

The best places to telecommute

Some nice cities to live when working from home



Jeff T. Green / AP

Forbes.com named Sandpoint, Idaho one of the best places to live if you can telecommute to work.

By Rich Karlgaard

Forbes

Updated: 7:15 a.m. ET Aug. 23, 2004

Let's say you perform white-collar work of a kind that doesn't require you to meet with customers or coworkers regularly. Maybe you write software or design promotional brochures. Maybe you manage assets or consult.

Millions of Americans hold such portable jobs in the age of cable modems and Google. So let's further suppose that by choice or by the boot of your (former) employer, you suddenly have the option of working anywhere. Where would you go? (No, you can't pick Aspen, Jackson Hole, Martha's Vineyard, Lake Tahoe, or Maui. They're way too expensive.)

Personally, I would head out to where I could do my best thinking, yet not become so isolated that I would go crazy.

I would want reliable high-band Internet connections, nice weather of the western sunny and dry type, infinite hiking trails, a small airport close by with a mechanic named Ace or Wolfgang who knew every inch and hum of my airplane, spicy Mexican food and ice-cold beer with lime wedges, something like a graduate school for Swedish masseuses where I might lend my body in the cause of scientific advancement, and a church where I could repent.

Anyway, that's my idea of telecommuting heaven. What's yours?

This report was adapted from Life 2.0: How People Across America Are Transforming Their Lives by Finding the Where of Their Happiness by Rich Karlgaard.

URL: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5773408/>

Telecommuting Heavens

Sandpoint, Idaho

City Population: 6,835

Metro Population: 32,000

House Price: \$287,000

© Corbis

Sandpoint's natural beauty inspires artists and laypeople alike. Mountains, lush valleys, and crystal-clear Lake Pend Oreille, the largest lake in Idaho, dominate the vistas. Throw a line in the water or hit a few balls at the Hidden Lakes or Elks golf courses. In the winter, you can shush down the slopes at the Schweitzer Ski Basin, a large employer in the region. Retailer Coldwater Creek and specialty food maker Litehouse also employ a large number of locals.

Telecommuting heavens are places where people can do their best thinking, but not become so isolated that they would go crazy. They are places that provide reliable high-band Internet connections, nice weather, infinite hiking trails and a small airport close by. [Read more.](#)

City	Metro population	House price
● Albuquerque, N.M.	449,000	\$255,000
● Bend, Ore.	52,000*	\$381,000
● Branson, Mo.	7,000	\$212,000
● Burlington, Vt.	39,000	\$348,000
● Durango, Colo.	14,000	\$273,000
● Hilton Head, S.C.	34,000	\$312,000
● Hot Springs, Ark.	36,000*	\$232,000
● Moab, Utah	5,000*	\$364,000
● Sandpoint, Idaho	32,000	\$287,000
● Sedona, Ariz.	10,000*	\$499,000

*City population

**Since this description was written, Punta Gorda suffered severe devastation from Hurricane Charley, which struck Florida Aug. 13.

Source: Rich Keenan, [Forbes.com](#)

● [Print this](#)