

LEAVING HOME: EXPATRIATES' DECISIONS AND REASONING FOR MOVING TO ATENAS, COSTA RICA

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More and more people are moving to Costa Rica to live and work. This study looks into the nationalities and reasoning of those who decide to leave their countries of origin and move to Costa Rica. Through interviews and surveys, this study examines why people come to Costa Rica, what they do once they are here and whether or not they are happy with their decision. A glimpse into how Costa Ricans feel about expatriates here is also given. Through the 71 in-depth interviews with expatriates from all over the world and 20 surveys handed out to Costa Rican residents of Atenas, Costa Rica, I found that American expatriates move to get away from the government in the United States and that the majority of all other expatriates from differing nationalities come for the cheaper cost of healthcare and the weather. Costa Ricans said that expatriates were overall beneficial to the community and brought money and created jobs in Atenas. Therefore this project may be useful to government agencies in Costa Rica as well as other countries to see why individuals are leaving home to live in Costa Rica permanently.