



Steps To Take When You're Thinking of Moving Abroad Worksheet

Are you dreaming about walks on the beach with beautiful waves lapping the sand and your toes with the fresh ocean breeze in your hair or perhaps a mountain retreat for long walks in the trees with views of a lake or snow covered mountains – a place to write that book? Perhaps you dream of quaint cobblestone streets lined with flower boxes while sipping on your favorite local red wine? No matter which of those you desire as you are *looking to find your place*, know it can become your reality for less than you've ever dreamed of!

Each and every one of us contemplating a move overseas has a motivation all our own. Be sure to explore yours thoroughly and enjoy the process, it's exciting! Living abroad can provide a whole host of new and interesting activities to your life and be very enriching for yourself and others. It's your choice, it can be for part time or a lifetime.

Finding My Place provides support and assistance in the journey. Here are a few important things to think about before you make your decision.

1. Determine why you want to live abroad and what is most important to you. What are your main motivators? Make a priority list and if you're doing it with someone else, do it separately but make decisions together. An unhappy partner can make a move a disaster in the long run.

Here are some reasons others have stated. Prioritize our list with **A** as highest and **F** as lowest (you can have more than one) or add your own.

PRIORITY	REASONS OTHERS WANT TO LIVE ABROAD
	Weather – eternal spring, clean air, tropical (humid), mountains
	Lower costs
	Better healthcare
	Just plain old adventure
	Interested in a new culture or language
	I want to revel in history and live in a colonial home
	I want to live a higher standard of living for less



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	I'm looking to reinvent myself, do something totally different
	I want to start a business on the beach
	Healthier living – organic food and clean air and water
	Less violent crime
	I want to support a community in need, I have skills!
	More down time to spend writing that book or something artsy
	To find an up and coming region where I can invest
	I need more tax savings
	I prefer a different government system
	I want a better more secure environment
	Easier regulatory environment for starting a tech business

2. Prioritize your list of Must Have's, **A** is highest and **F** is lowest. Some things others have stated include:

PRIORITY	MUST HAVES
	An airport an hour away is important since I have to return home regularly to see my grandkids
	Strong internet 24/7 so I can operate my on-line business
	English as a first language so I don't have to learn a new language
	A country which allows real estate ownership since I plan on investing



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3. Budget

There are many countries in the world where you can live for \$1300 on the low end and up to \$2000 per month and live like a queen.

Give a realistic monthly budget for living in your place \$_____. If you don't know what it is, time to get to work and figure it out!

4. Places you want to consider for a move and to begin your research. We've provided our list of countries, add your own countries or cities and list any up or downsides you can think of. **A** is top priority and **F** is low priority. Continue to work on this over time.

PRIORITY	PLACES I WANT TO CONSIDER	UPSIDE	DOWNSIDE
	Belize		
	Brazil		
	Colombia		
	Ecuador		
	France		
	Italy		
	Malaysia		
	Mexico		
	Nicaragua		
	Panama		
	Peru		
	Portugal		
	Spain		



	Switzerland		
	Thailand		

5. Make local connections. You'll find that many cities have an expat FB page or other resource for connecting. You want to get some general information from those who have *been there done that* and are already on the ground. Join in conversations, ask questions and be a resource to others if you can.

Some resources we use include:

- a. FaceBook – Expats of Granada, of Matagalpa (there are 2), of Leon
- b. ChickyNet – in Thailand for expat women from all over the world
- c. Internations – a global site <https://www.internations.org>
- d. Blogs:
 - i. Rewired and Retired - <https://retirenicaragua.wordpress.com/posts/>
 - ii. Drive on the Left - <http://www.driveontheleft.com/blog/>
 - iii. Blog Expat.com - <http://www.blogexpat.com/en/directory.htm>
- e. Transitions Abroad - <http://www.transitionsabroad.com/>
- f. International Living - <https://internationalliving.com/>

There are literally thousands of blogs and sites for exploration, have fun with it. Information you want to learn about include: housing, medical, cost of living, visas, tax laws, customs and etiquette and where are the best places to live. Though you may think you want to just drown yourself in a local culture chances are you will want to hang out with an expat community at some point or at least know they're close by. Make friends long before you go to check it out so you have some friends before you even get there.