

Fort Myers named best place to retire by U.S. News & World Report

Fort Myers was ranked the number one place to retire in the U.S., among a list of more than 100 cities by [U.S. News & World Report](#).

Among the reasons to retire in the area, the report cites Southwest Florida's mild climate, the city's assortment of attractions and entertainment, and a lower-than-average cost of living.



The median home cost in Fort Myers is \$219,200 — slightly below the national median cost of \$227,025. Beyond buying a home, the lower cost of living is credited to below-average sales tax rates and Florida's lack of state income tax.

Southwest Florida's weather is attractive to retirees, too. With more than nine months of sunny days annually and wintertime temperatures that rarely fall below 60 degrees, it's a hot spot for outdoor pastimes like fishing and golf.

More than a quarter of Fort Myers' population is over 65, though there's a sizable millennial population and a significant number of young families. Married couples slightly outnumber singles in the area, the report states.

The report praises the city's vibrant arts scene, too. Aside from abundant opportunities for fishing and golf, there's a vibrant performing arts scene, and a varied and plentiful selection of restaurants.

Here's the breakdown

- Overall score: 7.6 (out of 10)
- Desirability: 8.6
- Value: 5.2
- Job market: 6.2
- Quality of life: 6.5
- Net migration: 10

Other Florida cities on the list include Sarasota (2), Port St. Lucie (5), Jacksonville (6), Miami (14), Lakeland (15), Tampa (17), Melbourne (19), Orlando (22) and Pensacola (33).