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Your Guide To Retiring To Lakewood Ranch





Your Guide to Retiring in Lakewood Ranch, Florida:

Nestled along Florida's Gulf Coast in Manatee and Sarasota counties, Lakewood Ranch offers the ideal setting for an active and engaged retirement. This master-planned community provides access to world-class amenities, a vibrant lifestyle, and a warm climate year-round. With diverse housing options, quality healthcare, and plenty of recreation, culture, dining, and nightlife nearby, Lakewood Ranch has become an increasingly popular retirement destination. This guide will be an overview of the many benefits of retiring in Lakewood Ranch.

Climate

One of the biggest appeals of Lakewood Ranch is its mild, sunny climate all year long. High temperatures during the summer average in the upper 80s Fahrenheit, while winter highs reach comfortable 70s most days. Low temperatures only drop to the 60s even in the coldest winter months, meaning outdoor living is possible 12 months a year. The winter dry season sees sunny bluebird skies, while the summer wet season brings periodic thunderstorms that help keep the humidity down. The Gulf breezes provide natural cooling in the warmer months. For seniors who want to continue an active, outdoor lifestyle, Lakewood Ranch's temperate climate is ideal. Snowbirds flock here to escape the harsh winters up north.

Cost of Living

The cost of living in Lakewood Ranch is reasonable compared to many other Florida retirement havens like Naples or Palm Beach. Median home prices currently sit around \$350,000, which is well below the state average. Rental prices range from around \$1,200 for a one-bedroom apartment to \$2,500 for a luxury single-family home. Groceries, utilities, transportation costs, and health care in Lakewood Ranch tend to be on par with national averages. The state of Florida does not charge income tax, which helps keep overall taxes low. Retirees who wish to live in an amenity-rich community while watching their budget will find Lakewood Ranch offers great value.

Housing

One major advantage Lakewood Ranch offers retirees is the diversity of housing options available. Whether you prefer low-maintenance condo living or a private estate home, new construction or resale, or lakefront, or golf course views, you can likely find your ideal home here.

For maintenance-free living, one can choose from various condos, villas, or cottages located in gated 55+ communities. These offer access to clubhouses, pools, tennis courts, fitness centers, and more right onsite. Solera at Lakewood Ranch is one such community featuring luxury condos ranging from 1,600 to over 2,500 square feet. Homes are brand new and prices start in the mid \$400,000s. Another option is Sarasota National, with villas overlooking the fairways of the Sarasota National Golf Club. Homes here are resale ranging from \$200,000 to \$600,000.

Those desiring more space and privacy can find single-family homes ranging from cozy 1,500-square-foot cottages to sprawling mansions over 5,000 square feet situated on golf courses or nature preserves. New construction homes are available in various subdivisions, many with amenities like community pools, parks, and fitness centers. Resale homes offer more affordability – and often the chance to negotiate upgrades and renovations to suit your needs. With over 20 unique villages making up the Lakewood Ranch community, housing options are endless.

Healthcare

Access to comprehensive healthcare is a top priority for many retirees, and Lakewood Ranch delivers. The largest provider is UTC Health System, which operates two full-service hospitals right in the heart of Lakewood Ranch along with specialty clinics. Lakewood Ranch Medical Center is a 143-bed general hospital that offers numerous services including cardiology, orthopedics, gastroenterology, women's health, and more. Next door is Lakewood Ranch Medical Center Hospital, which provides surgery, imaging, ICU care, and more.

In addition to the two UTC hospitals in Lakewood Ranch, downtown Sarasota is home to other excellent medical providers like Sarasota Memorial Hospital – which US News ranks as the #1 hospital in Sarasota. There are also clinics run by Florida Cancer Specialists and Florida Orthopedic Institute in the area. With a large senior population in the surrounding region, healthcare providers excel at addressing retirees' needs. Whether routine checkups or major procedures, the medical care available is top-notch without having to travel far.

Fitness & Wellness

Maintaining physical and mental well-being is important at any age, but especially in retirement. Lakewood Ranch offers extensive health and wellness amenities to help seniors stay fit and active. Each of the 55+ communities have a fitness center for strength training, cardio equipment, exercise classes, and more. Outdoors, miles of walking trails wind through the various villages – perfect for hiking, jogging, or bicycling. The Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club's spa provides services like massage, skincare, and nutritional counseling. For swimming, there are tennis courts, resort-style pools, and beaches along the Gulf Coast. Classes like tai chi, yoga, and water aerobics are readily available as well.

In addition to physical health, social and brain health are also essential. Lakewood Ranch has over 175 clubs and interest groups covering hobbies like photography, languages, arts & crafts, and more. Lifelong learning programs, lecture series, and book clubs are available through the Lakewood Ranch Lifelong Learning Academy. With amenities catering to strength, cardiovascular health, nutrition, community, and mental stimulation, Lakewood Ranch allows seniors to thrive.

Culture & Entertainment

Between the amenities within Lakewood Ranch itself and the attractions in nearby downtown Sarasota, retirees will never run out of cultural and entertainment options.

Within Lakewood Ranch, there are botanical gardens, farmers markets, cooking classes, concerts on the green, and libraries to enjoy. The premier shopping destination is Waterside Place, with high-end stores, delicious restaurants, and bars with live music overlooking a scenic lake.

Just 15 minutes away in Sarasota you'll find the renowned Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, showcasing world-class musicals, plays, opera, and more. The Sarasota Orchestra at the Beatrice Friedman Symphony Hall is another top cultural venue. Art aficionados will enjoy the Ringling Museum of Art along with the many galleries in downtown Sarasota's Art District. Catch an independent film at the Burns Court Cinema. For museums, there's the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium, and The Ringling Circus Museum. Within an easy drive, Lakewood Ranch retirees can fill their schedules with arts, culture, and entertainment.

Dining

Between the restaurants located right in Lakewood Ranch and the abundant dining options throughout Sarasota, retirees will delight in the diverse cuisine. Within Lakewood Ranch, restaurants cover all tastes - from classic steakhouse fare to Italian, Indian, Thai, seafood, and more. Main Street at Lakewood Ranch offers sidewalk cafes with trendy fares. University Town Center has restaurants ranging from fast casual to upscale dining overlooking the shopping district. Bars and grills are plentiful for casual sunset drinks and live music.

Venturing to downtown Sarasota, retirees can indulge in five-star fine dining or check out quirky, bohemian cafes. St. Armands Circle is a ritzy outdoor mall with high-end eateries. Anna Maria Island and Bradenton Beach provide plenty of fresh, delicious seafood joints as well. For those who love cooking, fresh meat, fish, and produce can be found at the many farmers markets in the region. With so many eclectic dining and nightlife options just minutes away, retirees will never tire of Lakewood Ranch's vibrant culinary scene.

Outdoor Recreation

Lakewood Ranch provides endless opportunities for golfing, boating, hiking, fishing, and more to enjoy the beautiful Florida weather during retirement. Golfers will be delighted with the two 18-hole championship golf courses at The Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club. Winding waterways and lakes are perfect for kayaking and canoeing, along with fishing for the likes of bass, catfish, and trout. Over 100 miles of nature trails are ideal for walking, jogging, or bicycling. Sports enthusiasts will stay busy with year-round tennis, pickleball, basketball, volleyball, and racquetball available.

Nearby beaches along the Gulf of Mexico like Ana Maria Island and Siesta Key provide world-class shelling, swimming, and sunbathing. Rent a boat or charter a fishing trip to spend the day on the water. Myakka River State Park and Oscar Scherer State Park offer hiking, wildlife viewing, and swimming. With immortal sunny days, Lakewood Ranch retirees can stay active outdoors no matter the season.

Community Engagement

Retirees these days are seeking vibrant towns with a sense of community – not just isolated resorts. Lakewood Ranch offers abundant opportunities to meet people, make friends, and get involved in the community. Between the 175+ social and recreational clubs, volunteer organizations like Kiwanis Club or Habitat for Humanity, and classes/events put on by the Lifelong Learning Academy, making connections is easy. Seasonal events like farmers markets, summer concerts, and holiday celebrations foster community spirit.

The Lakewood Ranch Community Fund provides leadership courses, fundraising events, and philanthropic programs for retirees wanting to contribute. With its welcoming atmosphere, an abundance of clubs/groups to join, and community programming, Lakewood Ranch allows retirees to get immersed in the lifestyle and quickly feel at home.

Transportation

Many retirees prefer to live in a community where amenities are nearby, and a car isn't always required. Lakewood Ranch offers great walkability and golf cart accessibility within the villages, along with solid public transportation options. Many homes are within a reasonable walk of shopping districts, dining, parks, and community centers. Sidewalks and paths connect neighborhoods for safe pedestrian and bicycle circulation. Golf carts are a popular mode of transport for getting around community hubs.

For venturing outside Lakewood Ranch, Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) provides public bus routes throughout the greater Bradenton area including service to downtown Sarasota. The fare is inexpensive and buses have bike racks. Sarasota also offers a useful trolley system between major attractions. Just a 20-minute drive takes you to Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, with direct flights to major hubs. With easy air access and transportation options nearby, having a car is not a necessity in Lakewood Ranch.

Weather

With over 200 sunny days per year, Lakewood Ranch allows retirees to enjoy the mild Florida weather to the fullest. Winters are pleasantly warm, with average highs of 73°F in January and lows around 51°F. By April, temperatures are into the 80s on most days. Summers are hot but not too extreme, with average highs in the low 90s. The rainy season runs from June through September, though rainfall usually occurs in short bursts versus all-day deluges. Evenings cool nicely, dropping into the 70s after sunset. Heat and humidity are kept in check by Gulf breezes. According to the NOAA, hurricane strikes are rare for this stretch of west central Florida. With its largely pleasant weather year-round, Lakewood Ranch is perfect for an active outdoor retirement.

Surrounding Area

While Lakewood Ranch has plenty to offer right within the community, its proximity to Sarasota and other Gulf Coast towns provides easy access to even more amenities just a short drive away. The vibrant downtown Sarasota area is just 15 minutes south, offering performing arts, museums, dining, and nightlife. Picturesque beach towns like Anna Maria Island, Bradenton Beach, and Longboat Key are within 30 minutes. Tampa and St. Petersburg are an hour's drive north for big city attractions like pro sports, zoos, and aquariums. With calm island vibes nearby and metropolitan culture within reach, Lakewood Ranch provides small-town charm coupled with urban excitement.

With its temperate climate, world-class amenities, variety of housing options, and friendly community, Lakewood Ranch offers an outstanding place to settle down and enjoy an active retirement lifestyle. Between the healthcare, recreation, social clubs, and dining nearby, each day can be engaging and fulfilling. For seniors seeking resort-style amenities coupled with hometown ambiance, Lakewood Ranch provides an ideal location. While not isolated, the community has great walkability and offers most amenities needed for daily living. Nestled between the Gulf beaches and urban Sarasota, the opportunities for culture, dining, and adventure are endless. For retirees who want it all in their golden years, Lakewood Ranch delivers a complete package.

Thank you for taking the time to order your Free Guide to Retiring in Lakewood Ranch, Florida.

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