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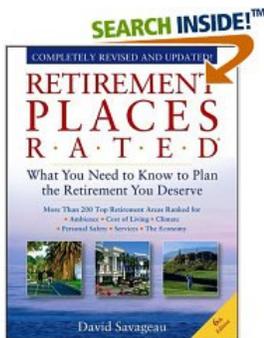
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Retirement Places Rated: What You Need to Know to Plan the Retirement You Deserve, Sixth Edition (Paperback)

by [David Savageau](#) (Author) "The hardest-to-define dimension of a place-harder than its costs of living, climate, crime, job opportunities, or the availability of health care and educational services-its its..." ([more](#))

Key Phrases: [outdoor recreation assets](#), [winter mildness](#), [summer mildness](#), [Home Prices Upper](#), [Office-Based Physicians General](#), [Part-Time Job Market Quality](#) ([more...](#))

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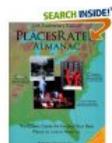
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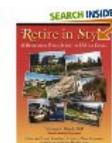
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Editorial Reviews

Product Description

Whether you're considering retirement or scouting out the best location for a second home, *Retirement Places Rated* is an invaluable sourcebook. For more than 20 years, people have turned to author David Savageau for help in choosing the perfect location, and now that the number of Americans who are reaching retirement age is greater than ever, this information is more valuable than ever before. Nearly 200 top retirement areas in the United States, both traditional and newly discovered, are profiled. They're ranked and compared for cost of living, climate, health care, economic factors, crime, services, cultural life, and recreation. Included are climate graphs, maps of retirement regions, comparison charts, and demographic profiles of each area. A special section on relocation resources helps you set your plans in motion once you've chosen where to live. This completely updated edition includes new locations and factors in the latest statistics.

From the Back Cover

The best source for selecting an ideal location for your retirement or second home

Profiles of 203 retirement areas in more than 40 states

In this completely revised and updated edition, the top retirement areas are ranked and rated by six essential criteria to help you make the right choices for your lifestyle:

- The best places to enjoy the performing arts and the outdoors
- The most reasonably priced places to live
- The most stable and comfortable climates
- The safest and most crime-free areas
- The best in health care, public library access, continuing education, and other services
- The best opportunities for employment and affordable housing

Only in Retirement Places Rated:

- A personalized quiz to help you determine the factors that are most important to you
- Additional resources you can contact to make the most informed choices, from newspapers to tax commissions

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Product Details

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Frommers; 6 Sub edition (August 27, 2004)

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ISBN-10: 0764544381

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The hardest-to-define dimension of a place-harder than its costs of living, climate, crime, job opportunities, or the availability of health care and educational services-is its ambiance, its atmosphere, the way it feels, the way it may make you feel about living there. [Read the first page](#)

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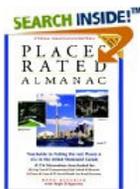
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★★★★★ **Quantitative ratings provide good information**, January 18, 1998

By **T. Padgett** (Atlanta, GA) - [See all my reviews](#)

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This review is from: [Retirement Places Rated \(Paperback\)](#)

The beauty of the book is that Savageau's rankings are both (a) quantitative, reducing the chance for the author's personal preferences to affect the ratings, and (b) pretty well explained: you know how he came up with the ratings. It's unlikely that your own list does not include several in Savageau's group. Since he explains the basis for each location's standing in each category (there are seven), the reader can make his/her own judgements if a particular factor is of less interest to that reader than it is to the author. In fact, a sort of interest quiz in the first chapter helps the reader understand which factors are more important to him/her. This armed, the reader could use the approach to his/her own list of places.

Other books of this genre tend to lean heavily on opinion and seem to get a lot of input from the chamber of commerce. That's not a problem here.

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★★★★★ **A wealth of facts and figures for retirement wannabes**, June 13, 2006

By **Allen Smalling "Constant Reader,"** (Chicago, IL United States) - [See all my reviews](#)

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In the growing field of books offering suggested places to live or retire, RETIREMENT PLACES RATED is one of the few to base its findings entirely on statistics rather than opinion. David Savageau, the author, has authored prior editions of this book as well as the popular PLACES RATED ALMANAC. Feeding into the statistics here come metrics on each of 203 locations from six specific areas: Ambiance (by which the author means largely historic charm and outdoor recreation), Costs of Living, Climate, Personal Safety, Services (availability of medical services, for example) and The Economy. We're also given a useful Appendix with Chamber of Commerce addresses, income-tax information, and the like.

My hunch is that people will find this book quite useful, but not conclusive. It's impossible to avoid opinion entirely, even in a statistics-gathering format like this one, because someone still has to decide what to count and how to weight it. Take the section on Climate: the very top performers are California coastal Mediterranean places like San Diego, which is not surprising. Then come snowless Pacific Northwest climates, desert climates, beach climates (mainly in Florida), and long-hot-summer climates (think central Texas). Although nearly half of the 203 locales rated here are not in the Sunbelt or on salt water, we have to move almost halfway down the list to get to them.

The heat doesn't seem to matter much in this author's assessment of what constitutes "climatic mildness." That's why Yuma, Arizona, where it goes to triple-digit temperatures all summer, comes in at number 10, while relatively mild four-season Charlottesville, Virginia ranks 137. (Actually, if a place has any snowfall that sticks, it's doomed to a poor rating.) Interestingly, Charlottesville placed no. 1 among places to retire in a guide for general use that also came out in 2004 (Cities Ranked & Rated), which used only slightly different metrics. As for an overall score, in RETIREMENT PLACES RATED Charlottesville comes in number 35, edging out Yuma at number 37.

A happy feature of the prior general-interest PLACES RATED ALMANAC was Savageau's use of screening or "filtering" devices to custom-tailor the rankings to people with differing tastes. There was, in fact, precisely a ranking of climatic mildness for people who nonetheless want to live in a four-season climate, not a winterless one, screening out San Diego and Sarasota and Yuma but including, say, Charlottesville. There should have been much more of that sort of thing here.

But a person doesn't have to agree with all the rankings to benefit from the stats. Data on housing costs, crime, and the local economy are all welcome. Just don't think of RETIREMENT PLACES RATED as the only book of its kind you'll ever need.

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By **Statistics Junkie** (Small Town Ohio) - [See all my reviews](#)

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★★★★☆ **Retirement Places Rated**

Overall it is well written. I do miss the earlier format as is had much more statistical data. This current format is good for readers who don't like to really dig into the data... [Read more](#)

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You know exactly what's promised when you read the title of this book, and it delivers exactly that, and better than any other book on this topic that I have seen. [Read more](#)

Published 8 months ago by John R. Trauth

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Almost more information than you can assimilate, it's amazingly informative. It can really help you find the place you want to be.

Published 8 months ago by Gordon R. Jett

★★★★★ **STILL THE BEST**

When the first edition of this book came out I was impressed. I am still impressed. This is one of the most extensive and detail books on locations for retirement. [Read more](#)

Published 8 months ago by V. F. Scott

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This is an excellent resource however it is in grave need of an update.

The cost of housing and the US economy have made some changes since publication date.

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Published on June 1, 2006 by Bill Carrol

★★★★★ **Retirement Places Rated.**

David Savageau

Apart from its main function as indicated in the title, the book provides a very good source of information about our Land. [Read more](#)

Published on March 13, 2006 by James D. Watson

★★★★☆ **Retirement Places Rated**

Great information to find a retirement area that is affordable and pleasant!

Published on February 26, 2006 by Mary Ann Grove

★★★★★ **Retirement Places by Savageau**

The book ranks retirement places from the first to last according to numerous categories including overall quality of life, safety, services and climate. [Read more](#)

While I have some reservations about the relative "weights" provided to some of the information groups, this is a good reference with which to compare information among cities and regions. Contrasting the climate or economic strengths of different locations is relatively easy using this book.

Each section of this reference guide has a scoring system which eventually corresponds to a scale of 100. In this way, the author attempts to compare and contrast disparate issues, such as cost of living, services and crime. But while the detail is "good", the accumulation of scores to arrive at a final ranking of all locations lacks some merit. High cost of living cities still have very high overall ranks because of arbitrary "high" scores for subjective items such as ambience. Also crime rates tend to be of limited value because some locations under report actual crime statistics.

Overall, I would recommend this guide as a starting point for those considering relocation when retiring. While it may not answer all questions, which the author admits, it does give the reader a place to start when compiling their own list for what they are looking for in a retirement setting.

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