

Want to Retire in Belize? Here is How You Can Make that Dream Come True

By SL Newman

If you live in the United States and want to retire in a sun drenched foreign country, you might think that your only options are to retire in the Bahamas or along the Mediterranean in Europe. You could even retire in Mexico if you wanted. But if you want to get a little farther from the United States but not quite as far as Europe and if you want experience retirement in a tropical climate complete with a rain forest and Mayan ruins that rival those of Mexico, then you most likely want to retire in Belize.

Making your tropical retirement dreams come true and retiring in Belize is easier than you think. In order to qualify for retirement in Belize, there are a few requirements that you must meet. Currently, you must be at least 45 years of age in order to qualify for the retirement program. If you qualify, then your dependents and spouse can be included with you on your application.

You must also meet some financial requirements. Under current law, applicants must be able to provide proof of at least \$2,000 per month. Applicants must also permit a background check to be completed by the Ministry of National Security.

Unlike most countries, the retirement program in Belize is sponsored by the Belize Tourism Board, who forwards all applications and materials to the Department of Immigration and Nationality. When you submit your application, you will need the following: a birth certificate, a marriage certificate if you are bringing a spouse and dependants, a police record not issued more than one month prior to application, a passport, the aforementioned proof of income, four passport size photos and a medical exam, which includes an AIDS test. And you will have to pay all the fees associated with the application.

Currently, the fees for applying to the retirement program in Belize are broken down into four separate categories. First, a non-refundable fee of \$150 is due when you submit your application. If you are accepted into the retirement program, then you will need to pay a program fee of \$1000 upon acceptance. And, once accepted you will have to pay \$200 in order to receive your residency card. If you have any dependents, then there is a fee of 750 for each one to enter the program with you.

If you are accepted into the program, then you should know that once you arrive in Belize that you are not allowed to seek employment or work for pay while you are in the country as a member of the retirement program.

More resources

<http://belizeretirement.org>