

10 Most Peaceful Places to Live on Earth

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Where would you be the safest if World War 3 broke out tomorrow? Perhaps it's a grim subject, but safety and distance from world conflict can be a motivating factor in your choice to expatriate. At the very least, conflict around the world can weigh heavy on the soul, and it's nice to know there are some places still left in the world where you might be left in peace. The Washington Times recently featured an article that caught my attention. It was a report on a study of the most peaceful countries in the world.

According to the Institute for Economics and Peace that rated the relative tranquility of 144 nations according to 23 indicators — including gun sales, the number of homicides, the size of the military, the potential for terrorism and the number of people in jail. The index defined peace as "the absence of violence," and so far, things are a little dicey. Violence and instability have increased, respect for human rights has decreased. The researchers also calculated that the world's nations have collectively lost close to \$8 trillion due to the complications of widespread violence.

So, what is the most peaceful country on Earth? Well, it's not Britain and it's certainly not the USA (which places 83rd). It is New Zealand. Yes, the land of Hobbits and Kiwis is officially the most peaceful country in the world. Not only does New Zealand have all the benefits of an English speaking country, it's also incredibly beautiful with an open society. And they don't spend a lot of energy trying to kill each other.

Here a list of the 10 most peaceful places to live on earth if you want to escape world conflict.

1. New Zealand



New Zealand might be the most isolated and expansive fully developed nation in the world. It shares no borders, sits relatively distant from any other nation, has no real national enemies, has a safe democracy and a diverse landscape with many remote places to hide away within. Furthermore, it ranked #1 on the Global Peace Index in 2009.

2. Bhutan



Landlocked among the Himalaya mountains, Bhutan is one of the most isolated nations in the world. It also showcases one of the most stable balances in the world between modernization and retention of ancient culture. Its religious population believes in peaceful resolution to all conflict, and although it sits in a troubled region, it remains protected by its geography.

3. Iceland

Iceland, of course, has no borders, has remote locations, is stable as a country and has virtually no world enemies. Its people are happy and the nation always ranks highly on the Global Peace Index. If world conflict erupts, Iceland is one of the few stable nations in the world unlikely to get caught up in the middle.

4. Tuvalu



Isolated in the middle of Micronesia, Tuvalu is among the safest and most remote places in the world. It is the third least populated country on Earth, and the fourth smallest. There are only a few places more distant from the world's strife than Tuvalu.

5. Finland



Finland has a long history of desiring to stay out of international conflicts, is recognized as neutral and always ranks in the top 10 of the Global Peace Index. It's northerly location also typically means the remote areas of this country are a perfect place to disappear.

6. Seychelles



Aside from being safely isolated from the rest of the world in the middle of the Indian Ocean, this beautiful island nation is a great place to forget about your worries. Isolation is the key here. And conflict is as transparent as the water.

7. Canada



Canada is the second largest nation in the world, yet it only shares a land border with one other country - the U.S.A. - and it is a peaceful border. That means there is a great expanse to escape to, if need be. Furthermore, Canada has few world enemies, ranks consistently high on the Global Peace Index, and is relatively homogeneous.

8. Papua New Guinea



There are regions of Papua New Guinea that are still being discovered for the first time. The canopy covered, mountainous nation contains some of the most isolated places in the world. Tuck yourself away in a nook here and it may be one of the few places left where you can completely insulate yourself from the outside world.

9. Costa Rica



Costa Rica has a stable democracy, a disbanded military and a national policy of neutrality. It also ranks highly on the Global Peace Index, Happy Planet Index, and Life Satisfaction Index. Although it sits in the middle of a tumultuous region, there are far worse places to sit in peace as the world goes down in flames all around.

10. Switzerland



Switzerland's long history of neutrality and its tucked away location among the valleys of the Alps still make it a safe bet, even despite having a high number of bordering nations. It helps that neighboring Austria is also considered a neutral nation.