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## Money BEST PLACES TO RETIRE

2006

### And the winners are...

These towns have it all: top-notch health care, loads of culture, lots of green space - and everything else the most desirable places in America have. Except high taxes. (more)

- Walla Walla, Wash.
- Holland, Mich.
- St. Simons Island, Ga.
- Williamsburg, Va.
- **Prescott, Ariz.**
- See the Top 5 gallery

### Best places, state-by-state

Five towns made it onto Money's Best Places to Retire. How do other places rate? See key data for 700+ U.S. cities from the Best Places to Live database. (more)

- Texas
- New York
- California
- Florida
- See the rest
- Great places, city-by-city

### Video: Welcome to Walla Walla

A look at what makes this a great spot for retirees to settle. One nice perk: the town's burgeoning wine industry. (more) 

### Where homes are most affordable

What cities have the lowest home sale prices? Plus, more top 25 lists: (more)

- Most golf courses
- Most hospitals
- Most tennis played
- Oldest
- Country club members
- Best educated

## Prescott, Arizona

**Population:** 40,400

**Maximum income tax:** 5% on income over \$150,000

**Sales tax:** 8.3%

**Typical three-bedroom house:** \$390,000

**Est. property tax:** \$3,700

Prescott attracts retirees who enjoy being outdoors, with more than 6 golf courses, and the Prescott National Forest, which offers 450 miles of trails among acres of ponderosa pine. There are outdoor events on the lawn of Courthouse Plaza; saloon-style bars and restaurants that line historic Whiskey Row; and plays at the Prescott Fine Arts Association. Other pluses: three hospitals, a recently expanded library and a new adult center opening this fall. Housing prices are on the high side, but property taxes are relatively low and seniors enjoy some state breaks.

Winners  
Affordable homes  
Most golf

Cities  
Health care  
Tennis

States  
Oldest  
Country clubs

FAQ  
Most 50+  
Educated

## WINNER

### Prescott, AZ

Population: 38,507

Population, age 50+: 18,040

Population growth, age 50+: 14.57%

#### Taxes

	City stats
State income tax rate (highest bracket)	5.04%*
State income tax rate (lowest bracket)	2.87%*
Retirement tax break from state?	Yes
State property taxes	Below average
Sales tax	8.35%
State gas tax (cents per gallon)	18.0
Housing	

	City stats
Median home price	\$273,826
Home price gain (2004-2005)	23.42%
Financial	

	City stats
Median household income (per year)	\$37,869
Auto insurance premiums (Average for the state)	\$2,588
Quality of life	

	City stats
Air quality index (% of days AQI ranked as good)	75.7%
Personal crime risk (100 is nat'l average; lower is better)	78
Property crime risk (100 is nat'l average; lower is better)	106
Personal crime incidents (per 100,000)	n/a
Property crime incidents	n/a

Leisure and culture

City stats

Movie theaters (within 15 miles)	3
Restaurants (within 15 miles)	263
Bars (within 15 miles)	30
Public golf courses (within 30 miles)	10
Libraries (within 15 miles)	10
Museums (accredited by AAM within 30 miles)	1
Colleges, universities and professional schools	n/a
Ski resorts (within 100 miles)	0

Weather

City stats

Annual precipitation (inches)	19.19
Clear days	162
High temp in July ° F	88.3°
Low temp in Jan ° F	23.3°

Health\*\*\*

City stats

Hospitals (within 30 miles)	6
Doctors' offices	149
Body mass index (avg. for residents)	n/a
Cancer mortality (per 100,000, age-adjusted)	n/a
Cardiac mortality (per 100,000)	n/a

Meet the neighbors

City stats

Median age	46.6
Completed at least some college (% of residents)	67.3%
Married	49.5%
Divorced	13.0%