

Retirees Are Flocking to This Mid-Atlantic Beach Town—and It has a Mile-long Boardwalk, Quality Health Care, and Top-notch Dining

Rehoboth Beach stands out for its coastal charm, amenities, and tax-friendly benefits.

By

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Aerial view of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

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Delaware may be the country's second-smallest state, but it offers significant perks for retirees, who now make up [over 25 percent of its population](#). One of them: small town coastal living.

In fact, the state's 25-mile coastline and towns like Rehoboth Beach attract the most interest from senior adults.

Recently, Investopedia named Rehoboth Beach, along with nearby [Lewes](#), one of [the best small towns to retire in the country](#). The publication notes that, while the town has only about 1,400 full-time residents, its lively mile-long boardwalk in the summer and expansive beach filled with vacationers make it feel much bigger. Over 44 percent of the population is aged 65 or older, so Rehoboth Beach is "naturally welcoming to retirees," Investopedia states.

The publication reports that the cost of living here is on par with the national average. However, the median home value is more than twice the nationwide median at \$797,506, according to [Zillow](#).

So what makes the town such a popular retirement destination? "[It] is the balance—it [Rehoboth Beach] still has that small-town coastal charm, but with enough sophistication and amenities to support year-round living," says Joe Petrone of [Monument Sotheby's International Realty](#), adding that retirees, who purchase homes here are looking for that laid-back coastal lifestyle without sacrificing access to top-notch dining, access to healthcare, and a strong sense of community, "all of which Rehoboth delivers in a very authentic way."

The town dates back to the 1970s, when it was founded as a Methodist meeting camp. (The fan-shaped layout has been largely preserved.) A decade later, the camp ceased operations here, and, in the 1890s, the town received its current name. Nowadays, Rehoboth Beach is part of an over 40-mile corridor of coastal landscapes and beaches that runs south to popular beach

spots like Bethany Beach and Fenwick Island, Delaware, Ocean City, Maryland, and Assateague Island National Seashore, drawing tens of thousands of beachgoers in the summer, mainly from the Washington, D.C. area. (Rehoboth Beach is also known as the Nation's Summer Capital.) The town has also developed into [a sanctuary for the LGBTQ+ community](#).

"Rehoboth Beach has really evolved into one of the premier retirement destinations on the East Coast," Petrone adds. That is, in part, due to Delaware's tax-friendliness. In addition to no sales tax, the state has one of the lowest property taxes in the country and doesn't tax Social Security benefits.

The First State also has one of the best healthcare systems in the nation—[U.S. News](#) ranked it No. 10 for Medicare quality. Investopedia estimates that there are 485 healthcare establishments in Sussex County that Rehoboth Beach residents can access. Outdoor activities are abundant: boating, water sports, fishing, biking, hiking, camping, and golfing.

"People fall in love with the area first—and then they make the move," Petrone adds.