costs compared to many Western countries, and reliable public healthcare. The slower pace of life, strong local communities, and rich history also play a key role. Many retirees choose coastal towns or islands, where they can enjoy fresh food, outdoor activities, and a balanced lifestyle.

Second place belongs to **Panama**, which is especially popular thanks to its famous Pensionado Program. This program offers retired foreigners generous financial benefits and discounts, including reduced prices for transport, medical services, and entertainment. Panama also offers political stability, modern cities, and a lower cost of living than in many European or North American countries.



The third country on the list is **Costa Rica**. It is known for its strong focus on environmental protection, political stability, and high-quality healthcare. Many retirees are drawn to Costa Rica's natural beauty, relaxed lifestyle, and reputation as one of the happiest countries in the world.

Although these three countries lead the ranking, the ideal retirement destination always depends on personal needs, health, finances, and lifestyle preferences.

True or False

1. The ranking only considers weather and cost of living.
2. Greece offers a slower pace of life and strong local communities.
3. The Pensionado Program is connected with Costa Rica.
4. Panama is popular for its political stability and modern cities.
5. Costa Rica is known for environmental protection.
6. Greece is more expensive than most Western countries.
7. All retirees choose the same country for the same reasons.
8. Bureaucracy can influence how easy it is to settle abroad.
9. Natural beauty is one reason why people retire in Costa Rica.



Retirement Blog

You are retired and you have started your own blog. Write a short article (80-120 words) about your last adventure after retirement.

- Where did you go?
- Who were you with?
- What did you see there?
- What was the weather like?
- What was your favourite moment?
- What surprised you the most?
- Do you recommend this place to other retirees?



Let's talk!



1. Is retirement exciting or scary for you? Why?
2. Would you like to retire abroad? Where?
3. Is the retirement age in your country fair?
4. Should people work after retirement if they want to?
5. What do people usually miss when they retire?
6. What would your perfect retirement day look like?
7. Is it better to retire in a city or in nature?
8. What is more important in retirement: money or free time?
9. Should governments encourage people to retire abroad? Why / why not?
10. Is retirement today different from retirement 30 years ago?
11. What social problems can appear in countries with many retirees from abroad?
12. Do you think people should prepare financially for retirement from a young age?
13. Would you prefer active or quiet retirement?
14. Can retirement improve mental health? Why / why not?
15. Should healthcare be free for all retirees worldwide?
16. Would you personally choose Greece, Panama, or Costa Rica? Why?



