

How to Decide Where to Live (H1)

Deciding where to live is fundamental to moving—so it's often the most anxiety-inducing part of the process. That's because where we live can have a significant impact on what we do for a living, who we spend our time with, what opportunities are available for our children, how much we pay in taxes, what we do for fun and relaxation, and...no big deal, right?

Deep breath. In this article, we'll help you narrow down what matters. We'll encourage you to dream a little bit and provide practical factors to consider, giving you a more holistic way to feel confident about your decision to move.

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- Visit your top places

1. Let yourself dream (H2)

Before you start Googling the cost of living, crime reports, and taxes, you know—real-world stuff—allow your mind to wander a bit. While it's wise to consider reality, no one has ever done anything they wanted without dreaming it up first. Make a stream-of-consciousness list of all the things that are important to you in a place. Name cities, regions, and areas that stick out to you. Make a list of attributes, desires, sights, and feelings. There aren't any wrong answers.

Consider the following questions to get you started:

- If money didn't matter, where would you live?
- What are some adjectives for the place you're envisioning?
- If you had one day to explore, what would you do?
- What is the general vibe of the neighborhood?
- Who is in your community?
- What causes do you care about most?
- What do you see when you walk outside?
- How will you accomplish your personal goals in this area?
- Do you see your family here or yourself starting one here?
- What kind of work lifestyle do you envision for yourself here?
- What are some feelings you're experiencing?

Ask these questions about every place you think of.

Image suggestion: Example list capturing these questions. Could be on a pad of paper or list from an app. I can take this, if we like it

2. Consider the factors (H2)

While we live in the *United States*, each state and locality has its own politics, costs, culture, housing options, traffic, economy, climate, and approach to essential services like health care, education, and infrastructure. What you feel is most valuable in a location differs from what another person does.

Here are some factors to consider when deciding where to live. While it's not a comprehensive list, it will help you align your values with your location needs and lifestyle preferences.

Housing (H3)

To rent or to own—that's a loaded question in a time of rising homeownership costs and increasing rent prices. While renting can offer some flexibility and save you in upgrades, repairs, and property taxes, owning a home can allow you to build wealth, give you something to write off, and offer a consistent payment schedule.

Renting (H4)

If you're renting, payments will vary depending on the availability of rental units, the property's age, the unit's size, and demand in your area.

Suppose you make an average salary and don't want to spend more than half your paycheck on rent on a small apartment in a high-demand zone like San Diego, California. You might need a roommate (if you don't have one already) or other supplemental sources of income. Keep in mind the average single person must [earn roughly \\$79,324 after taxes](#) to live comfortably in that area of California (SmartAsset).

It's often easier to live in an area with a cost of living that matches your income than it is to get a side hustle or add headcount to your household. SmartAsset recently wanted to see how [a \\$100,000 salary \(post taxes\) holds](#) when assessing the cost of living in 76 of the US's largest cities. Apparently, \$100,000 equates to \$77,885 across 10 Texas cities but \$35,791 in New York City and \$36,026 in Honolulu.

You can also see if you qualify and apply for affordable housing like [NYC Housing Connect](#), a program based in New York City that grants opportunities for many household income levels and sizes.

There are a lot of reasons to consider or keep renting. For one, it's often easier to [end a lease](#) than to buy and sell a home.

Secondly: there are no homeowner costs in renting. The average American household spends [\\$2,690 on property taxes a year](#), according to WalletHub. And keep in mind that the [average age of a home is 39 years old](#) in the US, according to the National Association of Homebuilders. Older housing will require more upkeep. Not only can [utility bills](#) run high but so can home

maintenance costs. In 2022, Angi found that [the average household spent](#) \$8,484 on home improvement, \$2,467 on maintenance, and \$1,953 on emergency spending. Oh, and cleaning and furnishing an 800-square-foot apartment is less expensive (not to mention time-intensive) than keeping up with a 2,000-square foot home.

Then there's the housing market. Currently, [two-thirds of renters can't afford](#) to own a home in the metro where they live, according to HireAHelper.

Owning a home (H4)

The biggest criticism in renting is that you're "throwing your money away" or not using your home as an investment to help build your wealth, boost your credit, or [borrow cash](#) if you need it.

Another criticism of renting is that rents change based on the popularity of your area. Let's say your city experiences a migration boom, so your landlord meets the demand by raising your rent by \$200. You will need to adjust for this unexpected expense, as [most cities do not have rent control](#). With a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage, on the other hand, your monthly payment can remain the same for the entire duration of the loan. Also, when many people want to live and buy property in your area, that's a good thing because the value of your home goes up.

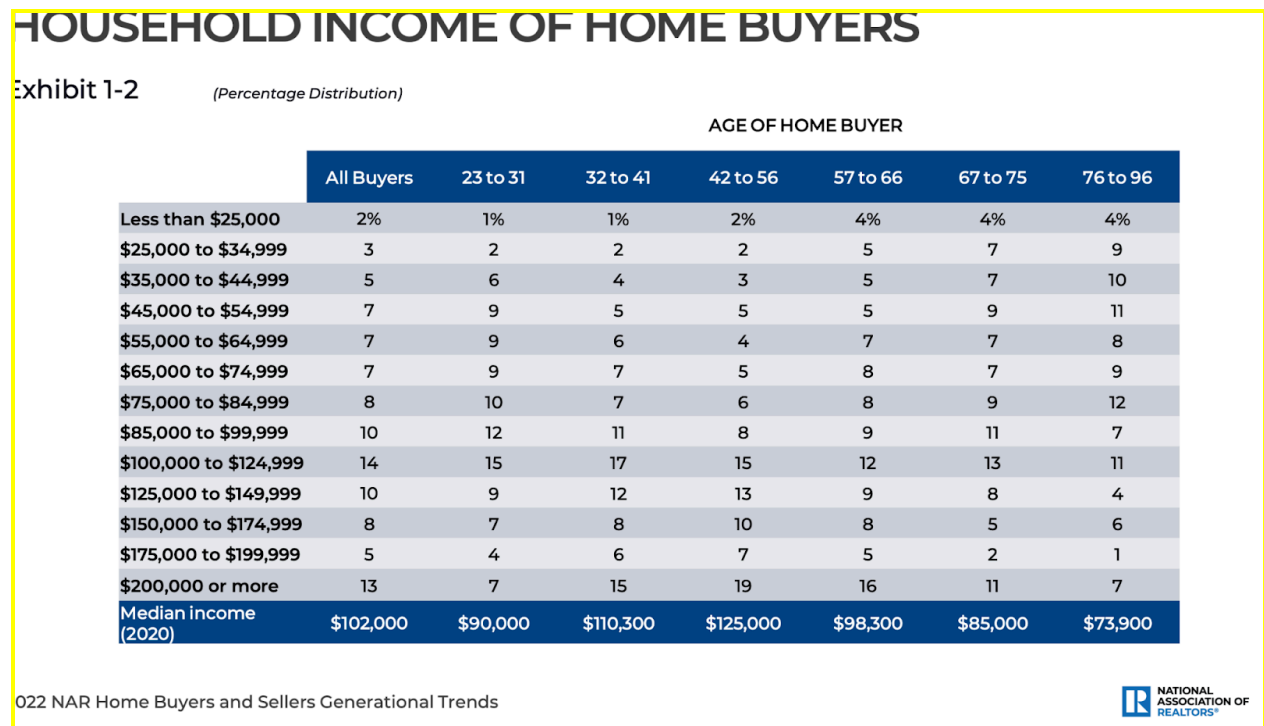
Real talk though: if you're paying attention to the [housing market](#), you know it's expensive to buy a home in 2023. Here are some questions to consider if you want to purchase a home:

- **What is your budget?**
 - Lenders recommend putting a down payment of 20% on your home to prevent you from paying [private mortgage insurance](#) (psst ... but the average person puts down 3% to 6%)
- **How is your credit?**
 - You need a 620 credit score or higher for a conventional loan, according to [Rocket Mortgage](#).
- **Is now a good time to buy?**
 - It depends on who you ask, but the general consensus is both buyers and sellers are running into affordability issues. The National Association of Realtors predicts [home sales will decline by 6.8% in 2023](#), and the median home price will reach \$385,800. Many people, [yes, even millennials](#), are still making it work.
- **Are you a first-time home buyer?** There are incentives like the [\\$15,000 First-Time Home Buyer Tax Credit](#) and [Down Payment Towards Equity](#), and these programs are specifically designed to help first-time owners manage the cost of their first home:
 - [FHA loans](#)
 - As low as a 3.5% down payment
 - 500 credit score or higher
 - Low closing cost
 - Pay FHA insurance if you put down less than 20%
 - Consider an [FHA 203\(k\) loan](#) on a fixer-upper home

- [USDA loans](#)
 - No down payment required
 - 580 or higher credit score
 - Lower mortgage premiums

There are also loans for specific groups, like [VA loans](#) for military members and the [Good Neighbor Next Door Program](#), which provides housing aid for law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and teachers.

Infographic suggestion: Can we make something like this?



Local real estate market (H5)

The local [real estate market](#) directly relates to your housing budget. Be aware of whether you're searching for homes during a [buyer's or seller's](#) market, which will tell you how much pull you have in a negotiation. If there's a buyer's market, you will have more housing options to choose from, and you can ask for more. If it's a seller's market, there are fewer properties to choose from, so the seller can set the price and entertain buyer bids that exceed their asking price.

Non-traditional housing (H4)

We'd be remiss if we didn't mention other housing options like [mobile homes](#), which allows you the ability to own your home and avoid maintenance and property taxes. Mobile homes are cost-effective and customizable but can be hard to sell, and mortgages are tricky.

Then there's #vanlife, which provides you with a home and a scene you can change whenever you want. Fun fact: [RV ownership](#) has increased 62% in the last 20 years. As with any nomadic lifestyle, there are plenty of considerations to consider, such as parking, showering, maintenance, gas costs, road safety, loneliness for solo travel, or the impact living in a confined space has on relationships.

Affordability (H3)

Cost of living (H4)

Cost of living comes top of mind when determining where to live. Cost of living includes the amount of money a household needs to meet basic living expenses like groceries, taxes, transportation, housing, and health care.

Move.org assessed [75 of the largest metropolitan areas](#) in the US and narrowed down the cities with the best and worst living costs. We found trends like 4 of the 10 metropolitan areas with the highest living costs are in California, and southern states like Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas showed up twice under the lowest costs of living.

Cost of living varies by household size. A single adult will need a different living wage or salary than a two-parent household with three children. You can use tools like [MIT's living wage calculator](#) to help estimate the cost of living in your community based on basic living standards.

While a lower cost of living is a top attribute for some people, it might not necessarily be for others. The most attractive places are expensive for a reason, and people will pay for exclusivity. Even just-starting-out artists still figure out how to make it work and move to Nashville, New York City, and Los Angeles. Some creative and innovative people find a way to carve out a space for themselves, even if it means sacrificing comfort. To many, the skills they are learning and the communities they are building outweigh the costs.

Infographic suggestion: Can we use any graphics/repurpose from cost of living piece?
<https://www.move.org/lowest-cost-of-living-2022/>

Taxes (H4)

Taxes: it's hard to escape them entirely, but where you live does make a difference in how much you pay in income, sales, and property taxes. For example, California, New York, New Jersey, Oregon, Minnesota, and Washington DC pay close to or well [over 10% in individual state income taxes](#) (Tax Foundation). States without income tax include Alaska, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming. And five states don't charge sales taxes: Alaska, Delaware, Montana, New Hampshire, and Oregon.

Remember that [taxes pay for public services](#) like roads, education, police and fire, health and human services, environmental programs, and more.

Job opportunities (H4)

Most people who [move long-distance](#) move for a new job opportunity. Some things to consider when searching for [locations with job opportunities](#) include:

- Average salary or wage in your field
- Living salary/wage
- Median household income
- Average number of hours worked
- Average commute time
- Unemployment rates
- Job market for industries you're interested in
- Largest and highest-earning companies
- Number of small businesses and resources available
- Workforce diversity
- Income inequality

While remote work is gaining traction, it's too soon to say how this will affect migration on a grand scale. A [recent study](#) showed that 58% of employed respondents, representing 92 million Americans, can work from home for all or part of the week (McKinsey & Company). So if a large majority of American workers either have or want remote work, how will this affect where they choose to live and work?

Reviews.org recently assessed the [best metro areas for remote workers](#), or “digital nomads,” and found that areas included Atlanta, Georgia; Portland, Oregon; Austin, Texas; Seattle, Washington; Phoenix, Arizona are most equipped to support the digital nomad’s need for internet speed, remote-friendly jobs, and proximity to airports.

While you might be heavily considering the work aspect of your move, it may help to think about where you work holistically. For example, if you’re moving with a partner, what will this move mean for their career? If you have working-age children, what opportunities are available for them? If you’re a single professional, are you moving to an area with many other single professionals?

Where and why did people move in 2022?

The [US Census](#) estimates that roughly 27.3 million Americans moved in 2022. [Migration analyses](#) have used Census data to depict the drop in domestic moves and a slight increase in long-distance moves. Overall, the most prominent trends were migration away from large coastal cities and metropolitan areas and toward the Sun Belt ([the South grew by 1 million people](#)). Moving companies also reported on trends:

- HireAHelper’s [2022–2023 U.S. Migration Report](#) illustrated that the total number of people who moved from year to year grew for the first time in a decade.
- Allied’s [2022 Magnet Report](#) saw that housing prices rose in top destination cities and that many people found the suburbs more attractive than cities in 2022.

- North American Van Lines' [2022 U.S. Moving Migration Report](#) singled Illinois out as a top outbound state for the 11th year.

People (H3)

Who you spend your life with is a top concern for most people because it influences who you become. Proximity to family, dating opportunities for singles, community camaraderie and support, and being near like-minded professionals are all top factors in determining where to live.

Family (H4)

According to Pew Research, more than half of Americans live within an [hour away from extended family](#). And nearly 30% of people who moved in 2022 did for [family reasons](#) (HireAHelper). So it makes sense why moving to be closer to family is a primary factor that comes to mind for many movers.

Having a supportive network of loved ones can dramatically affect family dynamics. For one, anyone with children has at least a general understanding of how much [child care costs](#). A family member who can occasionally watch your child is essential for many families.

“Family reasons” is a loaded phrase, and there are reasons why people might move to be closer to family. For example, in the wake of the pandemic, many [young adults](#) moved back home with their parents. [Caring for an adult family member](#) is another reason someone may move back home. It's not all negative though. Many American families have naturally become more [multi-generational](#) over the years.

Community & culture (H4)

Visiting is the best way to understand how a community works before you move there. This isn't always ideal, so searching the internet is an excellent way to lurk around local conversations and even present questions to community members.

Nextdoor, Facebook community groups, and Reddit are all outlets to explore. Locals on those platforms will know the best restaurants, where to buy farm fresh food or volunteer, how to find a reputable vet or affordable child care, the best place to catch a sunset or baseball game, when local events happen, and very nuanced things you couldn't possibly know by reading an article online ... like which gas station in town has an air pump that works.

Try to get a taste of nearby communities too. Chicago is a good example of a place that varies drastically from one neighborhood to the next. Logan Square, Old Town, the Loop, Chinatown—each area has something unique to offer and may have the vibe you're going for.

It's difficult to tell what culture is and how a community operates from just reading, honestly. Videos and social media might better indicate what a place looks, sounds, and feels like. Use

hashtags on platforms like TikTok and Instagram to explore what people talk about and do in the area.

Some questions to ponder while visiting in person (recommended) or exploring online:

Arts and culture

- What is the history of this area? Is it something people are proud of or are looking to reinvent?
- What styles of cuisine are represented in the food scene?
- Where does the food come from?
- Where can you get a tasty drink?
- What does the library offer? How about other public service facilities?
- What's the sports team pride level? Where can you watch a game?
- What time do restaurants and gathering establishments close?
- Where can you listen to music, watch a show, and check out an art exhibit?
- What museums are available?
- Does the community invest in murals and street art?

Demographics

- How does this neighborhood integrate (or separate) class, race, age, etc.?
- What is the overall response to you, an out-of-towner?
- Is there LGBTQIA+ representation? Where?
- How does the area treat its homeless population, if there is one?
- Is it mostly small businesses, corporate office space, industrial parks, big box store central, or a mix?
- How many churches, and what are the denominations?
- What different languages do residents speak?
- Is it an ideal place for singles?
- Is the area family-friendly? Pet-friendly?
- Are there places for the youth to hang out?
- Are subcultures represented (ex: hipsters and punks)?
- How do people dress?
- What volunteer opportunities are available in the community?
- Are public spaces accessible for differently abled and older populations?

Infrastructure

- Is there any new construction?
- Are there different types of housing?
- Where are the centers of industry in proximity to residential areas?
- Where does the city get its water?
- What is the parking situation?
- How much green space is there?
- Is it walkable?
- Is there a lot of trash? How does your community approach recycling?

- In what kind of shape are the roads and bridges?

Vibe

- Urban, suburban, or rural?
- Fast pace, moderate pace, or slow pace?
- Sports, outdoorsy, or fitness culture?
- Quirky and DIY or corporate?
- How is the traffic and transportation?
- Communal or individualistic?
- Academic?
- Upcoming or well-established location?
- What are some things about the area that annoy or excite people who live there?

Politics (H5)

While it's important to know who your state senator, representatives, mayor, and other community decision-makers are, you should be aware of informal leaders without a title like community planners, activists, teachers, police chiefs, civic board members, and business owners that have a noticeable impact on the community. If the values of your community are important to you, it's helpful to get a thorough look at the people who shape those values.

Here are some things to consider when researching the politics of an area you're interested in:

1. Visit government websites. Take a look at what policies they're tackling and budgets they're setting for the year. Do they handle issues thoughtfully? Do they seem professional and organized in delivering city services?
2. Visit formal and informal leaders' social accounts. Observe how voters and community members engage with them—and how they respond.
3. Read top headlines from local news over the past year. Pay attention to any changing of hands, major current events, redistricting, voter suppression, mishandling of funds, and major investments.
4. Know where your state and local government stands currently on topics you care about, whether it's gun control, infrastructure, education, natural disasters, public services support, fiscal responsibility, reproductive health care, workers' rights, or anything else.
5. Lurk around sites like Reddit, Quora, and community groups for civil political discussions involving residents.
6. If you can visit your location, pop into a town hall meeting.

Environment (H3)

Surroundings (H4)

Mountain backdrops, beach vibes, countryside sprawls, cityscapes—everyone has a preference for what they'd like to see between grind time. There's a reason why, when asked [if money was no object](#), 1 in 5 people would choose to live in Los Angeles, California (Homebay), and why

people are currently choosing to live in beautiful AND more affordable places in Florida, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

North American Van Lines' [2022 U.S. Moving Migration Report](#) found that many people who moved in 2022 sought a higher quality of life, which often meant a location nestled in nature with plenty of outdoor experiences.

Studies have shown that [nature impacts our health and well-being](#) and that by living in a greener urban area, you have less of a probability of experiencing cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, asthma, mental distress, and mortality; and your children are less likely to experience obesity and myopia (Scientific Reports).

Here are some questions to consider about your natural surroundings:

- What surroundings do you find beautiful and relaxing?
- Describe your ideal outdoor excursion.
- What trails are close to you?
- What is the closest state or national park?
- How many playgrounds or recreational areas are near you?
- What kind of plant life is most appealing?
- What is the closest body of water?
- What outdoor activities are available?

Climate (H4)

While aesthetics and the mental health boost you get from them are essential, nature is often unpredictable. And we do know that climate-related disasters and community preparedness are topics that will continue to gain traction for years to come. In other words, be sure to assess the not-so-pretty climate stuff as well:

- **Natural disaster prevalence:** Are you in a hurricane, tornado, [fire](#), or flood zone? What are the top insurance claims related to natural disasters in your area?
- **Number of cloudy days:** It is [scientifically proven](#) that exposure to sunlight affects our mood.
- **Air and water quality:** You can use the Environmental Working Group's [tap water database](#) to see tap water reports and AirNow.gov to check current [air quality](#).
- **Severe temperatures:** What are the coldest and hottest [temperatures](#) on average?
- **City weather preparedness:** Is your city designed to handle bad weather? How does it respond? Does it have floodplains and stormwater infrastructure?
- **Wildlife:** What precautions should you take against snakes, bears, or deer?
- **Pest control:** Some of the [warmest climates are the buggiest](#).
- **Climate projections:** What are some of your area's biggest [threats to climate](#)?
- **Allergies:** Are the warmer season pollen-heavy?

Safety (H3)

Research crime rates in your desired area. Remember that a place's crime rate doesn't entirely reflect how safe it is to live there, and the term "safety" is subjective. Meaning many factors contribute to the different types of crime and their frequency. Types of crime can include property crime, theft, violent crime, and human trafficking.

According to SafeWise.com, how safe a neighborhood is depends on factors aside from crime rates, including quality lighting, clean parks, access to medical care, a fire station, fire hydrants that are close to homes, sidewalks, bike lanes, and quality schools.

Here are some tools to help you [research your neighborhood's safety](#).

Schools (H3)

Whether you're looking for schools for yourself or your family, a location that doesn't offer quality educational opportunities is a deal breaker for many individuals and families. Even households without kids might be planning for a future state when they do decide to expand their family.

If you're a parent who wants to be sure they are not only picking the right place—they're picking the best education for their children, consider the following:

1. Consider the real estate market in your area. Oftentimes, the greater the value of homes in your neighborhood, the better the schools.
2. Assess the school's average test scores, improvement rates, diversity levels, student-to-teacher ratio, parent reviews, and more on sites like GreatSchools, Public School Review, Niche, and SchoolDigger.com.
3. Look up school boundaries and make a list of schools you're interested in.
4. Use your list to weigh and compare housing costs and school quality. You can do this for public and [charter schools](#).
5. Visit the school's website and contact the school directly with questions. If you can visit the city, maybe attend a school event and talk to other parents whose children attend the school.

If you're looking for schools for yourself, you'll obviously have different priorities. This can include cost and financial aid, graduation rates and requirements, housing options, student-to-teacher ratios, diversity rates, safety, athletics, admissions data, and overall ratings. *The New York Times* made a tool that allows you to [weigh top factors](#) and spits out a list of colleges and universities to look at based on your percentages. You can also use sites like Niche to [compare colleges](#).

Health care (H3)

Changing doctors when you move is a huge headache, especially if you also rely on specialists. And that's not including anyone else in your household transferring providers. While it's hard to scope out health care providers before moving, there are some ways you can better prepare

yourself so you're not completely in the dark when you move and do not have to pay astronomical amounts out of pocket.

Depending on your insurance, you can use online tools to scope out doctors in your network. For instance, you can use the "[Find a Doctor](#)" tool on Blue Cross Blue Shield's website to locate in-network primary care doctors and urgent care facilities. Or you can use the American Medical Association's [DoctorFinder](#). If you're receiving Social Security, call 1-800-772-1213 to find out about SSI benefits in your new state. And if you're receiving benefits from [HealthCare.gov](#), you'll need to apply for insurance in your new state.

Remember that you can also access Facebook community groups to ask community members for their doctor recommendations. You can also prep your current primary care doctor for your transfer and see if they have advice for locating a suitable replacement. Be sure to ask your doctor(s) to make copies of your records. And fill prescriptions well before your move.

When you narrow down your search, it's a wise idea to look into the doctor's [certification](#) and their current training.

Once you find a primary care provider, it's helpful to transfer over records and to catch this doctor up to speed with other health care needs. They may need to recommend specialists for services you received at your last location. You may also want to ask how to get set up through the online portal system, if you need to fill out paperwork beforehand, and what other ways you can best prepare to receive care.

Narrow down your options (H2)

Using the dream list you made in Step 1 and the digging you've done in Step 2, create a spreadsheet to identify what you need and want in your next town.

Using my dream list and some of the things I found out by researching factors for each location I was interested in. Here's an example of places that came to mind for me based off my preferences:

- Asheville, North Carolina
- Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Chattanooga, Tennessee
- Salt Lake City, Utah
- Atlanta, Georgia
- Westminster, Colorado
- Eugene, Oregon
- Sacramento, California
- Los Alamos, New Mexico

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Factors	Drive to mountain hike	Monthly housing	Diversity index	Art (wide variety, large presence)	Politics	Snow	Average # cloudy days	Small business district (one or more)	Restaurants	Total
2	Scoring	Within 1.5 hours = 5 1.5-2.0 hours = 4 2.0-2.5 hours = 3 2.5-3 hours = 2 3-4 hours = 1	\$1,500-\$1,650 = 5 \$1,650-\$1,800 = 3 \$1,800-\$2,000 = 2 \$2,000+ = 0	50% or higher = 5 45%-50% = 3 35%-45% = 1 Less than 35% = 0	Yes = 5 Somewhat = 3 No = 0	Mostly blue = 5 Mixed politics = 4	No snow = 5 Snows a little = 3 Snows a lot = 1	80 or less = 5 81-100 = 4 100-150 = 3 150-200 = 2 200+ = 1	Yes = 5 Kinda = 3 Not so much = 0	Foodie heaven = 5 Lots of good options = 4 Some good options = 3	
3	Max points	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	45
4	Asheville, North Carolina	4	3	0		5	4	3	3	3	30
5	Ann Arbor, Michigan	0	2	3		5	4	1	2	5	27
6	Chattanooga, Tennessee	5	5	3		3	4	1	5	5	35
7	Salt Lake City, Utah	5	3	5		5	4	1	3	5	35
8	Atlanta, Georgia	5	2	5		5	5	5	3	5	40
9	Westminster, Colorado	5	2	5		0	4	1	4	3	29
10	Eugene, Oregon	5	3	1		5	4	3	2	3	29
11	Sacramento, California	3	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	43
12	Los Alamos, New Mexico	5	5	3		3	4	3	5	0	32

I chose nine locations based on my dream list and some research I did. Then I added weights to them and created a scoring system based on how much I value a particular factor. For example, a high [diversity index score](#) mattered a lot to me, so I gave the cities with higher diversity higher scores.

Some topics were harder to determine than others because they are highly subjective. For example, for restaurant scores I relied heavily on best lists, Google results for “top foodie cities in the US,” and long-winded commentary on Reddit from locals. Thankfully, I have been to more than half of the cities on my list and have been able to experience whether or not the city has a lot of opportunities to experience the arts. Still, I relied on best lists and lurked in local conversations.

This is just an example. You will find some of my factors may matter less to you or find a better system for comparison. Similarly you will have different locations in mind. And you will also have different weights depending on how much value you place on a certain factor. I found it helpful to use tools like the US Census’s diversity index, RentCafe’s average rents, Best Place’s average number of cloudy days, Google maps for proximity to mountain hikes, and Niche.com for political leanings.

Try it out!

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dFv_tKX0382ncphM-Do-8DMTYeJj6_WrDNzJAHM_A2s/edit#gid=0

Visit your top places (H2)

If you can plan a short trip or two to the top towns you discovered in your matrix, do it. You don’t have to commit to anything; see if you can stay with a friend or rent short-term. Book an Airbnb

and test out what you've discovered and assessed as necessary. Participate in all the activities, work remotely if you can, and visit sites you know you would use regularly or often enough.

Pro tip: If you're single and looking, use Tinder Passport to get a tour guide before you even get there or to get a taste of the personalities of the people living there.

Ultimately, the best research is going to the actual city and experiencing it yourself. Live your life like you're already there. You got this!

Resources (H2)

There's a near-endless list of considerations when you're deciding where to live. We've gathered a few more resources that will help you further dig into community data so that you can make an informed and confident decision before the moving truck arrives.

Housing (H3)

- Federal Housing Finance Industry - [House Price Index](#)
- American Enterprise Institute - [National and Metro Housing Market Indicator](#)
- Zumper - [Zumper National Rent Report](#)
- Fit Small Business - [States with Most and Least Inventory](#)

Cost of Living (H3)

- Economic Policy Institute - [Family Budget Calculator](#)
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - [Inflation Calculator](#)
- MIT - [Living Wage Calculator](#)
- MERIC - [Cost of Living Data Series](#)
- Economic Policy Institute - [Wage Tracker](#)
- Tax Foundation - [State and Local Tax Rates](#)
- Best Places - [Cost of Living Calculator](#)

Job Opportunities (H3)

- World Population Review - [Employment Rate by State](#)
- Visual Capitalist - [U.S. Labor Market](#)
- Arizona State University Seidman Institute - [Job Growth by State](#)

Schools (H3)

- World Population Review - [Public School Rankings by State](#)
- ALE Report Card - [Ranking By State](#)
- Ballotpedia - [School Choice Information by State](#)
- U.S. Career Institute - [The Best High School in Every State](#)
- Reason Foundation - [Education Spending Map](#)

Community, Politics, and Lifestyle (H3)

- ShareCare - [Well-Being Index](#)
- WalletHub - [Happiest States in America](#)
- Pew Research - [Political Ideology by State](#)
- U.S. Census Bureau - [Racial and Ethnic Diversity Index by State](#)
- Migration Policy - [U.S. Immigrant Population by State and County](#)
- Pew Research - [How Religious is Your State?](#)
- SafeWise - [10 Most Dangerous Cities in the U.S.](#)
- Niche - [Best Cities for Outdoor Activities](#)

Quizzes (H3)

- New York Times - [Where Should You Live?](#) (Tool)
- Livingly - [Where to Live Based on Personality Type](#) (Quiz)
- Dan Waters - [Where Should I Live?](#) (Quiz)
- BuzzFeed - [Which U.S. City Should You Live In?](#) (Quiz)