

# 2008 BEST CITIES

## Best Cities to Live, Work and Play

These ten great places will only get better.  
From *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine, July 2008

**Our approach this year to picking the ten best cities in which to live and work was simple: Look for places with strong economies and abundant jobs, then demand reasonable living costs and plenty of fun things to do.** When we ran the numbers, some of the names that popped up made us do a double take at first. So we hit the road to meet movers, shakers and regular folks, experience the ambience and take in the sights.

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We discovered that our numbers guru, Kevin Stolarick, hadn't steered us wrong. Stolarick, research director at the Martin Prosperity Institute, a think tank that studies economic prosperity, says: "Our formula highlights cities not just with strong past performance, but also with all the ingredients for future success." One key to a bright future is a healthy shot of people in the creative class. People in creative fields -- scientists, engineers, architects, educators, writers, artists and entertainers -- are catalysts of vitality and livability in a city.

The cities that made our list also represent larger surrounding areas. And because we understand that city living isn't for everyone, we've highlighted some great suburbs, too.

Pack a bag and join us on a tour of the Best Cities for 2008 and prepare for some surprises.

**No. 1: Houston**

**No. 2: Raleigh**

**No. 3: Omaha**

**No. 4: Boise**

**No. 5: Colorado Springs**

**No. 6: Austin**

**No. 7: Fayetteville**

**No. 8: Sacramento**

**No. 9: Des Moines**

**No. 10: Provo**

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**Courtesy of JB Goodwin**