

21 November 2016



## **Is it a good time to move to Canada?**

Since the crash of the Canadian Immigration Service website last week, Canada has shot to the forefront of the news as a surge of hopeful emigrants, largely from America, have rushed to the website in the wake of the US presidential election, most likely in attempts to escape their new commander-in-chief.

Back across the pond, Canada remains a popular relocation destination for us Brits, with over half a million already settled and further 10,000 p/a following their compatriots and choosing the land of the maple leaf as their new home.

### **So why are so many Brits choosing to move to Canada?**

#### **Housing**

Whilst housing prices in Canada continue to rise in cities such as Toronto, the capital Ottawa boasts bargains galore; with large family dream homes costing as little as a third of the price in comparable cities globally. With a five bedroom house selling over a million in London, it's no surprise that Brits are ready to pack their bags and purchase a Canadian home for as little as £270K, a price that back in the UK capital would get you a 2 bed end of terrace maisonette.

#### **Health Care**

Another reason to why so many Brits have chosen Canada is the maple state's Universal Health Care, similar to our much maligned NHS. This federally funded system annually saves emigrants thousands of pounds in health insurance premiums that would be encountered if they were to move to Canada's southerly neighbour. One must note, however, that emigrants do not automatically qualify for coverage until they have gained full citizenship or residency.

#### **Economic Situation**

Even though Canada is currently experiencing a small patch of economic turmoil, the long term economic picture of Canada remains stronger than that of the UK, due largely to the uncertainty Brexit provides for Britain - making it a great time to make the leap to a new life in Canada. Furthermore, a major financial benefit enjoyed by those who do decide to move is the considerable average wage increase, \$49,000 (£29,341), £4,000 higher than the average earning in the UK; thus making Canada an attraction destination for the brits.

Overall, Canada is an up-and-coming emigration destination with excellent healthcare, great salaries, affordable housing and some of the most stunning scenery in the world.

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## **Brits show solidarity with the French through continued support in the French property market.**

Determined not to let recent attacks in Nice and Paris affect them, and with the exit from the EU yet to be negotiated, France is still as popular as ever with Brits continuing to look to buy their French property.

Robin McEwen from Foremost Property Group, one of the most established overseas property websites, said "Property enquiries were initially hit after the attacks in Paris in November last year but this was fleeting and the property market quickly recovered. We expect the same to happen after the recent events in Nice. In fact in the last week we are experiencing a boost in enquiries for property in France. Maybe this is a sign of how close these two countries really are, and at a time of need, rather than distance ourselves from France, we are drawn together."

Maybe this shouldn't be so surprising given the British love affair with France. Expats are drawn to the lifestyle, culture, weather, language and food, and when looking at purchasing property often search for renovation projects such as restoring old farmhouses. For many they believe if there are going to be any further attacks (and let's hope that is not the case) then it could happen anywhere so I might as well continue to follow my dream.

So once again our two countries are drawn together and long may it continue. After all for many of us, we have experienced a bit of green envy for our French neighbours and their lifestyle and to still have the chance to have a slice of their lifestyle suits us British down to a tee.

### **Factual Information:**

Proximity to the UK makes France a popular choice for Brits buying property abroad and Foremost Property Group lists around 20,000 French properties on their property portal. Robin McEwen said that the British are particularly attracted to property in the regions of Aquitaine Limousin Poitou-Charentes, Languedoc, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Brittany.

The following properties are receiving a number of views from Brits looking to realise their dream of owning a home in France.

**Property A:** Region: Brittany; Number of bedrooms: 4; Price: £211,000

<http://www.foremostpropertygroup.co.uk/fpg-property/469870>

**Property B:** Region: Aquitaine; Number of bedrooms: 3; Price: £228,000

<http://www.foremostpropertygroup.co.uk/fpg-property/508512/>

**Property C:** Region: Brittany; Number of bedrooms: 3; Price: £117,000

<http://www.foremostpropertygroup.co.uk/fpg-property/507574/>