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# Expats

By SARA NELSON

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**MOVING your life to another country is a big commitment - so we are chatting to some of our expats to see if it was worthwhile.**

Our new series of Q&As will also give you a flavour of what it's like to set up home on foreign soil and whether it really is all sun, sea, sand and stonking good fun.

Elle Draper made the break from Southsea in Portsmouth, to Lanzarote in September 2006 - and hasn't looked back since.

The 36-year-old left behind her career in recruitment and sales and now runs a web design business in Playa Blanca.

### Why did you move to Lanzarote?

The stress, humdrum and general state of the UK was just not appealing to us anymore. We were at a point in our lives, where we could make the move and still be young enough to enjoy it.

### What are the main differences between the house and neighbourhood you lived in in the UK and where you live now?

Portsmouth is a very built up area, with many high rise buildings all on top of each other.

Lanzarote is a wilderness in comparison, and has "Biosfera" status bestowed on it by the UN, which means it's tightly governed regarding building laws (mind you, there are still exceptions).

Lanzarote has good summer weather all year round and usually the worst we have here is cloudy days.

In Portsmouth we were just a 10 minute walk from the seafont, which of course was lovely, but not necessarily all year round.



Spot in the sun ... Elle's new home

Now we have a 10 minute stroll, which takes us to a stunning promenade, with a fantastic new marina, and a plethora of restaurants – all of which smell fantastic.

Pricewise, for what we now have, which is a gorgeous villa, we could only have afforded a small apartment in Portsmouth. We have a large garden now, and a private pool – which is something we would never have had where we were.

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is much higher and their children certainly seem to be more polite, respectful, well adjusted, and that's before you mention the number of languages they all pick up.



Expat ... Elle Draper

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