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

what life costs in...

5 awardwinning 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



Monthly subscription to the Pulitzer Prizewinning Arizona Republic newspaper



private dance lessons, such as salsa or tango, at Dance FX Studios



5149 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

TIE.	BINGO				
9	26	40	51	67	
7	25	44	58	64	
10	28	*	49	75	
III	30	32	47	72	
	27				

\$3 Eight rounds of bingo at Casino Arizona

·· 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

*SOURCE: Bankrate 2015



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



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



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

.......



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



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 birdwatching 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



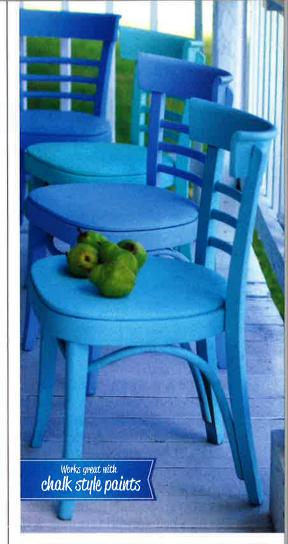
\$234,900 3 BR, 2 BA, 2,623 sq. ft. Agent: Linda Garrity, Red Pine Realty



\$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

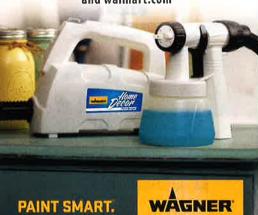




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Birmingham, AL

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



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







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

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

best city for families*

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

THE STATS: Median home price: \$226,00 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 plneapple pizza at Spin! Neapolitan Pizza



······ 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 Feeback, Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Kansas City Homes