

## **Do the locals resent you in Panama?**

Written by T. Rob Brown (aka Roberto Chocolate)

Tuesday, 06 July 2010 03:14 - Last Updated Tuesday, 06 July 2010 03:44

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Here is a question (s) that came in today.

***Hi Roberto,***

***We are also Ontarians and about 10 - 15 years away from retirement. Like you we would like to escape the Ontario winters and Panama sounds very good indeed.☺***

***Given the obvious disparity between the income levels of the foreign retirees and the locals, is there any resentment developing or manifesting amongst the locals towards the foreigners?***

***We have read that Panama is very popular with American retirees. What is the proportion of non-American retirees? We have a strong preference for a more Euro-centric/Canadian-centric sensibilities and world-view.***

***I presume from reading your article, you are now living full-time in Panama and not bothering with maintaining your OHIP coverage. Does that mean that medical costs are cheap enough to afford private health-care?***

***Regards,  
Paul***

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Dear Paul,

10 - 15 years away? Wows - that's great planning. I didn't start planning until about a year after I moved down here. LOL

Questions:

1) Yes we are full time. Medical - as a Pensionado (any age is eligible) you get discounts off doctors visits and prescriptions. Medical insurance is about \$600 per person according to a real estate agent I spoke to today - I am investigating now - and getting quotes of \$3,000 a year - so stay tuned. Note on my site the \$2 tourist insurance (\$20,000 coverage) Good for 30 days.

2) 30,000 Americans left when they turned the canal over in December 31, 1999. Over 1/3 of all real estate transaction in Latin America in 2008 and 2009 were made by Canadians. Almost all buyers I have met this past year have been Canadians, with a few Europeans. Coronado and Boquete have more Americans than any other expat group. Every other area is either a mixture or a majority of Canadians- hey - I warned them - if you didn't spray, the Canadians will spread - and we have!

3) What I like best about Panama is that Panamanians really want us here - they have worked alongside Americans for over a hundred years, and with the canal, they have had more international visitors than almost any other country. They like Canadians down here.

There is none of the resentment I have felt other places. These people smile and if you try - even a little Spanish, they will help you.

We have made friends with a number of people here - and they are helping us learn Spanish and learn their culture.

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