

World's Best ISLANDS[®] to Live On

ANNUAL
DREAM
LIFE
SPECIAL
P. 34

EXPERTS

► Not only does Cheryl own the public-relations agency that represents Nevis, the Floridian has owned a home on the tiny Caribbean island since 2002. Her professional and personal perspective were a great resource for the "Best Islands to Live On" list. "Nevis is simple yet sophisticated," she says. "There are no traffic lights or casinos but a number of terrific restaurants, hikes and beaches. Nevis knows what it is. The island doesn't want mass tourism, only people who appreciate quality, peace and quiet." Cheryl had no shortage of expats to recommend for interviews. "I could point to a wide spectrum from different backgrounds. The people of Nevis — both locals and expats — are my favorite part of the island."

Cheryl Andrews

NEVIS PUBLIC RELATIONS
Nevis: Quaint Caribbean
p. 40



> Nevis

FOR THE QUIANT, LAID-BACK CARIBBEAN LIFESTYLE

► **Why Nevis?** Some folks come to the Caribbean for the excitement — the pounding kettle drums, the ebullient carnivals and the rum-soaked beach parties. If peace and quiet is your thing, take a look at Nevis, a quaint outpost about 200 miles southeast of Puerto Rico. Unlike some of its Caribbean brethren, Nevis is short on drama and long on simple pleasures. If lying on the beach somehow gets old, you might climb the island's (safely extinct) volcano, poke around the rainforest or explore the ruins of British-era plantations — all peacefully.

► **Life of an Expat:** “The beginning of this goes back to when Barbara and I spent our honeymoon in Nassau and we liked the temperature,” says Ted Cox. Ted, a retired architect from Connecticut, and his wife are in their fourth decade as residents of Nevis. His journey from fair-weather honeymooner to expat elder statesman wound through much of the Caribbean.

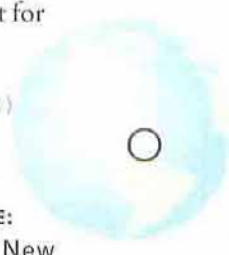
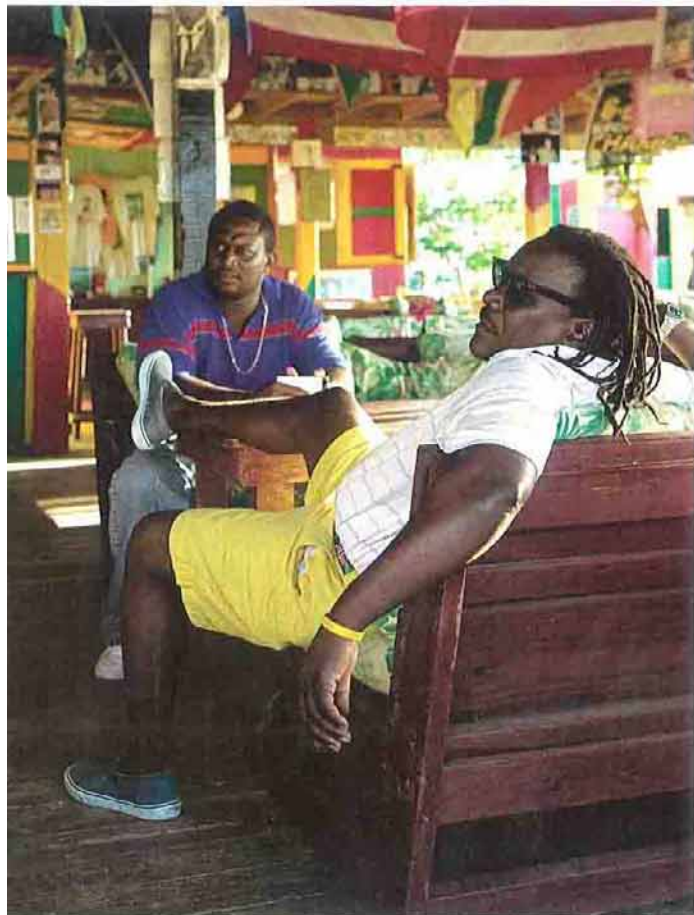
“We used to take vacations every year with our two children, starting in Puerto Rico, Antigua, Montserrat and St. Croix,” Ted says. The couple nearly bought property in Montserrat but reconsidered at the last minute. “The following year, that would be 1970,” he recalls, “we came to Nevis.”

On the advice of a fellow expat, the Coxes snapped up four acres — an unusually large plot for an outsider — with sea views stretching to the western horizon. But that was just the beginning of the couple's resettlement. “We brought in electric service,” Ted says. “And in those days telephone was almost unheard of; you had to go to town to make a telephone call. But we brought the utilities in and tapped into the waterline. And then we started building a house — slowly. The words ‘schedule’ and ‘completion date’ don't exist here. The Nevitians live to be 120, and they just can't understand why we knock ourselves out trying to do things on time. But after a while, you begin to think they have a point.”

The couple's two-bedroom home, designed by Ted and later supplemented by an adjacent guesthouse, was finally finished in the late '70s. In 1988, the couple moved to the island full time. Ted promptly launched a second career as a farmer. “I went seriously into pineapples,” he says. “I had something like 1,400 plants.” Nowadays, he raises bananas, citrus and coffee, primarily to stock the couple's kitchen. For fun, there's the beach, golf and a low-key social life. “Leaving the United States — that's a major change whether you're retiring or not,” Ted says. “But for me, everything worked out fine. I have no regrets at all.”



► **FACTS OF LIFE** ► **CLIMATE:** Tropical ► **POPULATION OF ISLAND:** 12,000 ► **PERCENTAGE EXPATS:** 5% ► **POPULATION OF MAIN TOWN:** Charlestown, 2,000 ► **HOUSE STARTING PRICE:** \$200s ► **TRAVEL FROM U.S.:** Nonstop flights from Miami, New York, Charlotte and Atlanta to St. Kitts; then take a 45-minute ferry ride over to Nevis. ► **CLOSEST HOSPITAL:** Charlestown ► **PRICE OF LOCAL BEER:** \$2 for Carib ► **LANGUAGES SPOKEN:** English ► **EASE OF IMMIGRATION:** Easy with the economic citizenship program ► **EASE OF BUYING A HOME:** Easy with that program ► **WEBSITES:** nevisisland.com; oualirealty.com





> Your New Home

[\$] Three-bedroom home has views of Mount Nevis. \$300,000

[\$\$] Three-bedroom home has a kitchen that opens up to a veranda and swimming pool. \$550,000

[\$\$\$] Three-bedroom home decorated with Nevis artwork on 2.5 hillside acres has stunning views of the Caribbean and Montserrat. The pool area has a dining pavilion. \$3.5 million