

MORNING EDITION

## Study: Atlanta retirees travel, say retirement great time for romance

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A new study by [Merrill Lynch](#) examines where Atlanta retirees like to travel, how much they spend, and who they like to see when they do. Most say they want to spend time with grandchildren, and they also say retirement is a great time for romance.

The study also looks at how retirees spend their everyday leisure and where they live.

Findings for the South Atlantic region, which, for the purposes of the study, includes Georgia, Alabama, Florida, North and South Carolina:

### **Top U.S. dream destinations:**

- Florida
- Hawaii
- Alaska

### **Top world dream destinations:**

- Australia
- England
- Ireland

### **Retirees in the South Atlantic seek the following in their everyday leisure:**

- 84 percent staying healthy/improving health
- 70 percent relaxing (tied with Mountain, Great Lakes)
- 57 percent family connections
- 57 percent friendships and social connections (tied with MidAtlantic, South Central)

### **Retirees in the South Atlantic seek the following in their special occasion leisure:**

- 47 percent peak experiences (tied with Heartland, MidAtlantic)
- 44 percent adventure
- 35 percent fun

### **Overall highlights:**

**Most likely** to live in a retirement community with recreational and social activities (18 percent)

**Most likely** to say they're having fun in retirement (Ranked No. 1 for Age 50+ Retirees)

**Most likely** to say they prefer to try new things in their leisure vs. things they've already done (72 percent)

**Most likely** to have a bucket list (18 percent)

- Tied with Mountain Region for **most likely** to say they have the freedom and flexibility to do what they want on their own terms (94 percent)
- Tied with Mid Atlantic for **most likely** to say that retirement is a great time for romance (71 percent).
- Retirees have spent on average \$3,500 on leisure travel in the last 12 months.

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