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Broaden Your World With Travel Nursing

By Rita Henry

How would you like a career that allows you to spend January soaking up the sun at the beach in

Miami, hitting the slopes at Vail in March and set sail in July for a month-long cruise of the Alaskan coast? Are you looking for variety in your life as well as your job? Are you happiest when you're immersed in new adventures? Are you a nurse, or thinking of becoming one? Then you just may find that travel nursing is the ideal career choice for you.

Travel nursing is the hottest trend to hit the profession in years. The nursing shortage has hit the nation hard, forcing medical facilities to get creative to fill positions in their staff rosters. For many of them, the real challenge is in finding a nurse who can take on a temporary position to fill in for a valued worker on medical or maternity leave, or to help set up a new clinic. What do you do when there are barely enough local nurses to fill the permanent positions? For many hospitals, the solution is turning to a staffing agency that places travel nurses – which are credentialed nurses who are willing to relocate for periods ranging from a month to a year.

If just the travel is sounding good to you, take a look at the rest of the package. Here's what traveling nursing professionals can expect when they sign up with a placement agency that specializes in travel nursing.

– Generous pay scale

The hourly rate for travel nursing assignments varies from locale to locale, but you can expect \$24–\$48 hourly rates with a guarantee of 36–40 hours per week.

– Housing provided

Most agencies will provide you with a free one bedroom private apartment, with basic utilities paid for the length of your stay in the assignment. All the arrangements will be made for you before you arrive. If you choose to live in an apartment that you find yourself, the placement agency will add a generous housing allowance to your pay package. In most cases, your only residence expenses will be for things like telephone and cable television.

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– Health and Dental insurance

In most cases, your health and dental insurance package will be completely paid for by the placement agency. Many also include basic life insurance.

– Free travel

Your travel expenses will be paid or reimbursed - in most cases tax-free.

– Varied assignments all over the country

There are thousands of medical facilities around the country that regularly employ travel nurses for their nursing needs. Most assignments run from 13 to 26 weeks, and many can be extended for more

than one assignment period. You'll work with the placement agency to choose where you want to work and the kind of work you want to do. From small-town and rural settings to the glittering lights of the big city, from chronic care retirement communities to the most renowned research facilities in the world, you'll have your choice of workplaces and specialties.

– Flexible Schedule

Since you choose your assignments, you always have the flexibility to take some time off, or schedule an assignment close to home if you want some family time. The medical world has always depended on temp staffing to help fill slots. Travel nursing is the logical extension. You can work three months and take three months off, or choose to stay in one city for a year or more. The choice is ultimately up to you.

– Career Advancement

Travel nursing offers almost unlimited opportunities to expand your resume and add to your professional experience. Spend six months working in a major teaching hospital while attending classes in surgical nursing (paid for by the agency, of course!), then bolster that with three months on the pediatric rotation at a busy trauma center. You can take on assignments in a rural setting where you'll handle nearly all routine health care, or choose maternity in a hospital that offers the latest in alternative birthing methods to move you on your way toward a nurse midwife's degree.

Travel nursing may be the best way to expand your professional experiences—and your personal ones as well. If you think that you have what it takes to travel the country practicing your profession, what are you waiting for? The world is waiting for you!

Rita Henry is a contributing editor for Nursing Job Finder, the leading job and resource site for the Nursing Industry. Interested in receiving only the hottest Nursing job listings weekly for free? To learn more visit

<http://www.nursing-job-finder.com>

What You Should Look For In A Nursing Home

By Jeanette Pollock

There are a lot of nursing homes operating in the United States today.

Their businesses, fuelled by America's hectic way of life, have prospered and now cater to a lot of people.

However, people still keep looking for nursing homes. Why, you ask? Because people just do not get any younger.

People get older all the time. That is one fact of life that we cannot deny.

Population keeps growing all the time. That is another fact that we cannot deny.

Put together, these two facts make up another undeniable fact: More people get older all the time.

And so, nursing homes can expect a continual rise in popularity as time goes by.

With the number of nursing homes out there, you can expect that the qualities of these nursing homes also vary.

What should one look for in a good nursing home?

Here are some qualities you need to look at in order to get a good nursing home:

1. Legality –a nursing home should, of course, be licensed to legally operate by the government. This means that the nursing home has passed certain requirements and has fulfilled certain specifications ordered by the government.

Although this may not necessarily assure you of a nursing home's quality, it does assure you that someone has approved of its operation.

2. Administration –of course, the next step is to check out the people who will actually take care of your elderly. No matter how beautiful the premises, if the people are ineffective, your elderly will be miserable.

We have all seen movies of nursing homes with abusive attendants. We know what could go on in dealing with the wrong people. What you need to do is observe the people around you and how they react to the administration.

This observation alone will give you valuable information regarding the administration and the staff.

3. Comfort –after you have examined the nursing home staff, you need to take a look at the premises.

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Do you think that your elderly will be comfortable in this nursing home? Do not judge the nursing home based on your experience. Remember that the elderly are much more sensitive to comfort than you are.

You need to take into every little detail and see if that alters the nursing home's comfort value.

4. Safety –a nursing home should, of course, be safe for the elderly. You should be assured that the nursing home has every precaution against any accident that might happen.

See if proper measures have been taken and precautionary devices installed in order to prevent accidents or incidents.

After all, you do pay them to take care of your elderly.

5. Food –the basic need of people. The food served in the nursing home should be edible. If you don't like the look of the food, how much more can you trust the nursing home to provide your elderly with the little things that matter?

The food should be edible not only to the elderly but also to you. You need to make sure that the nursing home takes the specific needs of each person in preparing the food.

6. Medical services – the nursing home should contain, or at least have quick access, to emergency medical services.

You need to be assured that should something untoward happen, your elderly will have the best care possible.

Jeanette Pollock is a freelance author and website owner of

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. Visit

Jeanette's site to learn more about nursing homes.



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