

# Punta Gorda an affordable place to retire

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PUNTA GORDA — Once again, the city makes the cut of top places to retire on Kiplinger.com

The personal finance magazine's website featured Punta Gorda and a handful of other U.S. cities as "the cheapest places where you'll want

to retire." "Of the great many retirement hot spots in Florida, Punta Gorda tops our list," the site announced in its February 2015 issue.

To make its selection, Kiplinger used data on more than 200 metropolitan areas across the U.S., narrowed it down to 32 communities and picked 10 finalists.

"We identified the

places with the cheapest living costs specifically for retirees," the website states. "We placed particular emphasis on reasonable price tags for the two biggest retirement budget-busters, health care and housing, and we also looked at states' tax burdens on retirees.

"Plus, in case you find that you want or need to

go back to work to earn extra income, we sought out economically healthy areas with relatively low poverty," the website noted. "We favored areas with large populations of adults over 65, and because safety is paramount we weeded out cities with above-average crime rates."

Along with the state's favorable tax situation,

Kiplinger.com credited the city's high ranking to its strong senior presence—the 65-and-older share of the metro area's population is the greatest of all 223 places we considered.

"And all those retirees have plenty to keep them busy," the online magazine noted. "The city offers 18 miles of bike paths and pedestrian

trails, including the scenic Harborwalk along Charlotte Harbor that connect the various neighborhoods and parks. You can also enjoy boating and other water activities, as well as the charms of Fishermen's Village, a semi-open-air mall that's home to a marina, shops, seafood restaurants and free concerts."