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## Paperbacks on the Beach

### An Ayers Family Spring Break

Spring break is one of those things that really changes depending on what stage you are in life. Spring breaks as a 13-year-old look very different than those as a college student. My favorite spring breaks are ones spent as a parent because it means I get to spend time with my family.

This year's spring break starts in New York for my brother's wedding. It's a big year for my brother, and I'm really excited to celebrate the start of this new chapter in his life. That said, New York in March isn't what you'd call perfect spring weather. After the wedding, we're heading down to Florida for the warmer weather.

My parents moved to Florida a few years ago, so it's become our go-to family vacation spot. The kids love visiting their grandparents, and Florida is a great place to spend spring break if you just want to kick back on the beach for a few days. Most of our vacation is spent in the pool, with a few games of minigolf and some fresh seafood mixed in. We're also usually able to catch a spring training baseball game. My kids are Yankees fans by birth, so for the last few years, we've been able to catch a Yankees spring training game, which is always a great time.

It won't surprise anyone to learn that I pack five or six books to read during spring break. When we go on vacation, I always want to do three things: play in the pool with my kids, enjoy a date night with my wife, and read. At home, I read a lot of business books, so when I'm on vacation, I try to read a few fiction novels to mix things up. When I can, I look for obscure little fiction books, the kind of thing I wouldn't usually read. For me, reading something different reinforces the idea of being on vacation.



A few years ago, I worked my way through a series of old novels by Eric Ambler. Last year, my vacation book was "Rogue Male." This book was published in 1939 and tells a strange story about a man running around the English countryside after failing to assassinate a dictator. It's not the kind I would have usually picked up. I grabbed it because it was small and fit in my bag, but it turned out to be a pretty good vacation read.

Vacations, whether for spring break or a weekend getaway, are really important. No matter how much you love your job, everyone needs to take a break from time to time. That's how you recharge your batteries and keep from

running yourself ragged. Vacations are a time to reconnect with your family or enjoy some quiet by yourself. We live in a society that tells us we always need to be productive, but at the end of your life, no one looks back and thinks, "I should have skipped that vacation and spent another day at the office."

Spring break is coming up soon. I hope everyone gives themselves permission to take a step back, put their phone down, and enjoy some time out of the office — maybe even on the beach with a good book. And if you need a recommendation for a book, give me a call!

*- Andrew M. Ayers*

# RETIRE IN STYLE

## 3 PLACES TO RETIRE INTERNATIONALLY

Even if you've always planned for a comfortable retirement in the United States, choosing to live internationally could be a smart alternative to improve your standard of living in retirement. International Living Magazine's Retirement Index has tracked objective retirement metrics — like the cost of living, democratic stability, and health care — for the last 40 years. They also take into account reports of correspondents actively living abroad. Here are some of their top picks for international retirement destinations.

### PANAMA

Panama ranks No. 2 in International Living Magazine's list of best places to retire internationally. With its tropical climate, proximity to the United States, excellent health care, and low tax burden, it's easy to see why. In Panama City, you can expect to pay at least \$2,600 a month in living expenses, but housing costs are substantially lower outside of major metropolitan markets. Panama also offers excellent discounts, up to 25% off of things like airline tickets, hotels, and energy costs through its Pensionado program.

### COSTA RICA

If it's a textbook paradise you're looking for, look no further than Costa Rica. Thanks to a 1948 decision to abolish their military and direct

all of those funds to health care and education, Costa Rica is often referred to as the "Switzerland of Central America." Known for its stable democracy, safety, and socialized health care that's only available once you've obtained residency, Costa Rica also offers climates for just about everybody — from the lush jungles of the south to the hot, dry beaches of Guanacaste in the northwest. Expect to find large communities of expats to help you acclimate.

### MEXICO

The first things that come to mind for most people when you mention Mexico are margaritas and beach umbrellas, but this country offers a lot more than that. For starters, Mexico features an enticingly low cost of living. International Living estimates a couple could live in Mexico on anywhere from \$1,500–\$3,000 per month, depending on location, including health care expenses. Once you've obtained residency status, you can sign up for national health care plans that offer full coverage for just a few hundred dollars annually.



## THE FIGHT OF THE CENTURY

### How a Battle of Boxers Captivated the World

On March 8, 1971, all eyes were on the world of boxing as people watched what would become known as "The Fight of the Century." It was one of the most anticipated matchups the sport had ever arranged: Current heavyweight champion Joe Frazier and former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali were finally facing off, the first time two undefeated boxers would fight each other for the heavyweight title. Spectators were hungry for a battle.

Both fighters held rightful claims to the title of world heavyweight champion. Ali won it in 1964 and successfully defended it for several years, but he was stripped of the title during a legal battle over his induction into the U.S. armed forces. In his absence from the sport,

Frazier earned two championship belts through major knockout fights. But when Ali settled his court case and came to reclaim his title, Frazier wasn't ready to give it up easily.

Ringside seats for the fight sold for today's equivalent of over \$1,000. Millions watched the broadcast in over 50 countries around the world, and Madison Square Garden sold out to a crowd of 20,455 spectators. The fighters possessed polar opposite tactics, backgrounds, and social impacts, but when it came to skill, they were evenly matched. The fight captivated the nation. As Sports Illustrated put it at the time, "The thrust of this fight on the public consciousness is incalculable. It has been a ceaseless whirl that seems to have grown in decibel with each new soliloquy by Ali, with each dead calm promise by Frazier."

The fight exceeded all expectations with a fully engrossing 15 rounds. For the first quarter of the match, it seemed Ali would best his opponent, but Frazier came back with fury. Even though Ali continued to rise to his feet round after round, Frazier emerged victorious by the slimmest of margins, dealing Ali his first professional loss ever.

The landmark event highlighted an unforgettable night of skillful prowess like the world had never seen. Even though the title fight was only the beginning of the rivalry between the two boxers, the matchup rightfully took its place as one of the greatest fights in the history of the sport.







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## SMASHED MIRRORS, MAIMED SOFAS, AND MISSING BED-SCREWS THE DAY EVERYONE IN NEW YORK CITY MOVED

Moving is the worst. The costs of hiring a moving company and the sheer amount of time it takes to physically move everything make the whole affair an aggravating mess. And if you thought moving just one house on your street was terrible, imagine the chaos that would ensue if everyone in your whole city moved on the same day. That's exactly what happened in New York City for nearly two centuries.

From Colonial times until the end of World War II, May 1 was Moving Day in New York. On that day, every lease in the city ended, and pandemonium reigned in the streets as everyone scurried to their new homes. Eyewitness accounts of Moving Day describe the tradition as sheer mayhem. An English writer said Moving Day looked like "a population flying from the plague,"

and frontiersman Davy Crockett called it an "awful calamity" when he discovered the event in 1834.

Still, some people loved Moving Day. Long Island farmers took their carts into the city on May 1 and charged as much as a week's wages to move desperate tenants' belongings to their new homes, which was a tidy sum in those days. Children were also fond of Moving Day because they got the day off school to help their families navigate the tumultuous time.

A few prominent theories have emerged about the origins of this tradition. Some posit that May 1 coincided with the English celebration of May Day. Others say it morphed out of an event where servants would look for new employers. The most well-known

explanation, however, is the May 1 move commemorated the day Dutch colonizers "moved" to Manhattan in the first place.

The Moving Day tradition began vanishing in the early 20th century because many cartmen and housing builders were drafted during World War I, leaving fewer movers and less available housing. Additionally, the construction of the New York City subway gave other tenants rapid access to more housing options outside Manhattan. Finally, after many cartmen were again drafted in WWII, the tradition officially ended in 1945.

