

# Belize - Know the Facts Before Moving - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

## Belize – Know the Facts Before Moving

By Escapeartist / Jan 12 • Categorized as [Living Overseas](#)

### Interview with Macarena Rose

Tom McMurray from [EscapeArtist.com](#) takes time to interview Macarena Rose of Rainforest Realty in Belize. Macarena Rose is the President of Rainforest Realty which she established in 2004. This interview specifically talks about how Macarena came to be and expatriate from the United States of America to the country of Belize. Details of her first discovery of Belize and how she made the decision to relocate to Belize permanently are explored. Macarena did not just relocate herself as a personal decision only having to keep herself satisfied, but also relocated with her 15 year old daughter, her God daughter, best friend from high school, and 10 animals in tow. She moved her whole life to Belize.

This interview talks about [Belize](#) specifically, however Macarena is a certified International Property Specialist sanctioned by the National Association of Realtors. She is also 1 of only a handful of instructors in the world certified to teach this designation to other perspective Realtors interested in becoming certified to sell real estate internationally. Learn how Macarena made the move and discovered a new life in Belize.

Tom is very thorough in his questions ranging from her first discovery of Belize through her activities of today. Macarena is coming up on her 8th year in Belize and is always re-inventing herself and her company for the sake of her clients and employees. She has always stayed on top of the latest ways to get the word out for perspective clients who want to relocate internationally and purchase their own piece of paradise in a foreign country.

Her latest discovery is [EscapeDates!](#) – It's not just for Singles!

Escape Dates is a networking site which allows people of the same interest to connect. Here she offers her relocation and real estate services to people who are very serious about ensuring their expatriate experience to be both secure and enjoyable.

Macarena is now building a large community of expats living in Belize and around the world that you can become friends with. With this community meet people that are living in Belize and be totally prepared when you move or travel to this beautiful country!

To watch the video interview [CLICK HERE](#)

To Visit Macarena's Profile [CLICK HERE](#)

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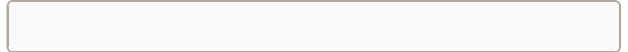
# There's Gold in those Rental Homes - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

## There's Gold in those Rental Homes

By Escapeartist / Jan 12 • Categorized as [International Real Estate](#)

### Video Interview with RJ Palano:

RJ Palano pulled out his crystal ball and informed us about the future of cash flow properties in the USA for 2012 in this interview and he did not hold anything back!



- What cities to avoid investing in...
- How real estate agents scam you by putting up false listing prices...
- Why Section 8 is for morons....
- Three tests your house must pass before investing...

Find out his distinctions for Emerging Markets in the US and his top 4 elements for a specific house selection.

As the licensee of [EscapeCashFlow](#), RJ has provided readers with insightful articles on protecting their retirement by investing in newer cash flow properties in the US and specifically Atlanta.

Put on a seatbelt as RJ unabashedly unloads his perspective on who is buying houses and where they are buying. Sorry northeast...nothing personal.

RJ's experience working with investors from Australia, Canada, China, Mexico, Panama, Singapore and of course the US has given him a global perspective that separates him from other turnkey operators.

And stayed tuned... he mentioned near the end of the interview that he might begin a mentorship program for six student-partners in 2012.

If you are interested in learning more about [EscapeCashFlow](#) join RJ's community on [EscapeDates](#). Talk to people who are building real cash flow using RJ's proven advice, meet investors, read blogs and create cash flow with EscapeDates – It's not just for singles!

To view the EscapeCashFlow community profile [CLICK HERE](#)

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# Expats Living in France - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

## Expats Living in France

By Julie R Butler / Jan 12 • Categorized as [Living Overseas](#)

As one of the largest countries in Europe, France features a rich and diverse history, culture, and geography. While the French are famously defensive about maintaining their “French identity,” it is not at all singular. Influences range from Ionic Greek in what is today Marseilles; to Celtic rein over ancient Gaul; to

Roman conquest of southern France and the eventual spreading of Roman cultural influences throughout the country; to incursions by various Germanic tribes, most notably the Franks, from east of the Rhine; to Celtic Briton settlement of Brittany in the northwest. Figures such as Charlemagne, Joan of Arc, Cardinal Richelieu, The Sun King Louis XIV, and Napoleon Bonaparte stand as icons of a storied French history, and the Eiffel Tower stands out among the world’s most recognizable symbols, representing all of the vibrancy and romance of Paris, the City of Lights.

The geography of France holds as much diversity as the culture does. The posh Riviera in the south, the stark limestone cliffs of Normandy in the north, and the lovely Atlantic beaches of the southwestern coast offer beach-going experiences that seem worlds apart. In the southeast, the Alps and the Massif Central mountain ranges are cut through by the Rhone River Valley. Whereas this river flows west out of Switzerland and then south to the Mediterranean, the Seine, the Loire, and the Garonne Rivers feed the rich agricultural landscapes throughout the rest of France, with the different regions producing the many varieties of wines, cheeses, and other gastronomical wonders that enrich the refined French palate. In the southwest, the Pyrenees divide France from Spain, while the northeast is an economic and cultural crossroads with strong German influences as well as connections with Belgium and Luxembourg.

### Metz, Lorraine, Northeastern France

The region of Lorraine is in the northeast, with the city of Metz as its administrative capital. This city’s history dates back 3,000 years. Julius Cesar identified it as Divodurum, the walled fortress that served as the capital of the Celtic tribe known as the Mediomatrici of Gaul. It became a major center of wealth and power under Roman occupation, then of the Frankish Empire, followed by centuries of contention between what we would today call French and German influences.

Today’s Metz remains a major cultural and economic center, not only for Lorraine, but also for the SaarLorLux Euroregion, a transnational cooperative structure that takes advantage of the region’s centralized location, despite national boundaries. An ambitious urban renaissance is currently underway that includes a high-tech park specializing in information technology, an impressive new museum of modern and contemporary art that is a branch of the Pompidou Center in Paris, and high-speed rail connections. Metz is also known as The Green City due to the large amount of green space that has been designed into the city’s history-filled framework.

**Aaron** is an expat from the United States who has been living in Metz. He offers an interesting perspective of expat life in France with his thoughtful answers to this familiar set of questions about living abroad, and you can read more about Aaron’s life in France at his blog, [Floating in France](#).

### J.R.B. Where did you come from originally?

I’m originally from Cincinnati, Ohio

### J.R.B. Why did you choose to live in France?

Since childhood I had always dreamed about Europe, its history, its architecture, its beauty and the way of life here. I was interested pretty much in every country, but especially France, Spain and Italy. This led me to study abroad and take longer and longer trips. When I learned of an opportunity to teach in France for two years, I jumped at the opportunity. It was a dream come true for me, and I ended up staying. I’ve been here for twelve years now.

### J.R.B. What do you like about it?

In America I developed an aversion to the rat race culture. I was a bit of a slave to my datebook. I had to think months in advance to book a lunch with a friend. In December I was planning July, and in July December. This is not to mention all the driving around every day. In France we don’t have this lifestyle. We live day to day. Life is more spontaneous. On a beautiful day people make time to have a croissant with coffee at a sidewalk café, take a walk in the park, meet friends, or go to an art exhibition. They take advantage of each moment and have an eye for detail. How to make tonight’s dinner party perfect? What wines to choose? What vegetable goes best with the roast? And never forget the dessert! Or the flowers for the center piece! So many examples come to mind. *Savoir-faire* is priceless. I’m not sure I could do without it now. It’s become a part of me.

### J.R.B. What don’t you like about it?

Well, I think it’s the flipside of what I love about France. It’s a country entrenched in tradition. We live in such a beautiful place,

are privileged to art, cuisine, philosophies and ideas centuries old that have withstood even terrible wars, cultural revolutions and social upheavals. By nature, France is resistant, even allergic to change. Being American I have a tendency to want to change things, evolve as a person, see a progression to something different, better, greater or at least step back and look at the big picture. This is all lacking in France. Sometimes I feel like I'm a prisoner of what I love about France. If I were from Los Angeles I might find life here so monotonous. Case in point, spending the day in Paris (two hours away) is exceptional here whereas for Americans it just might be a daily commute! Likewise, the goal of the weekly meeting at work is the meeting itself since everyone knows beforehand no issue will be addressed directly, let alone resolved.

**J.R.B. What has been the most difficult aspect of life in France for you to adjust to?**

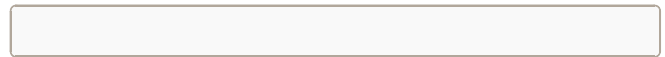
One word: bureaucracy, a French word after all, translated literally as "busy work at a desk". I would compare this to the scavenger hunt. It works like this: you are told by X person that for your wish/need to be granted you have to prepare a dossier and to submit it to a committee of experts (all of these French words too!). There are about ten items on the given list to include in your file, yet soon it becomes apparent that each of the items actually constitutes another dossier in itself. They can include affidavits with stamps and signatures that are impossible to come by. And all of that can be to do the most simple of things.

**J.R.B. What has surprised you about France?**

I suppose this could be an essay on its own. Every day there are marvelous little surprises reminding me how much I love France mixed sometimes with setbacks and crazy little issues that have to be solved yet prove surprisingly daunting. There would certainly be fewer of both in the United States. Or else the concerns would be different. One of the most surprising aspects of my life in France has been a resurgence of my American identity. This is shared among most expats I know. Before coming to France I never deeply identified with America and could certainly never have been confused with a patriot. Nowadays it's different. I have dual nationality and am as Frenchified as I will ever get. My French is fluent and even French people can be surprised I wasn't born here. Yet, I feel more American each day. Most of core of who I am is directly related to my origins. I have great pride in being American, and the joy I feel when I go back to Cincinnati is indescribable. Now really that is the biggest surprise of them all.

**Provence, Southeastern France**

In the southeastern corner of France, the large region of Provence is defined by Italy to the east, the Mediterranean Sea to the south, the Rhone River to the west, and the French Alps, which hold some of the highest elevations in all of Europe.



Although the varying geography creates microclimates, the region generally enjoys a Mediterranean climate that is warm, dry, and sunny, blended with alpine climates in the mountains and the continental climate that is less affected by the ocean or the sea in the department of Vaucluse, where the cities of Avignon and Orange are located.

Impressionist and Modernist artists such as Cézanne, van Gogh, Renoir, Matisse, Picasso, and Monet, among many others, came to Provence to paint the enchanting landscapes dotted with sleepy villages, drawn by the legendary quality of the light. The cuisine of Provence is also legendary, a product of the warm, dry climate, rugged terrain in the east, fruit orchards and vineyards in the Rhone Valley, and seafood from the Mediterranean. Also of legendary fame is the French Riviera, where sunny Saint-Tropez, Cannes, and Nice are magnets for the rich and fabulous along the southeastern coastline. It is a region of immense history and culture, where ancient Greek and Roman heritage abounds and distinct dialects endure.

**Sara Louise** lives in a tiny village in the mountains of central Provence. A similar set of questions was put to her, and the same lively zest for life that infuses her entertaining as well as informative blog, [Sara in Le Petit Village](#), comes through in her responses here:

**J.R.B. Where did you come from originally?**

I was born in New York where I lived before moving to Texas at 12 and then flip-flopping back and forth between the two throughout my teenage years. Eight years ago, I moved to Dublin Ireland, and lived there for six years before moving to France two years ago.

**J.R.B. What took you to Ireland eight years ago?**

My mother is from Dublin, and I grew up spending a number of summers and holidays there with my large extended family. Living there was always something I had thought about, and then, in my mid-twenties I found myself at a crossroads, and thought, "why not?" I didn't want to wake up one day, owned by a mortgage and my life and always wonder, "what if?" So I went. With the only plan being that if it didn't work out, I could always move back. Honestly, it was the best decision of my life.

**J.R.B. So how did you end up in France?**

It's very cliché I know, but I moved to France for love. I met my French husband in Dublin, and ten months later, moved to France with him. Six months later, we were married.

**J.R.B. What do you like about it?**

Cheese and wine. There's something like 400 different types of cheese and 400 different varieties of wine in a country smaller than Texas! So many to explore and try (and to account for the weight gain currently camped out on my bottom).

But seriously, I am lucky enough to live in a place cloaked in history. My village was a market town that was a stop on the old road between Rome and Spain during Roman times, and on the ruins of that village, a 12th century village stands with homes

that people still live in. People live in 900 year old homes, it's amazing!

And the scenery! I jog every morning as the sun rises over the Luberon mountains. The view is breathtaking, and at the beginning of summer the air is sweet with lavender. It makes me feel truly blessed.

Life is a collection of experiences, and living in a small village in Provence, learning a new language and experiencing a new culture means I'm collecting some pretty unique ones.

### **J.R.B. What don't you like about it?**

Ai yai yai! France can be unbelievably inconvenient. Sometimes it feels like people, whether in government agencies or commercial enterprises, are deliberately working against you. The post office might open thirty minutes late, or a store or restaurant might decide to close on a whim without any notice. And while I refuse to stereotype an entire population, most of the customer service experiences I have had here have been less than stellar. Trying to accomplish things here, especially when you don't have a full grasp of the language can be frustrating and infuriating.

### **J.R.B. What has been the most difficult aspect of life in France for you to adjust to?**

The language barrier. While I've been taking French lessons since moving here, I still find it hard to fully express myself, or make a joke understood. After two years, I'm only beginning to think that people are getting to know 'me'. I miss having long conversations with ease that don't leave my brain aching and where I'm not performing charades and miming half of it.

### **J.R.B. What has surprised you about France?**

How much Provence reminds me of Texas, except replace the bourbon or margaritas with *Pastis* [anis liqueur]. There's lots of hunting, lots of dogs in trucks, and lots of guns. And also the man bags! Men here carry purses. Seriously.

### **A Word About Expat Blog**

Many thanks go out to Aaron and Sara Louis, as well as all of the other expats living abroad who have participated in the short interviews featured in this series. They have all shared a little about their experiences with the hope that they can help others to get an idea of what the expat experience is all about. Many also make the effort to blog about their experiences living abroad, for a wide variety of reasons, with the result that anybody can go on the internet and take a peek at what expat life in just about any place in the world can be like. And one of the best places to find blogs as well as helpful information and expat forums, whether you are an expat looking to network with other expats, someone seeking information or advice about living in a specific place, or you enjoy learning about the world and finding out what other people's experiences in different places are like, is at [expat-blog.com](http://expat-blog.com). They cover the entire world and, like the majority of the expats who have offered their insights in these interviews, they want to help make the world more available and inviting to anyone who is interested.

**About the author:** *Julie R Butler is a traveler, blogger, writer, and editor who has authored several books, self-published as eBooks, including [Nine Months In Uruguay](#) and [No Stranger To Strange Lands](#) (click [here](#) for more info). Julie presently lives in the sunny wine country of Argentina, where she co-edits and writes for [Expat Daily News](#) and [Expat Daily News Latin America](#).*

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# Why You Need to Expatriate to be Safe in 2012 - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

## Why You Need to Expatriate to be Safe in 2012

By Susan Beverley / Jan 12 • Categorized as [Asset Protection](#)

America has been happily hiding behind Europe's blanket of economic woe for the past few months, and perhaps the resurgence of unrest in the Middle East as Egypt protests, will keep many eyes away from the still flagging US economy for a few more weeks yet. But one thing's certain, America can't run and it can't hide forever from the fact that it remains poised on the brink of bankruptcy.

This means war!

To sum up what's wrong with America in a nutshell, it has a stagnant economy and massive debts. As a result Americans are facing a future of high unemployment that's exacerbated almost exponentially by huge wealth inequality across the nation. The US also has an enormous budget deficit that only the everyday people can be called upon to service – and as [one journalist from Business Insider](#) framed it, the country's dogged by "a sense of entitlement engendered by a half-century of prosperity."

All of this has already been enough for the record numbers of Americans who've quit the nation without a backward glance since the start of the collapse in 2008, but trust me, the fiscal frustrations are about to become the least of any US citizen's woes...

If we take Greece as an excellent example of an already bankrupt nation being forced to face its bleak reality, then Americans can gain valuable insight into some of what may lie before them...

In Greece the reality of life in a bankrupt nation is *daily* strikes that literally cripple the country. Children have no schools to go to when the teachers are absent, and their parents can't get to work when the transportation sector closes down completely. Anyone who wants to retain their employment and continue to bring in a wage, which will in all likelihood have been slashed, risks violence every time they attempt to cross a picket line.

Anyone wanting to leave the nation is prevented from doing so on a regular basis when the airports are out of action – that's assuming they've managed to find the money to get out, because the majority of families have been immediately and significantly hit hard in their pockets as the new government tries desperately to stem the haemorrhaging economy.

The streets are lined with uncollected garbage, and the protestors have rioted so many times now that they and the police come to any demonstration prepared for murderous violence. One of the worse protests resulted in 3 deaths, one of the victims was a pregnant woman who was trapped in a building set alight by the marauding masses, who are totally unwilling to accept their nation's financial fate.

It's scenes of mounting social unrest like these that Americans need to be preparing themselves for as 2012 rapidly approaches, and all the politicians seem able to do is argue amongst themselves as if every year were an election year, and the only thing of any real importance is which political party comes out on top in the opinion polls.

America already has its bankrupt cities (Vallejo for example), in near-bankrupt states (California for example), and it already has swathes of homeless and destitute people living in makeshift tent cities (in Lakewood, NJ for example). These are not necessarily the drug abusing, criminal/less-sane elements of society others would like to label them as so that it's easy for their consciences to overlook them either. Increasing numbers of these people are those who lost their jobs, ran through their savings, lost their homes and became unable to help and house themselves. i.e., everyday people like you and like me.

This is the reality of life in America that we all need to be acutely aware of...because it's this reality that's causing a number of experts to warn of an impending future of riots and unrest across the States. And if this predicted reality comes to pass, as stated, we will all have far more to fear than just fiscal stress in 2012.

The BBC recently produced a report entitled '[Could world social unrest hit America's streets?](#)' in which everyone from Mayor Bloomberg to American professors of politics, social work and sociology all agreed that the US is a ticking time bomb, and as more and more college students graduate into unemployment, and as more and more Americans are forced to face an unprecedentedly bleak future, society is at increased risk of destabilisation in the form of civil unrest.

Just like those Greeks did who could see Greece's collapse coming, and just as those across the eurozone and in the UK who can see their nations' impending fiscal collapse are already doing...Americans need to start thinking about where in the world they can find safety.

However, if you believe that you live in a safe enough part of the States and have little to fear from violence that may happen a long way away on the streets of New York or Washington for example, and that as a result you can just keep your head down and carry on as if nothing all that bad is happening around you, perhaps it's time to introduce you to an even bigger threat to your family's safety.

I'm talking about the ultimate 'distraction by phenomenon' technique that you can bet your bottom dollar both Republicans

and Democrats alike are discussing behind closed doors already...

That is war!

For the successful mass manipulation of an entire nation, a war waged on a 'common enemy' is the ultimate distraction technique. And if America decides to stretch itself militarily by entering into a campaign in Africa, the Middle East or even Asia, it will be opening its doors, borders and airspace to a far greater threat than an economic explosion.

At that point, which is not an inconceivable point in the future and which is a point being [debated by economists already](#) you and your family will no longer be safe in your homes...and it won't be a case of where should we move to in order to be safe, it may well be a case of 'it's too late' and you're trapped. Trapped not only in a nation that's signing its own national foreclosure order, but one where the threat to personal safety will be massive. After all, you can't wage war and expect no retaliation.

Are you prepared for the disintegration of your personal rights to freedom and security? If you want to escape the impending threats to your current way of life, it's time to think very seriously about moving away from America and away from the biggest centres that are at threat as we rapidly approach 2012.

No Christian nation has an appetite for war before Christmas, but come January when the balance sheets still look bleak and Americans are perhaps facing even more household and personal debt following the traditional holiday spend-fest, it's anybody's guess how long peace will pervade.

Those looking overseas for a safe haven can forget the eurozone nations and the UK, and they can likely forget about Australia too, because that's another nation failing to face up to its true financial future...so where is safe?

The question that will increasingly be on people's minds in the months to come will relate to where in the world they can find a secure, peaceful, relatively prosperous and positive future. Suggestions range from [Central](#) and [South America](#) to [Canada](#), from [Northern Europe](#) to [New Zealand](#).

The key will be finding a country where the economy has always been balanced, and where the threat of fiscal contagion has been contained. A neutral nation, and one where the emphasis is on family life and working to live rather than living to work will be an advantage.

We'd love to hear your own suggestions about where you would consider moving to live in safety and harmony overseas. A poll of Escape Artist staff and contributors brought suggestions of Denmark and Norway, Northern Canada, Switzerland, Costa Rica and Argentina. But where do you feel your family will be safe and secure overseas in 2012? You may submit your comments below or [email the author](#), and we look forward to hearing from you. We will endeavour to combine your suggestions into a future report into where in the world expatriates can find a safe haven.

**About the author:** Susan Beverley is a writer and editor for Escape From America Magazine and also writes for and maintains [Expatriate Daily News](#) – the expat news blog for [EscapeArtist.com](#). She traveled extensively before becoming an expat herself having found a place to call home in South America where she has lived since 2005. She understands the concerns, needs and difficulties that expats face from first-hand experience and is dedicated to supporting and encouraging anyone who is looking for a new nation to call home. [ [send her an email](#) ]

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# The Best Portable Business of 2012 - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

Raven Starre and Guru Affiliate Marketer David Wood Partner with Escapeartist Home Business to unveil an AWESOME Portable Business opportunity

Raven Starre (pictured) and David Wood  
Empower Escapeartist

If the idea of blogging, building a global social network and making \$1000+ per day excites you then you are going to be ecstatic when you learn more about what Escapeartist Home Business and Empower Network has to offer!

**In 60 days this program has paid out over \$2,000,000 in commissions and according to Alexa.com it is the fastest growing website in the world!**

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They are proven moguls in internet marketing both making millions of dollars per year and having reputations for helping others realize their dreams in internet marketing

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**David Wood and David Sharpe have leveraged their individual talents in marketing and sales to create great system** with The Empower Network. They have all the tools, training and sales systems in place with **simple step by step instructions**. But what it comes down to is the earning potential.

*This really is an opportunity that can allow you to earn \$15K to \$30k per month and within 30 to 60 days and not the typical 6 months to 2 years. To see how that is possible go through the information now. **Click on the link below.** This is the exact same blog site you will have.*

To Gain Immediate Access Empower Network [CLICK HERE](#)

## **About Raven Starre...**

Raven is ranked in the top ten earners in the world in Networking Marketing building three multi-million dollar distributorships. Raven was invited to intern with Sir Richard Branson and Russell Simmons, spending six weeks at their companies in both New York and San Francisco.

Raven Starre

In 2003, Raven launched an online celebrity fashion boutique. The boutique was showcased at the American Music Awards, Golden Globe Awards, ABC's – The View, and numerous radio and TV morning talk shows. In 2005, Oprah selected one of the featured items as one of her "Favorite Things" for her holiday show.

Raven is now providing the leadership for [Escapeartist Home Based Business](#) providing online education, webinars and live events for readers who want to realize their Escapeartist Dream

## **About David Wood...**

David Wood is a bit of a wild man, who started building his online empire out of the 'mid-section' of a green 1996 Dodge Caravan (that he lived in) on the North Shore of Oahu, Hawaii – since then, he's become one of the top online marketing gurus in the world .

David Wood

Now, living in a lush 10,000 square foot ocean view mountainside home in Costa Rica, David has realized what most Escapeartist readers only dream of...and he is opening the doors of his home to share with you the secrets that have enabled him to Live where he wants to live, live how he wants to live, love who he wants to love and how to make money 24 hours a day on the internet.

David has recently introduced a new online internet program that has people earning \$625-\$3000 a day and he is making it available to Escapeartist.

#### **About Escapeartist Home Based Business....**

For over 15 years Escapeartist a top 1% ranked website in the world has been the definitive source for international living. Our mission is to provide our readers with authoritative information on living, working, investing, retiring and traveling internationally.

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# Nomadic Retirement, Part IV: Peru and Ecuador - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

## Nomadic Retirement, Part IV: Peru and Ecuador

By Jamie Douglas / Jan 12 • Categorized as [Overseas Retirement](#)

Over the last few weeks, I have taken my readers on the first parts of a journey around the southern half of the world. We started in New Zealand, and then took the great leap across the entire Pacific Ocean to South America, a continent so fascinating that the curious nomadic traveler could spend a very long time exploring from Tierra del Fuego in the South, to steamy, amazing Amazonia in Brazil, Peru and Ecuador. Now we will finalize the South American leg of the journey by visiting two fascinating nations that straddle the Andes between the Amazon Jungle and the Pacific Ocean.

Peru has much more to offer than big city Lima

### Peru

If, like most travelers, you arrive in the country at Lima's Jorge Chavez International Airport, you will likely be greeted by the overcast, foggy, cool weather created by the nearby Pacific Ocean's cool Humboldt Current. Judging by this weather, you would probably never guess that you are a mere 12° south of the equator, well within the Southern Tropical Zone.

The capital city has been an important regional center since Francisco Pizarro founded it on January 18, 1535. The city has also been the victim of numerous damaging earthquakes. One in October of 1687 caused severe damage to Lima and surrounding towns, wreaking havoc in combination with the ensuing tsunami. Another occurred in 1746, keeping the urban renewal spirit alive. Lima sits on the infamous ring of fire and has very recently (October 29 2011) been the subject of a nerve rattling 6.9 magnitude temblor.

Despite this, Lima has survived and has a very fascinating history dating back to well before pre-Columbian times, having been settled by people called the Itchimas before being conquered by the Incas, who in turn were defeated by the Spaniards, led by Pizarro. When exploring today's historic old Lima, you will find that many of the buildings display old Spanish-style architecture with their protruding wooden balconies.

Today's Lima is a modern, world-class city, serving as one of South America's financial centers as well as a major manufacturing hub, being home to over 7000 factories. On the opposite end of the spectrum, you will find many beautiful old classical buildings, such as the Church of San Francisco, the Cathedral of Lima, and the unforgettable Torre Tagle Palace on Ucayali 363. These wonderful historical buildings are of various building styles, evoking past centuries of Spanish grandeur. Additionally, there are so many parks, museums, and performance venues to experience that visitors will remain well occupied in Lima for a good while.

A note of caution here: I am sure all my readers are aware that traveling in developing nations has its risks to go with its charms. As everywhere, keep your bling to a minimum, use your hotel's safety deposit box, if they have one, to keep your passport and tickets safe, do not carry a your wallet in your back pocket, and be aware that eating seafood from street vendors may lead to a bout of Cholera.

Peru of course has much more to offer than big city Lima. The most common choice for travelers is the city of Cuzco, which, with an elevation of 11,200 ft, is a perfect place to acclimatize yourself to the altitude before going to Machu Picchu, which is about 3000 feet lower, but will be a place where you will be undertaking some mildly strenuous exercise as you explore the famous "Lost City of the Incas." The most strenuous activity you are likely to encounter in Cuzco is cutting your steak or lifting a glass of Pisco Sour to your lips, but with the added altitude, that would count as vigorous exercise for your circulatory system. If you are visiting Peru, magical Machu Picchu is an absolute must, as is the tropical Amazonian region of Iquitos.

To get to Iquitos, you can fly from Lima on a very scenic flight of less than two hours duration. But what a change in culture you will experience! From a modern, fast-paced big city environment, you will suddenly find yourself in the hot steamy jungle of Amazonia, where the aboriginal inhabitants of this rainforest abound everywhere. There are many jungle lodges available for you to stay at near the city along the river which allows you to witness the incredible sounds of nature during the night.

Another absolutely amazing sight to behold are the Nazca Lines, a series of geoglyphs dating back to the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The various designs (best viewed from the air due to their size, represent lizards, orcas, hummingbirds, spiders, and more. Various theories have been put forth about the purpose of these lines and designs, but the truth is shrouded in mystery. You can book sightseeing flights from hotel tour desks, but be aware that the flights operate out of a makeshift airport in the desert. Try to book and pay for your flight in advance as the on site operators are less trustworthy. There are several tour operators running all inclusive tours out of Lima, eliminating the middleman hassles, and taking you to the site in comfortable air conditioned buses with reliable flying services.

There of course is much more to see in Peru than I can get into. Get a feeling for what you want to see, other than the usual tourist destinations, which in the case of Peru really are almost mandatory to visit. Other places to explore include Lake Titicaca, intriguing ancient pre-Incan cultural sites such as Chan Chan and Chavín de Huántar, several nature reserves and national parks, and villages that range from indigenous jungle lairs in the east to the traditional colonial throughout the Andes to popular surf spots along the coast.

## Ecuador

As its name implies, this country's capital is located right near the equator. Surrounded by Peru on its south and eastern flank and Colombia to the north, this is a nation with incredibly diverse flora and fauna, ranging from the Pacific coastal plains up to the high Andes mountains and down into the tropical Amazonian lowlands in the east. For the adventurous traveler, there are many options to explore. For the suicidal, there are excursion on the Putumayo River, the border between Ecuador and Colombia, where drugs are transported across the wide open border all along the river, which is pretty much right on the equator (not really recommended).

Ecuador - wonderful photo opportunities inside and out

Quito is another of those high altitude nose bleed cities, with a mean altitude of 9200 feet. So do pace yourself while exploring the historical part of this city, home to about three million citizens, many of them indigenous Quechua speakers. Combined, the Mestizos and Amerindians make up 90% of the population, while 7% are Spanish or white, and 3% of African descent.

Quito, with its combination of altitude and latitude enjoys a very stable year round spring like climate with daily average high temperatures between 64° and 67° F and lows rarely going below 48° F. This makes for restful nights and pleasant days.

As is the case with all former Spanish colonial cities and towns, the many catholic churches and cathedrals make for wonderful photo opportunities inside and out. The city's well known landmark, the Basilica del Voto Nacional, is a classical example of neo-Gothic architecture. At one time, it was the largest of its kind in all of the Americas. Its spires tower 380 feet above the heart of the capital, making it easily distinguishable from the others. The Metropolitan Cathedral is also located in the heart of the historic district. Construction started in 1562, almost 450 years ago. A notable event took place in this sacred location on Good Friday of 1877, when the Bishop of Quito, José Ignacio Checa y Barba was assassinated during his performing of the Good Friday mass by having the consecrate wine spiked with strychnine.

Just 22 miles north of Quito is the Middle of the World, a monument that celebrates the equator. However, modern instruments such as the GPS system have recently established without a doubt that the equator is actually located almost 800 feet north of the monument. But who cares. A monument is a monument. If you want to experience the unique sensation of straddling the equator, just head north a wee bit.

Another popular destination in the country, home to many expats, is the city of Cuenca, located in the south central part of the country at an altitude of 8400 feet, giving it a similar climate as Quito but with average daytime highs from the mid 60's to low 70's. Average overnight lows are between 47° and 51°. This and the low cost of living account for a large portion of the expats residing here.

The historic center of this city is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and as usual in Latin America, there are a number of significant historic religious sites adorning this lovely city of about 350,000 inhabitants. The original founding of the town was at the confluence of four rivers, the Tomebamba, Yanuncay, Tarqui, and Machangra, all of which drain east into the Amazonian watershed.

Ecuador is a small country, yet it offers over 1000 km of wonderful white sand beaches, where you will find both small fishing villages and large luxury resorts, with everything imaginable in between.

On the southern coast of the nation, there exists a very special National Reserve named Machalilla. It has been established to protect the onshore as well as offshore environment of this ecologically sensitive area from over-development. There is a string of small fishing villages along the coast here, but do not expect luxury hotels.

There is Isla de la Plata, a small island not far from Machalilla, referred to as mini Galapagos, because of the relatively undisturbed natural habitats of frigate birds, albatrosses, and blue-footed boobies. The island is a great base for snorkeling, diving, and boating excursions.

The city of Guayaquil is Ecuador's most important seaport as well as an important industrial manufacturing center. Located on the western shores of the Guayas River, it enjoys a relatively sheltered port and the usual array of historical religious monuments at its colonial center. 2.7 million people call this vast metropolis home, with mostly tropical temperatures prevailing year round.

If it's beaches that you want, all you have to do is follow the coast. If you rent a car in Guayaquil you can drive southwest out of the city on E-70 and take the Progreso turnoff to end up at the nearest beaches in El Arenal, or head all the way out to the tip of the peninsula. Playas is the most popular resort in the area, always busy on weekends and bursting at the seams during holidays. On your return, heading north, there is a sketchy but passable road leading from Playas through several small fishing villages before rejoining E-70. Go for about 10 km before turning left again, this time toward Atahualpa and Aneon. At Aneon, instead of returning to the main road, go left on the first and second forks north and west of the village, and you will find yourself on a stretch of road following the beach all the way up to the Salinas Airport and into Salinas proper. You are now in the westernmost town of continental Ecuador, a small version of Uruguay's Punta del Este, with high rises, yacht clubs, fine dining, and upscale boutiques. This popular resort is also the beginning of Ecuador's "Ruta del Sol," highway E-1, which after changing numbers, will take you all the way up to Esmeraldas. Here, except for the airport on the other side of the river and the village of Camarones, you are at the end of the road in Ecuador, in spite of about 65 more miles as the crow flies to the Colombian border. Be sure to plan your driving trip carefully, make sure your spare tire is inflated, and gas up whenever you can, because not all stations will always have fuel.

This concludes the South American portion of the nomadic traveler's globe circling adventure below the equator. In highlighting some special places that are dear to my heart, I am hoping to share a wanderlust amongst my readers, one that infected me in my youth. This type of travel dictates that you learn the fine art of travelling lightly, with the idea that you can always purchase items along the way. The less you carry with you, the more freedom of movement you have. Do however

keep in mind that you may be at 10,000 feet one day, and at sweltering sea level the next, so try to be flexible.

In our next installment, we will visit the southern Africa, a region that is full of sights, sounds, and smells that are unique on the planet, from tropical jungles to the Kalahari Desert, from the Cape of Good Hope to the diamond and gold mines of Botswana.

**About the author:** Jamie Douglas is an Adventurer, Writer and Photographer with an amazing array of Nikon equipment, and a lifetime of experience traveling and documenting. He currently enjoys the great weather and fine wines of Mendoza, Argentina, and edits [Expat Daily News](#) and [Expat Daily News Latin America](#).

If you are interesting in learning more about [Living In Ecuador](#) there are hundreds of articles and resources on [EscapeArtist](#) that you can browse for free, no sign up or subscription required.

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# EscapeJourneys 2012 The Year of the Warrior - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

## EscapeJourneys 2012 The Year of the Warrior

By Escapeartist / Jan 12 • Categorized as [Living Overseas](#)

EscapeJourneys is a collection of writings and personal interviews designed to remind the masses to return to living as warriors. 2012 will be the year of the warrior and EscapeJourneys will provide accounts of real people who have their hearts committed to meaningful transformation and their vision set on true freedom. Explore the destinations that they have traveled and enjoy the journeys that have made them warriors...

We are noble, we are connected

We are noble, we are connected, says Mahira Amir Khan the Senior Editor of Escape Journeys.

### Video Interview with Senior Editor Mahira Amir Khan

Our destinies are tied with each other and we must traverse this globe to experience a larger sense of connection. Only then will we receive the limitless gifts that with bated breath, have long awaited our reception.

Being a warrior means that we must act based on divine guidance. This is not always easy to do. Having the gall to move forth, trusting upon what is heard takes a fearlessness, not possessed by the ordinary man or woman. But there is great beauty to be savored that arrives only for those who journey beyond a limited existence.

Becoming truly spiritual means being a Warrior, stepping into one's heart and then choosing to live from this realm, demands great strength. Do you have the courage to tell your story?

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## Is Thailand Just for Single Male Expats? - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

Many people have been taken by surprise by the emergence of Thailand as a top rated expatriate hotspot. For too long the Asian nation had a reputation as a slightly seedy haunt for single men, or as a party paradise for international students...but nowadays this stunning and diverse nation has managed to totally transform its image.

Thailand - not a nation exclusively accessible to single males

The change in direction for Thailand is working. So much so that it was rated as the best place to retire abroad by 82% of the expatriates surveyed for HSBC International Bank's expansive Expat Explorer survey in 2011, with the nation also topping the same survey's Expat Experience league table.

With expatriates increasingly seeking an improved lifestyle from their relocation overseas, it seems that this is exactly what Thailand can provide.

62% of expats of working age who are living in Thailand and who were surveyed by HSBC stated categorically that their work/life balance had improved since relocating, with a higher than the global average stating that their overall quality of life had in fact improved since moving to Thailand as well.

So what is it about this nation that's winning over so many international hearts?

Looking at the criteria that Thailand was assessed on for the HSBC expatriate survey, we can learn a lot about the desirability of the nation by seeing where it ranks particularly highly.

Firstly it's important to mention that the survey had 3,385 expatriate respondents who were based in 100 countries across the globe. Now in purely economic terms Thailand ranked 11th overall, but it came out on top in terms of expats reporting they could afford a nicer or bigger home, and it ranked in the third spot in terms of expats reporting that they could afford more than one property after moving to Thailand.

In terms of having a greater disposable income it ranked 6<sup>th</sup>, and it ranked 5<sup>th</sup> for affordability of healthcare – something that is especially important for relocating expatriate families and retirees.

For those seeking a more luxurious lifestyle Thailand also ticks many boxes...it ranked 7<sup>th</sup> for the 'boat or yacht' criteria and 7<sup>th</sup> for the 'swimming pool' criteria too – suggesting that all that extra disposable income can be enjoyed very well!

However, as we all know money isn't everything. And for anyone looking for a new home abroad there are far more pressing concerns, such as integration, the language barrier, relocating with children and finding employment for example.

So how does Thailand rank for these essential elements of expat life?

The good news is that it ranks exceptionally well in terms of the overall expatriate experience...which is just one more indicator why Thailand has gone from being a single man's haunt to an international family centre par excellence.

Overall Thailand came out on top of the Expatriate Experience section of the survey. It also ranked in the number one spot for organising healthcare and finding accommodation – exceptionally pressing concerns for families moving abroad.

Thailand came in the top ten for all the following criteria too: -

- Organising schooling for children
- Organising finances
- The weather
- Making friends
- The local work culture
- Fitting in and cultural integration
- Transportation
- Cuisine
- Social life
- The work environment
- The aforementioned work/life balance

- The quality of accommodation available
  - The quality and accessibility of healthcare
  - A healthy diet
  - And the ability for expats to be able to travel more and see more of the world
- So if you take the findings of this survey as the basis for considering Thailand by, you can see that it's a very strong contender on all the essential levels. But as anyone who's already moved abroad knows, surveys and fact-based reports can only tell you so much about a nation. It's critical to access forums and hear from people who already live in Thailand as expats to get a better sense of whether it's somewhere you could really live.

Bearing this in mind we thought we'd do some of the critical research for you, and cover key subject areas that matter most to relocating expatriate families such as: -

### **How safe is Thailand?**

The Thai people love children, and many expats say that for them Thailand is one of the safest places they've ever lived with their children. The 'dangers' that expats need to be aware of are not those of abduction or molestation for instance, nor of gangs or crime...rather expats need to be aware that the roads in Thailand are lethal for example.

Driving standards are very poor indeed, and you'll often see children riding shotgun in cars, standing between the seats. Children also ride on the back (or front) of motorbikes and mopeds with no head protection, but as long as *you* protect *your* children when you travel on the roads, you'll avoid this danger.

General perceptions of 'health and safety' are basically limited. This can mean that in busy marketplaces you need to watch out for pans of hot oil for example, or sharp knives, and then there are issues such as open water wells and unfenced bodies of water. Expats also need to be acutely aware of food and drink hygiene in Thailand if they want to avoid nasty bugs and tummy upsets.

As a general rule of thumb however, those who take responsibility for their own children and who educate themselves and each other about the 'dangers' of living in Thailand live well and avoid any trouble. And as stated, the extreme concerns that we all have when it comes to keeping our children protected from the evils of the world take on much less significance in a nation as peaceful as Thailand.

### **What's healthcare really like?**

There are two schools of thought when it comes to healthcare in Thailand and how to pay for it. The first thing you need to know however, is that compared to North American health insurance costs, Thailand is cheap! Having said that, expats fall into two categories – those who have health insurance, and those who self-fund if/when they need medical care.

Anyone with children, with healthcare concerns, or who may be considering starting a family would be well advised to think about taking the insurance route. Whilst medical fees in Thailand are also far cheaper than in North America or Europe for example, costs soon mount up – and if you want the best doctors and treatment, you pay a premium in Thailand just like you do anywhere in the world.

Perhaps the top two issues you need to be aware of are that finding a general practitioner is hard, most doctors specialise... so make this a priority when you arrive. And ask for recommendations locally from fellow expats. Secondly, road traffic accidents are a leading cause of death and injury in Thailand, so take care out there to avoid needing any emergency treatment.

Regarding the terrible driving standards and traffic accident statistics, bear in mind that emergency transportation isn't up to the same high standards in Thailand as it is in North America or Europe for example.

If you're pregnant when you move to Thailand, or you decide to start a family once you've relocated, the good news is that most hospitals have decent and modern facilities for the birth.

It's normal to have the entire pregnancy managed by an obstetrician rather than a midwife however, and in some hospitals there can be pressure on the mother to opt for a caesarean section as it's 'easier' for the staff involved. No one should ever be pressured into such an option however, and ensure you discuss delivery methods early on so that any misunderstandings can be ironed out, or so that you have plenty of time to find an alternative hospital.

9 months may seem like an eternity when you're pregnant, but it does go fast, so get everything discussed and in place well in advance of your due date.

### **What's the standard of education like?**

Many nations have league tables or standards and grading of schools available so that parents can research which schools are best, which might suit a particular child, and which are affordable or otherwise...when it comes to Thailand however, it's a bit of a minefield.

The very reassuring news is this however, you *can* find a very decent standard of education for your child in Thailand – from preschool right through to tertiary level. The bad news is that it may cost you a lot of money depending on the establishment/s you choose – and it will certainly cost you an awful lot in terms of time as you research all of the options open to you.

Any expat who chooses to live away from the main cities will have limited choice in terms of international schools or English language schools – but homeschooling is *always* an option – as is entering your child into the local Thai school system.

For those living in Bangkok or Phuket to name but two very popular expatriate choices, there are plenty of schools to choose from. Your choices may be restricted in part by budget – but just because an educational establishment charges the most, it most certainly doesn't mean it's the best. This is why researching is key.

Look at the qualifications that staff hold, try and learn about staff turnover because consistency can be key for any school's standards. Look also at the grades children typically achieve at key exam levels, and where pupils go on to study. It's worth speaking to other expat parents about their experiences too, and also asking expat children themselves about where they're happy at school and why.

### **Are there jobs available for expats in Thailand?**

Thailand has a very long and detailed list of restricted jobs and professions that are only open to local citizens (suggested link? <http://www.phuket-info.com/forums/expats/11936-restricted-jobs-list.html>)...and any expat who wants to find a job or start a business in Thailand is well advised to refer closely to this list to ensure that their dreams and plans are not restricted or altered by it.

Finding professional work in Thailand can be hard – unless you're being relocated by your employer, you've been head-hunted by a local company, or you work in well-paying industries that utilise a lot of foreign workers such as the oil and gas industries.

Anyone who needs to earn a living to live in Thailand will need to make a careful and concerted effort to research their choices before embarking on relocation. Yes Thailand is an incredible place to live exceptionally well – if you're earning a decent salary. But if you're looking for work the marketplace is fierce, and employers will always favour the local workforce first.

It is possible to open your own business in Thailand – and it is of course possible to live in Thailand and work elsewhere... either virtually thanks to the Internet, or literally thanks to Thailand's excellent international travel links.

The most important thing to emphasize about working in Thailand is that the local environment is friendly and accessible, and the local people accommodating and accepting – but finding well paid employment can be very, very difficult indeed...

Therefore ensure you have employment and income issues covered before committing to move to Thailand.

### **Finally...**

The quality of life available in Thailand is undeniably excellent. Thailand is a nation with a stunning climate, an inimitably paradise-like landscape, where the people are peace-loving and totally tolerant of foreigners, and where the cuisine, culture, lifestyle and history are incredible.

It is most definitely *not* a nation exclusively accessible to single males – it's a family friendly country, a retirement paradise, and a place where anyone can make an amazing home.

The restrictions and issues expats need to be aware of are touched upon in this article – from the affordability and accessibility of healthcare and education, to the availability of professional jobs and the lack of driving standards for example. However, because Thailand is so unique, and so different to America, the UK, France or Australia for example, it's well-worth making the effort to visit before you commit to complete relocation.

**About the author:** Susan Beverley is a writer and editor for Escape From America Magazine and also writes for and maintains [Expats Daily News](#) – the expat news blog for [EscapeArtist.com](#). She traveled extensively before becoming an expat herself having found a place to call home in South America where she has lived since 2005. She understands the concerns, needs and difficulties that expats face from first-hand experience and is dedicated to supporting and encouraging anyone who is looking for a new nation to call home. [ [send her an email](#) ]

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# Climbing Machu Picchu with a Lama - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

## Climbing Machu Picchu with a Lama

By Escapeartist / Jan 12 • Categorized as [Living Overseas](#)

### Video Interview with Natalie Griffith

Natalie and Tom Griffith combined two families with seven children and decided that seven was not enough so they gave birth to number eight (my guess is they watch a little too much TV in the 80's). You will not find a nicer couple, Natalie a beautiful California looking blonde with a strong Carolina accent and Tom (understandably having no hair) is a running coach that he no doubt developed the skill of running from eight children every time they come asking for money.

Climbing Macchu Pichu with Natalie Griffith

So fun aside, this couple means business!

Natalie works for an investment banking firm with a goal of being a work at home mother one day soon with [EscapeDates](#) and her own internet marketing academy called Interzette.

Both Tom and Natalie are avid dancers, they love to run, hike really anything outdoors. One of the most amazing couples you will ever meet – hard working, big dreams (Climbing Mach Picchu with a Lama) and huge hearts – a skill learned with 8 children I am sure.

To visit Natalie's profile [CLICK HERE](#)

If you would like to join Natalie and Tom's Global Social Network [CLICK HERE](#)

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# Meeting Jesus in Guatemala - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

The mountain grown and freshly roasted coffee of Guatemala is famous around the world and here in Panajachel, Lake Atitlan I can purchase a rich cappuccino for 10 Quetzales or about \$1.25. For me, this is a delicious treat and often times when coming back from the market, I will stop by one of the local cafés and get one to go.

These brothers sell their mime skills

This day, however, I decided to enjoy the cappuccino slowly, inside the shop, while watching the action outside on the street.

## In the Dinosaur

So I'm in the Dinosaur Café when a small boy of about 8 years approaches me to purchase some of his mother's hand woven note cards. These lovely cards are sold by all of the children here in Pana and some of the older kids can be quite persistent – past the point of my saying “no, thank you” or “I'm not interested today.” Often they can engage in a long winded debate with me that will last several blocks of walking through town and in the end, extracting a “Yes, maybe later” response. If I ever meet that child again and don't buy a card, some will shout obscenities and accuse me of breaking a promise or lying to them.

Sigh.

My policy now is to not begin the conversation at all and hasten my step after I have said “No, thank you.” It saves us both the trouble, even if it appears to be harsh on the surface.

## Encountering an angel

This angel-of-a-child leaves me alone after my first “No” and I am most grateful. I see him approach a Gringo man with massive, wild, graying hair. This man doesn't buy any cards either, but instead offers him a sweet delicacy from a box he recently purchased at the gourmet shop up the street. The child of course waits patiently while the old man struggles with the box's wrappings and as I watch this scene, this sweet boy sneaks a peek at me.

I can't help but share a smile with him as it seems the simple act of giving him a piece of candy has taken several long minutes because the man cannot get the box open. And the boy and I both appreciate his energetic attempt to get the plastic shrink wrap off and open the box to reveal the fine prize inside.

## Moving towards the sale

But did I blunder?

The fact that I met this child's eyes and communicated by way of sharing a grin has now given him another fair chance to begin the bargaining game again and to approach me a second time.

I am sitting in a large wicker chair that is low to the ground and the boy is small. We are pretty much nose-to-nose now and the second level of contact has been made: I did not shoo him away.

He sits on the floor and begins giving me his spiel once again.

Will diversion work?

I try a diversion tactic by telling him his piece of nougat looks delicious and I'm sure he'll enjoy it. Now the boy begins speaking to me in English about how I should purchase these cards for my boyfriend, my husband, my sister, my daughter, my son... and he goes on and on in practiced order. I am intrigued by this child for reasons only my heart knows, and I tell him in Spanish how good his English is and ask where he learned it.

“In the street” he says proudly in Spanish. I tell him that is where I learned my Spanish! We have something in common!

## Another product enters the game

We aren't making any progress on me purchasing his note cards so he pulls out his collection of woven bracelets. These are made from scraps of thread left over from the women's weavings, and the bracelets are about 3/8 of an inch wide and about 6 inches long, plus a tie thread on both ends.

I say to him, “Oh these are beautiful but I don't want any” — and I touch them.

## Moving on to level 3

I have now brought us to the 3rd level of the bargaining process; I have made physical contact with his product.

Bracelets made from weaving scraps

I know better than this but I can't help myself. Once you touch something a vendor is selling, that is a move forward in the

game. Every vendor knows this, even an 8 year old child. I love textiles and I had never seen these things up close and I wanted to take a look.

Okay, Okay, I'm up to my eyeballs in this now so I ask him his name. "Jesus (Hay-SOOS)" he replies.

"Did your Mom make these too?"

"Yes and I give you a good price." He'll sell me the whole packet for 10Q, the price of my cappuccino. I know that's cheap and it is a good price.

I have no use for these things, and I've over packed as it is, so whatever I purchase is one more thing I have to carry. My mind is whining to myself and I think of purchasing them and giving them away to the next person I see... anything, now that I'm this far into the sales process. To disengage at this point is pretty rude.

### **Finishing the deal**

Then Jesus whips out another packet of bracelets just like the first one and says that he'll give them all to me for 15Q's, just under \$2. Of course, that's a screaming deal too, and I still don't need the first dozen and now I have TWO dozen... and I think "but the kid has to eat, and something besides this sugary nougat."

So I say yes.

His face looks like Christmas and completely lights up. I get out my small change purse and ask him on purpose "How much did you say?" Jesus doesn't miss a beat and says "20 Quetzales."

"Oh no, Jesus, you told me 15" and his smile gets even larger because he knows he has not sold to a fool. This makes him very proud of his work and he can brag about this to his mother.

As I hand Jesus his 15Q, he reminds me that the price he gave me was good. It's a cheap price.

To him I say "Jesus, I know. Thank you."

### **Early childhood education**

This young man is so happy I can't even describe it to you. He sold something fair and square and made 15Q. I don't know if he is going to go purchase a solid lunch or if he will choose to take the money home to his mother. But the satisfaction that Jesus is feeling is written all over his body. He took my no's and was still persistent. He made a sale and he looked like 15 Quetzales was more money he had seen in one location in his life.

Children in these 3rd World Countries all learn to bargain and sell. It's a survival tool that they take with them into adulthood, and once learned, it can never be taken away. Their sense of self-sufficiency and self-reliance is mixed with communication skills and parents can proudly send them out into the world knowing they can fend for themselves.

This sort of training has been going on for centuries. I can only hope we are teaching our children something this useful as well.

**About the Authors:** Billy and Akaisha Kaderli are recognized retirement experts and internationally published authors on topics of finance and world travel. With the wealth of information they share on their popular website [RetireEarlyLifestyle.com](http://RetireEarlyLifestyle.com), they have been helping people achieve their own retirement dreams since 1991.

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