

Choosing a Retirement Destination

Among the most important decisions you'll make in your lifetime is where to retire. Whether you plan to stay in your present area or state, or move to another, here are a few important factors to consider in choosing a place to put down new roots. Wherever you look, an SRES® can help you gather the information you'll need to make a sound decision for buyers and sellers in your situation.



- ✔ **Accessible health care.** Any older adult, no matter how active, should take a close look at what health care options are available in areas they are considering. It's nice to have internists and specialists within a convenient drive. Most important is having access to a well-regarded hospital, in case of emergency or serious illness.
- ✔ **Aging in place.** If you plan to live out your senior years in your retirement destination, consider how the community will serve your future needs. Is there convenient transportation available for times when you choose not to drive? Does the community have support services in place for seniors?
- ✔ **Affordability.** The cost of living is an ongoing worry for many Americans. If you expect to be price conscious during retirement, look for cities with housing below the current median price. If you feel you have a comfortable financial situation, still take time to project annual expenses and make sure they are within your means. Remember to factor in property insurance (which in some areas can be considerable), home maintenance and transportation.
- ✔ **Travel.** Many retirees enjoy traveling, visiting their kids, and having family and friends visit them. All of these will be easier if there is an airport within reasonable driving distance, and a good highway to get to it.
- ✔ **Employment.** Do you plan to continue working in some capacity? If so, investigate employment opportunities that fit your abilities in the areas you're considering, as well as commuting options.
- ✔ **Climate.** Weather preferences are an important factor in retirement for many people, especially as they age.
- ✔ **Interests.** How do you plan to spend your time in retirement? Does a community offer access to your hobbies and interests, possibly including outdoor recreation and sports, cultural activities, or continuing education?
- ✔ **Restricted or mixed-age community.** Give some thought to whether you'd like to live in an adults-only community or a mixed-age environment.

You can count on an SRES® to guide you through your decisions, including sources for the information you need in choosing a retirement destination and a home that meets your needs.

The Seniors Real Estate Specialist® (SRES®) designation is awarded by the SRES® Council, a subsidiary of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR).

To learn more about SRES® and access various consumer resources, please visit [SRES.org](https://www.sres.org).



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