



These Are the 10 Hottest Travel Spots for Retirees

Plus, what you'll spend on a five-day, two-person getaway. BY ALLANA AKHTAR

➤ **UNENCUMBERED BY WORK AND KIDS**, retirees are upping their travel game: An analysis by Priceline found that boomers book the longest average stay on their vacations, relative to other age groups, and spend much more. To find out where seniors are headed, MONEY asked Priceline for air and hotel booking information on travelers age 60 and older. The following list identifies the top spots; we added the price for a five-day trip for two and suggested a few activities.

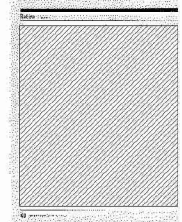
1. CHICAGO FOR \$1,979

Chicago hits a traveler trifecta: cultural attractions, world-class food, and plenty of natural beauty. Learn about the city's iconic buildings aboard the Chicago Architecture Foundation river cruise (\$47 during the day; \$52 at twilight). The city is also home to 25 Michelin-starred restaurants, plus a plethora of no-frills diners and joints that serve authentic (and delicious) fare. Try Mexican bites like tacos and mole at Mi Tocaya.

2. ORLANDO FOR \$1,509

Some seniors may well be visiting with their grandkids—but Orlando

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From far left: Learn about Chicago's architectural history by taking a river cruise. See a variety of cacti at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix. Oversize art glass flowers bloom at Seattle's Chihuly Garden and Glass.

FROM LEFT, COURTESY OF VISIT PHOENIX; COURTESY OF CHIHULY GARDEN AND GLASS

also has offerings for grownups. Eat bratwurst, drink sake, shop for Moroccan textiles, and watch Chinese acrobats at the World Showcase at Disney's Epcot park. Or use Orlando as a jumping-off point: Drive east to New Smyrna Beach for 13 miles of sand, or visit the Kennedy Space Center (\$50 for seniors) to learn about U.S. space exploration history and current advances.

3. DENVER FOR \$1,863

In town, you can immerse yourself in Denver pride with a Broncos game in Mile High Stadium, or check out the Denver Central Market food hall for local bites and sweets, including roasted meats from SK Provisions. Better yet, to take in Colorado's natural beauty, drive to Rocky Mountain National Park—home to 355 miles of trails, available for all skill levels. Those 62 and older can buy a \$20 annual pass (or \$80 lifetime pass) for

access to all national parks and other federal recreation sites.

4. LAS VEGAS FOR \$1,620

What's a visit to Sin City without a little gambling? The massive casinos and hotels deliver an array of different experiences: You can play the slots among Roman gods and goddesses at Caesars Palace, or get the movie star experience at Planet Hollywood's flashy casino. Away from the tables, watch risqué dancers and acrobats at a Cirque du Soleil show. Or head over to the Shark Reef Aquarium at Mandalay Bay (\$23 if you're 65 or older) to see stingrays, zebra sharks, jellyfish, and more.

5. PHOENIX FOR \$1,692

Phoenix and its neighboring communities boast a whopping 200 golf courses. For luxury amenities visit the Raven Golf Club; for views of the Sonoran

Desert terrain, try your game at Lookout Mountain Golf Club. On non-golf days, explore the area's natural flora at the Desert Botanical Garden (\$24.95). Or learn about the area's American Indian tribal community and artwork at the Heard Museum (tickets are \$13.50 for seniors 65 and up).

6. NEW YORK FOR \$2,554

New York City's dozens of landmarks, museums, and attractions won't leave you bored—and many have senior discounts. Stop by the Empire State Building (\$35 for seniors) or Rockefeller Center's Top of the Rock (\$34 for 62 and older) for stunning views. The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island provide a crash course on earlier generations of U.S. immigrants. Admire the work of Vincent van Gogh and Jackson Pollock at the Museum of Modern Art, or get a deeper sense of art history at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. You

Retire TRAVEL

can get lost in Central Park for free, but if it rains, head over to the historic Plaza Hotel to splurge on afternoon tea at the Palm Court (\$75 a person).

7. SEATTLE FOR \$2,168

Glass takes a central role in two of Seattle's popular landmarks. Get views of the skyline from the city's Space Needle, which features the Loupe—the world's only rotating glass floor. Then visit the sculptural glass wonders at the Chihuly Garden and Glass. A two-in-one ticket is \$41 for seniors 65 and older (\$49 for adults). Seattle also boasts some of the country's best breweries. If you're in the city during the fall, grab a pumpkin beer from Elysian brewery and beer hall.

8. PHILADELPHIA FOR \$2,052

Known as the birthplace of American democracy, Philadelphia holds some iconic historic attractions: You can step inside Independence Hall, where both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed, or inspect the crack on the Liberty Bell at close range. (Admission to Independence Hall itself is by tour only; you can book online or by phone.) When hunger calls, get some homemade pasta and chocolate at the 9th Street Italian Market, America's oldest outdoor market. Guided tours, which come with free food samples, cost \$29 for adults.

METHODOLOGY: To develop this list, MONEY asked Priceline to find the places where consumers age 60 and older booked the most hotel rooms and airfare through the company's website; data are for the 12 months ending July 2018. We pulled the cost of a five-day trip for two, including airfare, hotel, and more, from our Best in Travel database.



In Portland, Ore., relax with a visit to the Japanese Garden (left). Or take a food tour at Philadelphia's 9th Street Italian Market.



9. WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR \$2,198

Immerse yourself in American culture by visiting D.C.'s many monuments and museums. For easy transport to the district's sights, take a Big Bus hop-on, hop-off tour. Single-day tickets cost \$49 for adults, and buses arrive at each stop every 20 to 30 minutes. In the evening, catch a show at the Kennedy Center, which hosts plays, comedy shows, jazz concerts, ballet performances, and more. There's a free performance every day at 6 p.m., and you can even take a free guided tour of the center.

10. PORTLAND, ORE. FOR \$1,987

Foodie culture rules in Portland, and brunch is serious business. Grab vegan eats and probiotic-fueled smoothies at Harlow, or opt for Southern fried chicken and waffles for \$16 at Screen Door. Alternatively, get coffee at the Saturday Market, then stay to shop for locally crafted jewelry, handbags, clothing, and other items. Afterward, head over to the Japanese Garden: Learn about Japanese traditions at its Culture Village, or grab tea and matcha rolls at the Umami Café. Summer tickets to the garden cost \$14.50 for seniors. (Winter prices are slightly lower.)

FROM TOP: JONATHAN LEV—PORTLAND JAPANESE GARDEN; JEFFREY GREENBERG—UIG VIA GETTY IMAGES