

“10 Countries Where Retiring Abroad Is Easier Than You Think”

By UnconventionallyWise.com, based on a video by The Word According to Briggs

Thailand

A retirement visa is available starting at age 50. To qualify, you'll need either \$2,000 in monthly income or \$24,000 held in a Thai bank account. Many retirees settle in Chiang Mai or smaller coastal towns. Rent can be very low, healthcare is both modern and inexpensive, and daily costs like food and services are minimal.

Climate: Tropical. Hot and humid. Good if you tolerate heat and A/C.

Dominican Republic

Retirees over 55 can apply with proof of \$1,500/month income. Living costs are modest, with beachfront rentals available for less than \$700, and it's common to hire help for cleaning or gardening. Property can be purchased outright, and expats are spread across several towns including Las Terrenas and Santo Domingo.

Climate: Tropical. Warm and humid year-round. Can feel oppressive if sensitive to heat.

Costa Rica

The Pensionado visa is available to anyone with \$1,000 in guaranteed monthly income (such as Social Security). Housing is affordable, with some rentals go for around \$500, and public transport and healthcare are widely used. Towns like Grecia and Tamarindo attract a steady expat presence.

Climate: Varies. Coastal areas are hot; mountain towns are springlike. Good for avoiding extremes.

Panama

Panama's retiree visa requires \$1,000/month in lifetime income. The program is permanent and includes discounts on flights, utilities, and entertainment. Many retirees live comfortably on \$1,200 to \$2,000/month. Panama uses the U.S. dollar and has strong infrastructure. Popular areas include Panama City and Coronado.

Climate: Tropical. Warm and humid. Cooler in mountain areas like Boquete.

Mexico

A temporary resident visa requires either \$2,600/month income or roughly \$45,000 in savings. While requirements are higher, day-to-day life is affordable: rent is often under \$600, and medical visits can cost as little as \$40. Expats are found throughout cities like Mazatlán and Mexico City, and it's easy to travel back to the U.S.

Climate: Varies by region. Inland mountain towns and Baja California offer dry, mild weather that suits those sensitive to heat or humidity.

Malaysia

Malaysia's MM2H (Malaysia My Second Home) visa asks for \$2,500/month income plus assets between \$85,000 and \$125,000. Rent is low in cities like Kuala Lumpur and Penang, and meals and healthcare are highly affordable. English is widely spoken, and Penang in particular is popular for its food and walkability.

Climate: Equatorial. Hot and humid year-round. Not ideal if sensitive to damp heat.

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Ecuador

To qualify for a pensioner visa, applicants need a monthly income of \$1,275. Living expenses are low, and you can cover rent, groceries, and utilities comfortably on a modest budget. Cuenca is a common choice for expats, and senior discounts apply to transportation and even domestic flights.

Climate: Coastal areas humid; mountain cities are mild and steady. Few seasonal shifts.

Portugal

Portugal's D7 visa allows passive income earners to apply with around \$1,000/month (or €825). Private health insurance is required, but costs are far lower than in the U.S. Smaller towns outside Lisbon offer good value, and after five years you may apply for permanent residency or citizenship.

Climate: Four seasons. Winters mild but damp and windy on the coast.

Belize

The Qualified Retirement Program (QRP) is open to individuals 45+ with at least \$2,000/month in income. No property purchase is needed, and you're allowed to bring household goods and a vehicle duty-free in your first year. English is the official language, and the lifestyle is relaxed in both inland towns and coastal areas.

Climate: Tropical. Warm and humid. Coastal breezes help.

Uruguay

Uruguay offers a pensioner visa for those with \$1,500/month income. After three years of residency, you may apply for permanent status. Montevideo and other areas offer a clean, stable environment with relatively low costs for rent, utilities, and local services. The country is considered politically and socially progressive.

Climate: Four seasons. Winters are cool, damp, and windy.

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