

# what life costs in...

5 award-winning locales

Ever wonder how your lifestyle—not to mention your bank account—would change if you moved to another part of the country?

best place to retire\*

## Mesa, AZ

Population: 464,704



**WHY IT'S A WINNER:** Affordable homes, easy access to quality health care, and mild winters (an average temperature of 54° in January) make this Southwest town, nestled near the Superstition Mountains and just half an hour from Phoenix, a desirable spot.

**THE STATS:** Median home price: \$218,800  
Median household income: \$48,259



**\$42.50**

Monthly subscription to the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Arizona Republic* newspaper



**\$149** One round of golf on a weekend during the peak winter months at the top-rated Las Sendas Golf Club



**\$9** Fried cod from the early bird menu at Pier dé Orleans



**\$320** Six one-hour private dance lessons, such as salsa or tango, at Dance FX Studios

BINGO				
9	26	40	51	67
7	25	44	58	64
10	28	36	49	75
11	30	32	47	72
6	27	36	52	62

**\$3** Eight rounds of bingo at Casino Arizona

\*SOURCE: Bankrate 2015

### houses on the market



**\$205,200** 3 BR, 2½ BA, 2,145 sq. ft.

Agent: Kenny Klaus, The Kenny Klaus Team



**\$309,000** 5 BR, 2½ BA, 3,199 sq. ft.

Agent: Jacqueline Moore, Opendoor



**\$365,000** 4 BR, 3 BA, 2,835 sq. ft.

Agent: Renee Merritt, The Merritt Group, Coldwell Banker

NEWSPAPER: COURTESY OF THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC; GOLF BAG: FRIED COD: GETTY IMAGES; MARACAS: SHUTTERSTOCK; BINGO CARD: ALAMY



# Pittsburgh, PA

Population: 305,412



**WHY IT'S A WINNER:** Pennsylvania's second-largest city is more than just three rivers and dedicated sports fans. Steel City—a collection of 90 different neighborhoods—boasts a robust culinary scene. One highlight: the ethnic fare in the historic Strip District.

**THE STATS:** Median home price: \$145,000  
Median household income: \$40,009

**\$20** Adult admission to the **Andy Warhol Museum**, which features more than 8,000 pieces from the pop art icon and Pittsburgh native



**\$55** Unlimited samples (try Lancaster's Strawberry Wheat) at the **Pittsburgh Beerfest**

**\$5** Adult ticket for a round-trip ride on the **Duquesne Incline** funicular railway



**\$120** Two tickets for lower infield box seats at a **Pittsburgh Pirates game** and two **Cuban pretzel dogs**



**\$29** Prix fixe **Sunday brunch** from the seasonal menu at the award-winning restaurant **Eleven Contemporary Kitchen**

## houses on the market



**\$146,500** 3 BR, 1½ BA, 1,503 sq. ft.

Agent: Nicole Kresho Liscio, Northwood Realty Services



**\$399,900** 3 BR, 3½ BA, 2,206 sq. ft.

Agent: The Conroy/Kelly Team, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices



**\$499,900** 4 BR, 3 BA, 2,518 sq. ft.

Agent: Cindy Sunseri, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services

coolest  
small  
town\*

# Grand Marais, MN

Population: 1,341



### WHY IT'S A WINNER:

Located on Lake Superior's North Shore, this tiny retreat 264 miles from Minneapolis boasts great fishing, cozy B&Bs, a thriving arts community, and cute eateries.

**THE STATS:** Median home price: \$195,750  
Median household income: \$42,000



**\$28** Daylong aluminum canoe rental at Golden Eagle Lodge



**\$9.50** Eight-ounce bottle of locally made maple syrup from Lake Superior Trading Post



**\$190** Two-day bird-watching course at North House Folk School

**\$7.50** Smoked fish wrap, with locally caught salmon or trout, from Dockside Fish Market



\*SOURCE: Budget Travel

### houses on the market



**\$234,900** 3 BR, 2 BA, 2,623 sq. ft.

Agent: Linda Garrity, Red Pine Realty



**\$379,000** 3 BR, 2 BA, 1,076 sq. ft.

Agent: Linda Garrity, Red Pine Realty



**\$499,900** 3 BR, 3½ BA, 2,208 sq. ft.

Agent: Virginia Palmer, Coldwell Banker North Shore



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PAINT SMART.

WAGNER

## help wanted

most affordable city\*

# Birmingham, AL

Population: 212,247



**WHY IT'S A WINNER:** Not only are homes more affordable in Alabama's largest city, but groceries and health care costs are also below the national average. Add more green space per capita than any other U.S. city, an average commute time of just 24 minutes by car, and a dose of Southern hospitality and you get the perfect place to put down roots.

**THE STATS:** Median home price: \$180,900  
Median household income: \$31,217



**\$33** One yard of Belgian linen for upholstery from King Cotton



**\$14** One premium-seat ticket to a Birmingham Barons minor league baseball game



**from \$45** Monthly lawn care from Scott's Lawn Care Service



**\$24** "Evening Special" (a mushroom omelette and a glass of Beaujolais) for two at French bistro Chez Fonfon



**\$129** Engine tune-up at Precision Tune Auto Care

## houses on the market



**\$165,000** 3 BR, 2 BA, 2,454 sq. ft.

Agent: Kent Jones, Re/MAX Realty Brokers



**\$204,900** 3 BR, 2 BA, 1,445 sq. ft.

Agent: Jana Woodruff, RealtySouth



**\$314,999** 5 BR, 3½ BA, 3,012 sq. ft.

Agent: Terry Mills, Keller Williams

## help wanted



# Overland Park, KS

Population: 184,525



**WHY IT'S A WINNER:** Just 20 minutes from downtown Kansas City, this pristine suburb excels at education (in 2015, the school district's SAT scores exceeded the national average by more than 300 points) and at play. Along with 83 parks, the town also has one of the nation's best soccer facilities, the Overland Park Soccer Complex.

**THE STATS:** Median home price: \$226,000  
Median household income: \$72,231



**\$70** Average cost to join a league for a season in the **Heartland Soccer Association** (pre-K to high school)



**from \$99** One month of elementary school **math tutoring** at Sylvan Learning Center



**\$135** Family membership for a year to the **Museum at Prairiefire**, an outpost of the American Museum of Natural History



**\$14** **BBQ di pollo and pineapple pizza** at Spin! Neapolitan Pizza

**\$60** Eight 30-minute **swimming lessons** at the Matt Ross Community Center indoor pool



### houses on the market



**\$227,000** 4 BR, 3 BA, 1,680 sq. ft.

Agent: Ami Tevis, Lind Property Team, RE/MAX State Line



**\$335,000** 4 BR, 5 BA, 4,107 sq. ft.

Agent: Sonya Muller, RE/MAX Realty Suburban



**\$425,000** 4 BR, 3½ BA, 3,545 sq. ft.

Agent: Leslie Feedback, Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Kansas City Homes