

Greece is the world's best place to retire

4th December 2025



More and more people are choosing to spend their retirement overseas. The magazine International Living looked at the countries people most wanted to retire to. The researchers said Greece is the best place for 2026. The

magazine has released its Annual Global Retirement Index. This looked at the things that were important for older people who wanted to live in another country in their golden years. These included climate, the cost of living, healthcare, and housing. It is the first time Greece has been the number-one choice for retirees. Spain and Portugal were usually the most popular choices. Panama, Costa Rica, and Thailand were also in the top-ten list for 2026.

Jennifer Stevens, executive editor of International Living, said Greece had what many people were looking for. She said the country was "beautiful, welcoming, and affordable". She added that it offered "a lifestyle that feels rich in every sense". The Greek Reporter website found many expats choose Greece because of its beauty. It reported that retirees can benefit from thousands of kilometres of spectacular coastline, endless sunshine, diverse countryside, picturesque islands, and dramatic mountains. One retiree, Leena Horner, left the USA four years ago to live in Greece. She loves the Greek attitude of taking life slowly and the "daily connection with nature".

Sources: greekreporter.com / newsweek.com / cnn.com

Writing

Retirement is the best time of our life. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

retirement / overseas / magazine / older people / cost of living / healthcare / housing / editor / beautiful / lifestyle / coastline / sunshine / mountains / taking life slowly

True / False

- 1) Fewer and fewer people want to retire in other countries. T / F
- 2) The article said Greece is the best place to retire to in 2025. T / F
- 3) Greece has been the best country to retire in many times. T / F
- 4) Costa Rica is on the top-ten list of popular places to retire. T / F
- 5) The International Living magazine said Greece was affordable. T / F
- 6) The magazine said only rich people can have a nice lifestyle in Greece. T / F
- 7) The article suggests Greece has never-ending sunshine. T / F
- 8) An American said there was a fast pace of life in Greece. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. choosing | a. link |
| 2. released | b. reasonably priced |
| 3. climate | c. well liked |
| 4. cost | d. pretty |
| 5. popular | e. issued |
| 6. affordable | f. way of thinking |
| 7. expat | g. deciding |
| 8. picturesque | h. migrant |
| 9. attitude | i. weather patterns |
| 10. connection | j. price |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of retirement?
- b) What do you know about Greece?
- c) Where would you like to spend your retirement?
- d) Are you looking forward to retirement?
- e) What do you think is important for older people?
- f) What is more important – the climate or healthcare?
- g) Where is it best to retire - Greece, Costa Rica, or Thailand?
- h) What advice do you have for people who have retired?

Phrase Match

1. more people are choosing to spend their
 2. things that were important
 3. in their golden
 4. the first time Greece has been the number-
 5. Costa Rica and Thailand were also in the top-
 6. Greece had what many people were
 7. the country was beautiful, welcoming,
 8. thousands of kilometres of
 9. She loves the Greek attitude of taking
 10. the daily connection
- a. for older people
 - b. ten list for 2026
 - c. years
 - d. with nature
 - e. and affordable
 - f. retirement overseas
 - g. life slowly
 - h. looking for
 - i. one choice for retirees
 - j. spectacular coastline

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What is the best age to retire?
- c) How welcoming and affordable is your country?
- d) What is good for retirees in your country?
- e) What do you want to do in your retirement?
- f) What do you think of taking life slowly?
- g) How important is a daily connection with nature?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a retired person?

Spelling

1. spend their retirement soaevesr
2. The gnaeimza International Living
3. elasreed its Annual Global Retirement Index
4. These included tleicam, the cost of living
5. healthcare, and gniuohs
6. the most popular cshecio
7. viecxteue editor of International Living
8. beautiful, welcoming, and aalerooffdb
9. it offered a sletilyef that feels rich
10. eatspx choose Greece because of its beauty
11. rsviede countryside
12. the Greek tduatite of taking life slowly

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. j	5. c
6. b	7. h	8. d	9. f	10. a

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What is the name of the magazine mentioned in the article?
2.	What phrase did the writer use instead of "old age"?
3.	What was important for older people besides climate and housing?
4.	What two countries were usually on the top-ten list.
5.	What other countries were on the top-ten list besides Thailand?
6.	What is the job of Jennifer Stevens at the magazine?
7.	According to a Greek website, why do many expats choose Greece?
8.	What does the magazine say is picturesque in Greece?
9.	What Greek attitude does an American woman love?
10.	What does the American woman in Greece connect with every day?

Speaking – Retirement

Rank these with your partner. Put the best retirement activities at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Travel
- Go hiking
- Write a book
- DIY projects
- Voluntary work
- Run marathons
- Be with family
- Learn a language

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.