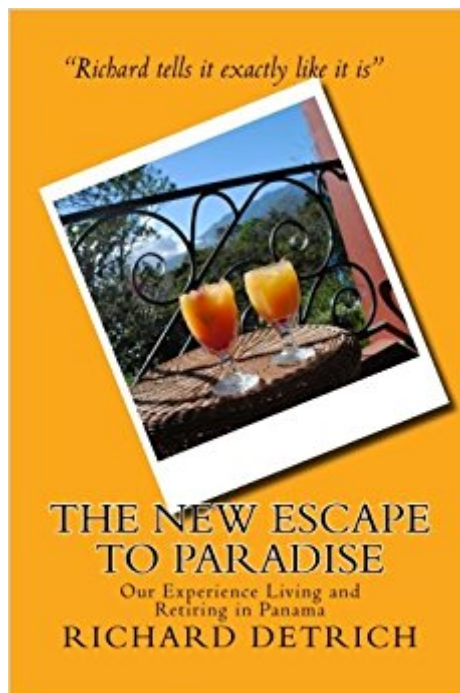




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The NEW Escape To Paradise: Our Experience Living & Retiring In Panama



Synopsis

Thinking of escaping to an expat lifestyle? Wonder why many people are choosing to escape to Panama? Is Panama for you? What is it like to actually live in this tropical paradise? Richard Detrich retired to Panama from Southern California eleven years ago. Like a good friend, he gives you the straight scoop on expat life in Panama. Here's insider information you need to know about the cost and quality of health care, personal safety, and the cost of living. Discover how you can live better for less. Learn how you sort through countries, and discover what you want in your new home. THE NEW ESCAPE TO PARADISE is a refreshing escape from the superficial, "blue sky" travelogues hyping life in Panama. UPDATED 2015 Version! Richard goes the extra mile to try to give you realistic and current information. Chapters on "Finding Paradise," "Running The Numbers," and "Due Diligence," guide you along the way. What are the differences in Panamanian law that can trip you up? Here's how you can avoid costly mistakes. Can you take your pets? Learn "What People Won't Tell You . . . And Can't Tell You." Detrich shows you both the good and frustrating aspects life in a different culture. Here are "Things to Like and Things Not to Like" about Panama. Bob Little says, "Richard tells it like it really is, with no personal axes to grind. He answers are to questions that the other literature I read failed to ask much less answer! Far from lofty or detached, it's like you're both sitting at the breakfast table sharing conversation with a little wit here and an off hand comment there. None of it is a waste, but a nice, easy way to give the information YOU'RE interested in!" Harry Kooiman says, "Entertaining, informative, and a quick read. Once I started reading it, I found it difficult to put down." Detrich is still in love with Panama, his paradise and place to grow. Is Panama the paradise for you? Allison Guinn says, "THE NEW ESCAPE TO PARADISE is a must read for anyone thinking/dreaming about retiring in Panama."

Book Information

Paperback: 396 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (January 21, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1492868418

ISBN-13: 978-1492868415

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 43 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,063,814 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in [Books > Travel > Central America > Panama](#) #103 in [Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Senior Travel](#)

Customer Reviews

Richard Detrich [AB, MDiv, MBA, PhD] enjoyed a varied career as a pastor and business man before retiring from Southern California to Panama, where he lives with his wife and dogs in Boquete, Panama. Richard lectures on ships around the world including the ships of Holland America, Princess, Crystal, Silversea, and Celebrity. Detrich is the author of PANAMA CANAL DAY: AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO CRUISING THE PANAMA CANAL.

A fun read for general info on Panama. The Cliff's Notes version (if there was one) would be around 150 pages. He occasionally gets up on his soapbox and preaches about all God's creatures, how happy we should all be to still be alive, etc. You may want to just skip over that. A good general layout of the country with an emphasis on the western mountainous area, where he lives. Also, a bit surprising that he devotes a whole chapter to coffee. Maybe part of the Cliff Notes editing out? One last critical comment and then I'll opine on what I believe is the best part. He includes some maps of Panama, copy paste from somewhere. The one showing topographical features is virtually unreadable, too much detail shrunk down. The other full country map is OK. An easy improvement would be to reference the areas that he is talking about in the text (i.e. Boquete and Coronado) to locations on the map. Not currently done. Work on that one during your next lecture cruise (which he drones on about occasionally). Now for the best part of this 400+ page somewhat pricey book...a real diversified well thought out 14 day itinerary for first time visitors...Canal, beaches, mountains, and islands. But you can probably get the same or similar from Traveladvisor or Frommers on line.

I agree with the reviewer that found it had a preachy, lecturing tone. In some cases it appeared to be "instructing readers" on exactly what to do. It did have some interesting insights if you were able to get all the way through it. The problem is the information was so scattered that it is hard to find the pertinent information later. It seemed as though it was "stream of consciousness" writing from the author's personal experiences and while it was sometimes interesting; it is not a very helpful resource for future reference. Another point of irritation were the numerous typos etc. that should have been corrected in editing.

(Purchased both paperback & Kindle version but ended up reading the Kindle) While considering options for retirement, Panama seemed to have many of the qualities we are looking for. This book did a good job of sharing one person's perspective of moving to Panama. Although some people complained about the religion, for me, the book was enhanced by knowing more about the author. He also included a fair amount of history, which I considered a good addition. Although the title includes the word "paradise," the author didn't paint a completely rosy picture of moving to Panama. Much depends on what one is looking for and I think he makes that clear. Overall, I enjoyed the book and recommend it for anyone thinking of moving, or even for someone wanting to know more about life in Panama.

I had the good fortune of meeting Richard on a recent partial cruise through the Panama Canal. He is a wealth of useful, down-to-earth information in person, during his onboard presentations and within his new book "The New Escape to Paradise". Thank you Richard for pulling back the curtains to show a much more realistic view of what a successful transition to living in Panama really entails!!

This is the perfect book to read if you are considering a move to Panama or just want to know all about Panama from an insider. After living in Panama for just a few months, this book addressed aspects of life here that I am experiencing or will experience as times goes on, giving me insight as to what to expect. For my friends who live in Panama vicariously through me, I have highly recommended they read this book.

Good read!

For the most part, Detrich tells it like it is; the good, the bad and the ugly. DO NOT move to Panama before reading this book cover to cover. I say "for the most part" because, as an ex-pat living in Panama, I do not think that this book adequately conveys how expensive it is to live here (way more than International Living would lead you to believe); nor does it address the water rationing we're currently experiencing in Coronado. I also disagree with Detrich's contention that all Panamanians welcome Americans. There are two million Panamanians; it's not reasonable to believe that every one of them welcomes Americans. I have met many friendly and welcoming Panamanians but I have also met those who are almost hostile. Some of the information in this book is out-dated. As an example, there are in fact gangs now and there is violence in which innocent people have been hurt

and even killed. If you are considering relocating to another country, read every book you can get your hands on. If you are considering retiring abroad, read everything you can find. If you are specifically considering Panama, do not take any irreversible steps until you've read this and G. Roebucks "Moving to Panama? Not for Me." After you've done all of that, and visited potential countries, think again. And again. And, as Detrich writes, however much you think it will cost to move, double or triple that. And I can tell you that, unless you want to live in a hovel and eat all of your meals at home, triple your estimated budget. Then think again. Retiring to Panama is not for the faint-of-heart.

Great, comprehensive guide for people considering relocating to Panama.

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