

Before You Go

Reasons for Retiring Abroad

Retiring abroad holds many potential pitfalls for those who choose a destination on the basis of a dream rather than on that of sound planning. In general, those who consider only the financial benefits of moving overseas are more likely to experience disappointment than those who retire abroad for lifestyle or cultural reasons. Whatever your motives, careful research is essential, and the availability of the Internet makes it more practical than ever to carry out a detailed evaluation before you leave. If you are retiring as a couple, do this research together so that both of you fully understand what your choices

involve. Recognizing and preparing for potential difficulties ahead of time is much easier than dealing with disappointment, or even a crisis, later.

Many Canadians who are living abroad for the first time are surprised at the cultural isolation they experience. This can make the normal adjustments from a career to full-time leisure even more stressful. Before you go, make sure you understand the social environment where you will be living. Are you prepared to be in a minority and to be treated as a foreigner? Do you make new friends easily? Are you open to different ways of doing things? Can you handle a much slower pace of life and a high level of bureaucracy? All these are questions you need to think about before deciding to retire abroad.

Coping with Culture Shock Get Involved

Study some aspect of the local culture, such as art, music or sports.

You will meet new people and get a stronger feeling of belonging.

Destination

There are various factors that you need to consider before making a final decision about where to retire. If possible, spend some time in the country where you are thinking of retiring before you make any major commitment. It