



## 4 Ideal Towns to Retire in the Deep South

Retirement is something that we look forward to. A reward for our years of hard work. Finding the best place to spend our golden years takes time, effort, and a lot of knowledge. We would like to help you with that last part. We looked in the Deep South of the United States for you and found the following four towns based on retirement concerns and town vibes. One of them may be the perfect town for you.

### **Dahlonega, GA**

#### **Statistics**

**Total Population:** 7,830

**Healthcare Access:** Yes

**Population 65+:** 18.2%

**Median Household Income:** \$74,500

**Crime Rate:** Low

**Median Home Price:** \$376,000 - \$463,000

## About

If you love nature spiced with history and community, Dahlonega, Georgia may be your perfect retirement destination. With the Blue Ridge Mountains as a backdrop, the town has a walkable historic downtown square with unique shops such as Dahlonega General Store for gifts, crystals, and locally made gourmet items, or Canopy & The Roots, where coffeehouse meets creativity.

If you are feeling more outdoorsy, you can hike the DeSoto Falls Trail in the Chattahoochee National Forest just outside of Dahlonega. This trail includes Frogtown Creek, home of the tranquil Upper and Lower Falls. If you are feeling sociable, the Lumpkin County Senior Center is right in town and offers a full social calendar, fitness such as chair yoga and road trips to popular destinations.

Dahlonega also has you covered for healthcare. Northside Hospital has primary care as well as a cardiovascular specialty department. If you find you need more supportive care, Dahlonega Assisted Living provides assisted living, memory, and dementia care.

## Ocean Springs, MS

### Statistics

**Total Population:** 18,954

**Healthcare Access:** Yes

**Population 65+:** 20.1%

**Median Household Income:** \$78,929

**Crime Rate:** Moderate

**Median Home Price:** \$255,000 - \$350,000

## About

If coastal living is more your style, Ocean Springs, Mississippi may be just the destination for you. Ocean Springs is situated along the Mississippi Gulf Coast between neighbors Biloxi and Gautier. There is culture with the Mary C O'Keefe Cultural Art Center and other art galleries.

Experience nature and ground yourself in the parks peppered throughout town. Historic Marble Springs Park, family friendly Fort Maurepas Park and scenic Shearwater Park are just a few of the options. Some of the best fishing in the state is right off Front Beach's McPherson Jr Fishing Pier.

The Ocean Springs YMCA is a great place to meet active older adults. There are programs such as chair and gentle yoga, health and wellness activities and scheduled day trips to local events. The local hospital, Ocean Springs Hospital, is a full-service acute care hospital with a Level II Trauma Center and comprehensive cardiology services.

## **Eureka Springs, AR**

### **Statistics**

**Total Population:** 2,269

**Healthcare Access:** Moderate

**Population 65+:** 25%

**Median Household Income:** \$41,821

**Crime Rate:** Moderate

**Median Home Price:** \$312,000

### **About**

If you are looking to get away from it all and unplug, Eureka Springs, Arkansas in the Ozark Mountains may be for you. With a town motto of “Free to Be,” you can almost feel the bohemian vibe now. Victorian architecture is everywhere. From the Crescent Hotel built in 1886 to St. Elizabeth’s of Hungary Catholic Church built in 1904, the influence of the Victorian Era is alive in Eureka Springs. Basin Spring Park hosts free live events in their outdoor theater under the blanket of the Ozark Mountains.

Eureka Springs is said to have healing powers in its natural springs. This legacy continues with the many spas and massage centers in town. The Eureka Springs Community Center offers classes such as Total Fit for Seniors to keep you moving and provides a full social calendar. Medical care is available at the rural Eureka Springs Hospital or Eureka Springs Family Clinic. The nearest full-service hospital is Mercy Hospital, just over the state border in Aurora Missouri.

## **St. Francisville, LA**

### **Statistics**

**Total Population:** 1,557

**Healthcare Access:** Limited

**Population 65+:** 20%

**Median Household Income:** \$53,864

**Crime Rate:** Low

**Median Home Price:** \$367,000 - \$379,000

### **About**

Do you garden, or have a passion for history? If so, St. Francisville Louisiana may be the perfect place for your retirement. St. Francisville, also known as West Feliciana Parish, was established in 1807. It is in Louisiana Hill Country and sits on the bluffs above the Mississippi River. This is the perfect place to slow down and enjoy the beauty of nature. Visit Afton Villa Gardens with its manicured spaces and places to contemplate or go for a hike in the Clark Creek Natural Area which is home to about fifty waterfalls. Go back in time to the Antebellum period in the architecture of Grace Episcopal Church, built in 1827 and the Myrtles Plantation, built in 1796, and more.

West Feliciana Council on Aging provides resources to seniors on public and private programs available including supportive services, congregate meals, legal assistance and even transportation. For healthcare, St. Francisville has West Feliciana Hospital. In 2017, a new state-of-the-art medical center was built providing a higher level of patient care.

### **Good Luck**

We hope this list has been informative and has helped the journey to find the perfect place for your retirement.

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