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The Patient AMERICAN'S

guide to Gold and Retirement



*An honest primer on Gold IRAs, tax treatment,
and the questions worth asking before you move
a single dollar of retirement savings.*

RESOURCE · NUMBER TWO

*Prepared by Ariyor S.A.
for the readers of our private dispatch*

EDUCATIONAL · NOT INVESTMENT ADVICE



*“The difference between
a good retirement decision
and a regrettable one
is rarely the asset chosen.
It is, almost always,
the question asked first.”*



*an observation we have
made many times.*

PROLOGUE

Before we begin.

This is not a sales document. Ariyor is not a US-licensed IRA custodian, broker-dealer, or tax advisor. We do not offer Gold IRAs and cannot execute rollovers for US persons. Nothing in this guide is investment, tax, or legal advice. The information here is educational.

We have written it because each year we receive letters from American readers asking the same kinds of questions. Can I move my IRA into gold? Is it really tax-free? What's the catch? The questions are reasonable. The answers, unfortunately, are often presented in marketing language that obscures more than it reveals.

What follows is an honest primer. We do not tell you to buy a Gold IRA. We do not tell you not to. We tell you what one is, how it works, what to ask, and where it can go wrong. Your decision is yours, made with your own counsel, in your own time.

Read it slowly.

Ask better questions afterward.

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Eight chapters, prepared for the patient reader.

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You do not need to read this in one sitting.
Each chapter is written to stand on its own.

CHAPTER *I.*

What a Gold IRA *actually is.*

Stripping away the marketing language to get to the underlying structure.

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sound.

A Gold IRA is a self-directed Individual Retirement Account that holds physical precious metals — most commonly gold, but also silver, platinum, and palladium — instead of, or alongside, stocks and bonds. The mechanics are not as exotic as they

Like any IRA, it is a tax-advantaged retirement vehicle. The difference is in what it holds. A traditional IRA at a brokerage might hold mutual funds and ETFs. A Gold IRA holds bars and coins, stored in an IRS-approved depository on your behalf.

What makes it self-directed.

A self-directed IRA gives the account holder more discretion over what the account holds. Standard IRAs at most brokerages offer a menu of permitted investments — stocks, bonds, mutual funds. Self-directed IRAs allow alternative assets, including precious metals, real estate, and certain private placements.

WORTH KNOWING

Gold IRA is a marketing term. The legal structure is a self-directed IRA holding IRS-approved precious metals.



CHAPTER II.

Tax-deferred is *not tax-free.*

The single most misunderstood phrase in Gold IRA marketing — and what the IRS actually says.

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This is the single most important concept in this guide, and the one most often confused. A traditional Gold IRA rollover is tax-deferred, not tax-free. Read those two phrases carefully. They sound similar; they describe very different things.

Tax-deferred.

Money in a traditional IRA was never taxed on the way in — you took a deduction when you contributed. When you withdraw it in retirement, it is taxed as ordinary income at whatever your bracket is at that time. Moving money between qualified accounts (including into a Gold IRA) is not a taxable event, but the eventual tax bill has been postponed, not eliminated.

Tax-free.

This describes a Roth IRA. Tax was paid upfront on the contribution, so qualified withdrawals after age fifty-nine and a half come out genuinely tax-free. Roth accounts have annual contribution limits and income-based phase-outs that exclude many high earners.

“

If anyone tells you a traditional Gold IRA rollover is tax-free, they are either careless with language or selling something.



CHAPTER III.

The four parties *involved.*

Custodian, depository, dealer, and account holder. Knowing who does what protects you from confusion later.

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A Gold IRA involves four distinct parties. Understanding who does what protects you from confusion later — particularly when fees, responsibilities, and lines of communication get blurred during a rollover.

- I.* The custodian. An IRS-approved trust company that administers the IRA itself. The custodian is the legal owner of the assets on your behalf and handles all reporting to the IRS. You cannot be your own custodian.
- II.* The depository. An IRS-approved facility where the physical metal is stored. The metal cannot be kept at home, in your safe deposit box, or anywhere of your choosing. It must be held by an approved depository.
- III.* The dealer. The firm that sources the actual gold and arranges the transaction. This is typically the company you see advertising. The dealer is who makes the sales pitch; the custodian and depository do the actual work.
- IV.* You, the account holder. You direct the strategy and make the decisions. You do not handle the metal personally. The custodian and depository do.



CHAPTER IV.

What gold qualifies, *and what does not.*

The IRS has specific rules under IRC 408(m). Some commonly-pitched coins do not qualify at all.

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Not just any gold can go into a Gold IRA. The IRS requires specific purity standards and approved forms, governed by Internal Revenue Code section four hundred and eight (m). Most commonly eligible:

- ◆ American Gold Eagle coins — the only exception to the purity rule, grandfathered at 91.67% pure.
- ◆ American Gold Buffalo, Canadian Maple Leaf, Australian Kangaroo, Austrian Philharmonic coins.
- ◆ Gold bars and rounds from approved refiners, minimum 99.5% purity.

What does not qualify.

Collectibles, rare coins, jewelry, and most numismatic items do not qualify for a Gold IRA. Be cautious of dealers who try to upsell you into rare or premium coins for an IRA — this is one of the most common abuses in the industry, where buyers pay thirty to fifty percent over spot price for coins that offer no real advantage.

A SIMPLE TEST

If a dealer is steering you toward coins priced well above the spot price of gold, ask why. Listen carefully to the answer.



CHAPTER V.

Trustee-to-trustee, *and the 60-day trap.*

Two ways to move retirement funds. One is safe. The other has cost retirees their entire savings.

TURN OVERLEAF

T There are two ways to move money from an existing retirement account into a Gold IRA. The difference between them matters more than most people realize.

Trustee-to-trustee transfer.

The funds move directly from one custodian to another. You never touch the money personally. There is no taxable event, no 60-day clock, no withholding. This is the cleanest method, and the one we would recommend to anyone considering a rollover.

Indirect rollover.

The current custodian sends the funds to you, and you have sixty days to deposit them into the new account. If you miss the deadline, the entire amount becomes a taxable distribution — potentially with a ten percent early withdrawal penalty if you are under fifty-nine and a half. Even if you make the deadline, your old custodian may withhold twenty percent for taxes that you have to make up from other funds.

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*Avoid the indirect rollover unless you have a specific reason to use it.
The trustee-to-trustee transfer is safer in every respect.*



CHAPTER VI.

Seven questions *to ask any dealer.*

If a dealer cannot answer these clearly and quickly, that is itself the answer.

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I If you are evaluating a Gold IRA dealer, the questions below are those that, in our experience, separate serious operators from those who do not understand what serious custody requires. We offer them not as a checklist to be raced through, but as the basis for a real conversation.

- I.* Who is your IRS-approved custodian, and how long has that custodian been operating?
- II.* Which depository will my metal be stored in, and is it segregated or commingled?
- III.* What is the all-in annual cost — setup, custodian, storage, and any percentage-of-assets fees combined?
- IV.* What is the markup on the gold itself above the spot price? This is where most of the real cost lives.
- V.* What is the buyback policy if I want to liquidate? Is there a spread, and what is it?
- VI.* Can I see the full fee schedule and account agreement before I commit?
- VII.* Are you registered with the appropriate state regulators, and can I verify that with the state attorney general?



CHAPTER VII.

When it makes sense, *and when it does not.*

An honest list of cases on each side. Your circumstances will fit one more than the other.

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A Gold IRA is appropriate for some retirement strategies and inappropriate for others. We list the cases on each side honestly. Your circumstances will fit one column more than the other, or perhaps neither.

Where it can make sense.

If you hold a substantial traditional IRA and want a portion (often five to twenty-five percent) diversified into a non-correlated, physical asset — if you are concerned about long-term currency debasement — if you are within roughly ten years of retirement and want a portfolio component that historically performs differently during recessions — a Gold IRA may be worth investigating.

Where it probably does not.

If you are young with a long horizon — if you have only a small IRA balance — if you are looking for short-term price appreciation — if you are being told by a salesperson that gold always goes up or that the dollar is about to collapse — a Gold IRA is probably not what you are looking for. Anyone using urgency or fear to sell you one is selling something other than gold.



CHAPTER VIII.

On discretion, *patience, and time.*

*We close where we began. The right question, asked first, makes the rest of
the work easier.*

TURN OVERLEAF

W We close where we began. The difference between a good retirement decision and a regrettable one is rarely the asset chosen. It is, almost always, the question asked first.

Gold has a place in many long-horizon portfolios. It also has no place in many others. The question is not whether gold is good or bad. The question is whether it serves your circumstances, your horizon, and the family or purpose you are saving for.

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Decisions about retirement assets are made over months, not minutes. Anyone pressuring you to act quickly is the one who needs the transaction — not you.

If, after reading this guide, you decide to investigate further, consult a licensed CPA, a tax attorney, and at least two reputable Gold IRA providers before committing. Bring the dealer's full fee schedule and contract for your CPA to review. The hour you spend on this will save you years of regret if the arrangement turns out to be wrong for you.

Whatever you decide, we wish you a long retirement, a quiet one, and arrangements that survive everything they need to survive.



EPILOGUE

Where to find honest help.



If you decide to investigate a Gold IRA further, the four sources below are where we would start. None are affiliated with Ariyor; we receive no compensation for mentioning them.

- *IRS Publication 590-A and 590-B — the authoritative source on IRA rules*
- *The Better Business Bureau — check the rating and complaint history of any dealer*
- *Your state attorney general's office — verify dealer registration*
- *A licensed CPA or tax attorney — one hour with them is worth the fee*

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