

# The Great Escape

## A Strategy For Personal & Financial Survival

Whether you're an optimist or a pessimist, I think you'll agree that the global economic turmoil that became publicly visible in 2008 is far from over. And while various media pundits and gung-ho politicians are keen to push the "green shoots" theory - that the worst is over and life will soon be back to normal - serious observers of the economic crisis are nowhere near as certain. In fact, many are saying the recession we've had so far is just a *prelude* to the coming **Greatest Depression**.

Once such respected commentator - **Doug Casey** of contrarian investing fame - has neatly summed up the dangers and opportunities ahead in this timely [essay](#). The fact is, it would be imprudent to ignore the warnings provided by the **fundamentals** of the present economic situation.

The **bubble** economy that has grown over recent decades has led to severe systemic risks caused by over-leverage in the financial sector, over-indebtedness of ordinary people as well as organisations, budget blow-outs by all major nations, insolvent banks, company failures, job losses and real estate value decline. All of this has caused people to stop spending and start saving - further shaking the economic **debt** foundation of the consumption-driven economy.

The root cause of all this is not "greedy" bankers, or lack of government **regulation** - rather the manipulation of the money supply by state agencies or state *legislated* monopolies which have kept the cost of borrowing artificially low. The cost of money (interest) should be a function of the **market**, but under our "enlightened" central bank policies these have been kept low in order to stimulate economic activity. Trouble is, such stimulation is like a **drug**. The more you take, the more you need. And in the end you reach a crisis where the only option is to **stop** taking the drug! And in economic terms that means stopping the debt-based bubble economy.

Such "withdrawal" symptoms will cause much **pain** no doubt, but it's necessary to flush the debt out of the system and begin anew - whether slowly, as governments attempt to limit the damage, or more rapidly if the market were allowed to function properly.

What sort of pain? Well, take the USA as an example (although this equally applies to any major developed nation). The US government, via its *Treasury* department and the *Federal Reserve*, has pumped billions of dollars into the economy in order to prevent deflation and in an attempt to ward off the worst excesses of the recession. Trouble is, these dollars are not **capital** (savings) but effectively newly "printed" currency. In other words, the US government is attempting to **inflate** its way out of trouble.

This is a recipe for **devaluation** of the US dollar - as increasing the supply of them against a background of shrinking production and consumption can only lead to **inflation** down the

track. Devaluation of the dollar is just another word for the devaluation of your **wealth** - should it be denominated in USD. And while your wealth is diminishing your cost of living is rising - due to the increased cost of imports brought about by a devalued dollar. This “pain” will be felt across the board by most Americans - as well as Europeans, Canadians and Australians etc.

The question you need to answer is how best to **survive** such a situation - with your life, assets and money intact?

If you're talking about **money** only, then it's not that difficult to protect yourself - by investing in **gold bullion** and well-chosen **gold mining stocks** - both of which are a **hedge** against a falling dollar and reduced living standards. For more on gold *safe-haven* and *investing* options you should download my **free** report - [In Gold We Trust](#).

If you haven't already, then you should also open an **offshore bank account** as a way of securing your cash against any attempt at seizure or devaluation due to the currency you are holding. A good offshore bank account provides a way to protect the value of your money (relatively) by allowing you to choose the **currency** you keep it in. For detailed information on my personal recommendations regarding opening an offshore account see my report - [The Ideal Offshore Bank Account](#).

A third essential strategy should be to secure any domestic **assets** using an offshore trust or corporation. I recommend [APGI](#) for setting up such structures and know you will get good advice and service. And for a complete and comprehensive offshore strategy - including banking, asset protection and investing - you should definitely join my private club [SovereignLife](#). And if you are seeking professional assistance in your planning and would benefit from a **personal consultation** then click [here](#).

But what about **you** and your **family**? What happens if things get ugly on the **domestic** front - which they certainly may do if or when the economic situation deteriorates and a large number of people find themselves without a job, savings - or even a roof over their heads.

This potential scenario requires an **escape** plan. Even if you don't believe you will need to exit your home country any time soon, you should at least be aware of your options - should the need arise. Certainly, the time to do such planning and evaluating is **now**, not when the goose is cooked and the **exit** doors are closed.

Over the last decade I've often been asked about second **citizenships** and **residencies** - as a way of planning for an uncertain future. The fact is, such alternative residences either cost you a lot of **money**, or a lot of **time** - or both. Sure, if have enough money you can escape fairly easily. One example is how **New Zealand** has *reduced* its “economic” residency requirements. All you need now is a paltry NZ\$10 million in hard cash (about US \$6.53 million) and you'll be welcome with open arms! Fact is, most countries will let you in if you have enough money.

But what if you don't have that sort of money available (most people!), or do not have the time to jump through immigration hoops in the hope of finding a country to take you in? More importantly, how can you find another country which you'd even **want** to live in - which would give you the "bolt-hole" and **lifestyle** you are looking for?

Well I have an interesting option for you - and it won't break the bank.

Imagine if you could find a country to live where:

- 🌟 **English** is widely spoken
- 🌟 The **infrastructure** is modern and convenient
- 🌟 The **weather** is balmy all year round
- 🌟 The **cost of living** is a fraction of what you are paying now
- 🌟 You can purchase a good **apartment** for as little as US\$140,000
- 🌟 The **medical** facilities are world class
- 🌟 The **food** is great
- 🌟 The local people are **friendly** and welcoming
- 🌟 You can get a renewable 10 year **residency** visa easily
- 🌟 You can purchase a **car** tax-free
- 🌟 Any overseas-earned income is **tax free**
- 🌟 The annual cost of the residency **permit** is around US\$25

Sounds great, so what's the **catch**?

To qualify for this residency programme you will need to prove financial **ability** - either in the form of a **fixed monthly income** of around US\$2,830, or the willingness to place on **fixed deposit** either US\$42,500 (if you're *over* 50 years old), or US\$85,000 (if you're *under* 50). Figures are approximate due to exchange rate fluctuations.

The good news is after one year you need only leave US\$17,000 on deposit for the duration of your stay. This is money in your **own** bank account, earning interest. The balance of the *original* deposit can be withdrawn and used to purchase a property. Of course if you have a provable sufficient monthly income, then no fixed deposit is required.

So here's a residency programme that costs virtually nothing in fees, which can be accessed by anyone who has a provable monthly **income**, or sufficient **cash** to make a fixed term deposit (your money in your own account).

With this programme you can live in your new country for 10 years, before having to renew. During that time you are also free to start or invest in a local business, or work for up to 20 hours a week locally - if your skills are not available on the local labour market.

And if your source of income is **overseas** (investment income, internet business income, or any form of income earned outside the country in question), then you will not pay income tax in this country. So in that way, it can act as a **tax haven**.

**Please note:** US citizens are taxed on the basis of **residency and citizenship**, so even though you are not living there, you are still legally required to file an income tax return. There is one “loophole” though. If you are a US person living and working overseas, you could qualify for the tax-free allowance which can vary, but is usually around \$80,000 per year. Citizens of most other countries have no income tax obligations if they no longer **live** in their home country.

So what country am I talking about? **Malaysia**.

You can avail yourself of this most desirable second residency option by applying for the [Malaysia My Second Home](#) programme - also known as **MM2H**. You can read up all about it on the official government website from the link above. You can also read some good additional information from this registered [agent](#) website - which is run by an expat English guy.

Why do I recommend this particular residency programme? Because I spend quite a few months in Malaysia each year myself and know what living there is like.

If you like the idea of a fascinating mix of cultures - **Malay, Chinese, Indian** and expat **Westerners** - not to mention the succulent food such an ethnic mix produces (and which Malaysia is famous for) - then Malaysia offers something quite **unique**. Its British history guarantees you won't feel entirely in a “strange” land, as such things as the **law**, the **English** language and the general “feel” of the place are reminders that the British were there previously.

You'll find the low living costs will make your existing income go a lot further - meaning you can live a better life for a lot **less** cash. You'll easily be able to purchase a home - at prices which make the process all the more enjoyable. And you will feel “at home”, as Malaysians are truly friendly people and welcome expats in their midst.

To give you some idea of daily costs, here are some examples (typical conversion rate is US\$1 = RM3.50):

- 🍷 Monthly **water** account: RM5.00 - or around US\$1.40
- 🍷 Monthly **power**: under RM100.00 or around US\$28 (including air conditioning)
- 🍷 Monthly **maintenance** fee for typical 3 bed apartment - RM135-200 or US\$40-\$50
- 🍷 Monthly **rental** for good 3 bedroom apartment - RM2,500 or US\$707
- 🍷 **Meal** at a hawker food market: RM5.00 or around US\$1.40
- 🍷 **Meal** at a good western style restaurant: RM30 or around US\$8.50 (wine extra)
- 🍷 A good quality **shirt** is around RM70 or under US\$20
- 🍷 A loaf of **bread** is about RM4 or just US\$1.13
- 🍷 A carton of **milk** is RM6 or US\$1.70
- 🍷 A bottle of **wine** at the supermarket costs more - US\$10 to \$20 per bottle
- 🍷 A *Tiger* or *Carlsburg* **beer** will cost you RM7 in a hawker market and up to RM12 elsewhere - or between US\$2 and \$3.50

Of course you can live even **cheaper** if you eat “local” most of the time, and do your shopping at open air markets (for fresh vegetables and meats).

You won't have to go without your usual western “pleasures” either. If you love shopping then you'll love Malaysia - especially when it comes to **clothing**. If a great range of imported and exotic **foodstuffs** is important to you, then the supermarkets are well stocked. If you love **travel**, then you'll find the local budget airline [AirAsia](#) offers tempting vacations all over **South East Asia**, as well as the **UK** and **Australia**. And if you need to remain “wired” and in touch, you'll discover Malaysia provides very much a modern communications environment.

You can choose from the big city bustle of **Kuala Lumpur** - the capital - or the more laid back and charming island of **Penang**, or any one of many other places that may take your fancy.

**Bahasa Malay** is the official language, but you'll find that just about everyone you meet also speaks fluent **English**. The mix of ethnic groups means that Malaysians are multi-lingual and typically speak up to **three** languages - Malay the official language, their own native language (like Cantonese, Hokkien, Mandarin, Hindi or Tamil) and English.

Malaysia is officially a **Muslim** country, but freedom of religion (or no religion at all) is freely practiced. Malay women do **not** wear the burkha, but rather colourful clothing and head scarfs only. My experience here, over the last two years, has proven to me that such differences are no barrier when tolerance appears widespread.

Getting in and out of Malaysia is also easy. The country is well-served by its own international airline [Malaysian Airlines](#) - as well as most major airlines with landing rights in Kuala Lumpur. Like **Singapore** (which is only a stone's throw away from Kuala Lumpur), Malaysia is a good **hub** location - providing easy access to both Asia, Oceania, Europe and the Americas.

Malaysia is a great residency option and provides a modern lifestyle at a **discount** price - not to mention being far removed from the major trouble spots of the world.

**To recap:** your **Great Escape** strategy should incorporate offshore banking and asset protection, **real** money investing (gold & silver), and an alternative place to live - should you need it. For more freedom options and strategies see my e-book - [The Freedom Blueprint](#). Also, see the **Essential Resources** page at the end of this report.

Whatever you do, do **not** put off your essential escape planning - not if you want to thrive and survive whatever difficult situations may occur in the near future.

Yours in freedom

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## Essential Resources For Your Escape Plan

To protect and preserve what you already have - your money, your assets and your quality of life - you need to follow a few essential steps. What's important is that you don't dilly-dally, but get started **now**. The worst thing that can happen is that you are aware of potential future scenarios, but fail to prepare for such. So the following resources are places you can get the information and tools you need to be prepared. Take the time to review each of the following links - as I'm quite confident they provide a **key** to a much **freer** future for you and your loved ones.

**Change Your Cash Into Gold:** One of the inevitable consequences of the current economic policy of "quantitative easing", or to put it in plain language the "printing" of money, is that your cash will **lose** value over time. So in order to protect your future purchasing power you need to convert as much of your available cash **savings** as possible into gold and/or silver. The best way to do this is to purchase gold **bullion** coins for home delivery, purchase gold bullion for overseas storage, or purchase gold certificates. The following companies are my personal picks for doing this.

[Kitco](#) - a great resource for locating gold bullion dealers and related information.

[GoldMoney](#) - to purchase gold, silver or platinum for storage overseas.

[BullionVault](#) - to buy and sell gold online, and have it stored overseas.

[Asset Strategies International](#) - to purchase *Perth Mint* Gold Certificates.

**Invest in Gold:** Holding gold bullion instead of cash is the best inflation-proofing strategy, but you can also invest in gold and gain the **leverage** that is possible as the gold price rises. The following links will give you some good options in this area.

[Casey Research](#) - my favourite gold investment advice and information resource.

[New Millennium Gold Rush](#) - a do-it-yourself gold trading strategy.

**Secure Your Funds Offshore:** You must have an **offshore** bank account, as this is your first line of protection when it comes to securing your cash. Not only will this protect what you have from possible government plunder, but it will give you the flexibility of holding cash in preferred **global** currencies.

[The Ideal Offshore Bank Account](#) - my personal recommendations for such accounts.

**Protect Your Assets:** In this litigious society you need to protect what is rightly yours, and the best way possible is to make use of an offshore trust and/or an offshore corporation.

[APGI](#) - my personal recommendation for setting up trusts, corporations and any associated offshore bank accounts. You'll get good advice and service, and if you're a member of **SovereignLife**, you'll also get a good **discount**.

**Professional Help & Assistance:** You need the very best information. You don't have time to wander all over the net looking and hoping to find what you need. When it comes to offshore bank accounts, asset protection, investing, business, personal privacy, and international living options - you need to get it from the "horse's mouth".

[SovereignLife](#) - my private club for serious freedom seekers.

[Personal Consultation](#) - if you need answers to your personal situation fast.