# The growing trend of gay Americans relocating abroad for a better life



In a new report, it has been found that many Americans from marginalized groups, such as the LGBTQ+ community, express feelings of vulnerability in the US and seek a sense of belonging elsewhere, part of an exodus of Americans to more tolerant societies.

In fact, in recent years, a noticeable trend has emerged involving a growing number of Americans choosing to relocate abroad. This movement is largely attributed to increasing political polarization, economic considerations, and a desire for a better lifestyle. Brett Andrews, originally from Alabama, epitomizes this trend, having relocated to Mérida in the Yucatán, Mexico, after evaluating various international destinations.

His journey towards relocation commenced with a significant discussion in 2016 due to the prevailing political climate in the United States. Initially contemplating Vancouver, Canada, and Seattle as potential destinations that aligned with his values, Andrews eventually decided on Mérida after a visit that inspired him to expedite their plans.

Statistical evidence supports his choice, as approximately 5.4 million Americans lived overseas in 2023, according to the Association of Americans Resident Overseas. A Monmouth University poll underscored this trend, revealing that approximately 34% of Americans would consider living in another country if feasible. Historically, Americans residing abroad have typically been motivated by employment, familial ties, education, or retirement, with older and wealthier individuals constituting the majority. However, an increasing number of younger Americans are now considering permanent relocation.

A survey conducted by Howdy.com revealed that 69% of Generation Z and Millennial Americans perceive other countries as offering a superior quality of life. Many feel entrapped by remaining in the US and question its status as a global leader, with a significant portion indicating a desire to leave the country permanently.

Financial advisor Alex Ingrim, based in Florence, Italy, noted that economic factors also play a significant role in this trend. He cited the more affordable cost of living in certain European countries, compared to many US cities, as a major factor influencing relocation decisions. Additionally, many from marginalized groups, such as LGBTQ+ communities and minorities, express feelings of vulnerability in the US and seek a sense of belonging elsewhere.

Ingrim observed, "What you can afford and experience daily, even if you are retired, is better than most medium-sized cities in the US." The search for quality of life, coupled with economic viability, has been a compelling aspect for many Americans contemplating life abroad.

While upcoming elections might seem to spark relocation discussions, Ingrim warns against simplifying such significant life decisions as reactions to political outcomes alone. He noted that members of Generation Z and Millennials are divided, with some indicating a desire to leave if certain politicians are elected.

This shift has become a subject of discussion among American expatriates, with many sharing experiences of settling into new cultures and communities.

Though the motivations for relocating vary widely among individuals, the overall trend underscores a significant cultural shift. Where relocation abroad once might have been seen as a pursuit of adventure or growth, more Americans now view it as a necessary escape from domestic challenges, underscoring the complex landscape of contemporary American life.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

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* <https://fortune.com/2024/08/03/americans-moving-italy-spain-cameroon-politics/> - Corroborates the influence of political polarization on Americans' decisions to move abroad, citing examples of individuals relocating to Italy, Spain, and Cameroon.
* <https://fortune.com/2024/08/03/americans-moving-italy-spain-cameroon-politics/> - Highlights economic and lifestyle factors, including the search for better healthcare and living standards, as reasons for relocation.
* <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2024/07/07/americans-moving-abroad-politics/74286772007/> - Discusses the role of remote work in making international relocation easier and more appealing to Americans.
* <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2024/07/07/americans-moving-abroad-politics/74286772007/> - Mentions the increasing number of younger Americans considering permanent relocation abroad, contrasting with historical trends.
* <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2020/11/13/america-is-exceptional-in-the-nature-of-its-political-divide/> - Provides context on the deepening political divisions in the US, which contribute to the desire of some Americans to relocate abroad.
* <https://fortune.com/2024/08/03/americans-moving-italy-spain-cameroon-politics/> - Details the experiences of Americans from marginalized groups seeking a sense of belonging and safety abroad due to feelings of vulnerability in the US.
* <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2024/07/07/americans-moving-abroad-politics/74286772007/> - Supports the idea that economic factors, such as the cost of living, are significant in the decision to relocate to countries like Canada, Mexico, or Europe.
* <https://fortune.com/2024/08/03/americans-moving-italy-spain-cameroon-politics/> - Highlights the complexity of motivations, including political, economic, and lifestyle considerations, among Americans relocating abroad.
* <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2024/07/07/americans-moving-abroad-politics/74286772007/> - Discusses the growing trend of Americans seeking dual citizenship or residency abroad as a contingency plan due to political uncertainty.