

Discover the Way to the Perfect Second Home

The largest numbers of second homes are in states with large populations. The greatest percentage of second homes is in smaller and less populous states. The most popular locations for second homes are near bodies of water and mountains and second home buyers prefer rural settings to those more urban. Second homes are everywhere. Among the 359,000 second homes sold last year, second homes were found in every state and in every region.

Tips for Finding a Perfect Second Home

✿ **Define your lifestyle interests.** “It’s well known that people who buy second homes are primarily looking at areas that have to do with their recreational interests. So ask yourself ‘What is it that I like to do?’ Some of it is subconscious. It might not be something they are aware of so they have to define what the appropriate type of place they’d like to be is.”

✿ **Before you buy, rent in the area for a season.** See how often you actually manage to get to your vacation home.

✿ **Research locations.** “Okay, you’ve defined your lifestyle but what about affordability, climate, population and all those other issues? Check with the local chamber of commerce, use the Internet, and use Escape Homes to find out more about a community.

✿ **Make inquiries with locals.** “Go knock on neighbors doors to find out what it’s like. You need community details often available only from the residents.”

✿ **Contact a real estate professional.** You can reach me by phone, 800-529-1144, or e-mail, lowell@lowellcain.com. A real estate professional is your eyes and ears in distance places. “You can do a lot of things without a real estate agent, but there is a point when that picture you saw and that virtual tour isn’t enough. I can highlight areas of interest. You have to rely upon someone who knows the area.”

✿ **Visit destinations.** “Most people will visit a destination two or three times before they purchase. The thing is most people buy a second home have in the back of their minds that the property will be their primary residence at some time. Are you really sure this is where you will want to live?”

✿ **Enjoy the process.** “This isn’t your primary residence and everything doesn’t have to be perfect. Have a little fun with it.

