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Best States for Retirement 2015

1. Delaware ()



VisitDelaware.com

Total population: 908,446

Share of population 65+: 14.9%

Cost of living: 6.4% above the U.S. average

Average income for 65+ households: \$47,860

Retiree tax picture: Most Friendly (/tool/retirement /T055-S001-state-by-state-guide-to-taxes-on-retirees

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/index.php?map=&state_id=8&state=Delaware)

The First State is tops for retirees. Delaware's population includes a great number of residents who are 65+, and the retired set can enjoy a life unburdened by heavy taxes.

One of Kiplinger's 10 Most Tax-Friendly States for Retirees (/slideshow/retirement/T006-S001-10-most-tax-friendly-states-for-retirees/index.html), Delaware levies no sales tax and modest income taxes, from which Social

Security benefits are exempt. Plus, it's relatively affordable compared with nearby New Jersey (with living costs 21.4% above the national average), Connecticut (33.4% above average) and New York (52.7% above average), one of our worst states for retireme (/slideshow/retirement/T037-S001-worst-states-for-retirement-2015/index.html).

Oceanside cities such as Bethany, Dewey and Rehoboth may be attractive, but they come with living costs between 49.4% and 81.9% above the national average. A more affordable choice: Milford. The small inland city is less than an hour north of the popular beach towns and ha living costs just 5.2% above average, according to Sperling's Best Places. With a population of about 10,000 people, Milford straddles the Mispillion River. Along with the river walk and park, you can find numerous restaurants, boutiques and festivals in the downtown area. It's also just about an hour south of Wilmington, the state's largest city, and all its amenities, ranging from museums and galleries to gambling and wineries. Regular Amtrak service via Wilmington can ge you to New York or Washington in less than two hours and to Philadelphia in less than half an hour.

But you can stay in town for quality health care. Bayhealth Milford Memorial offers an array of inpatient and outpatient services, ranging from a cancer center to a joint-replacement facility.

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