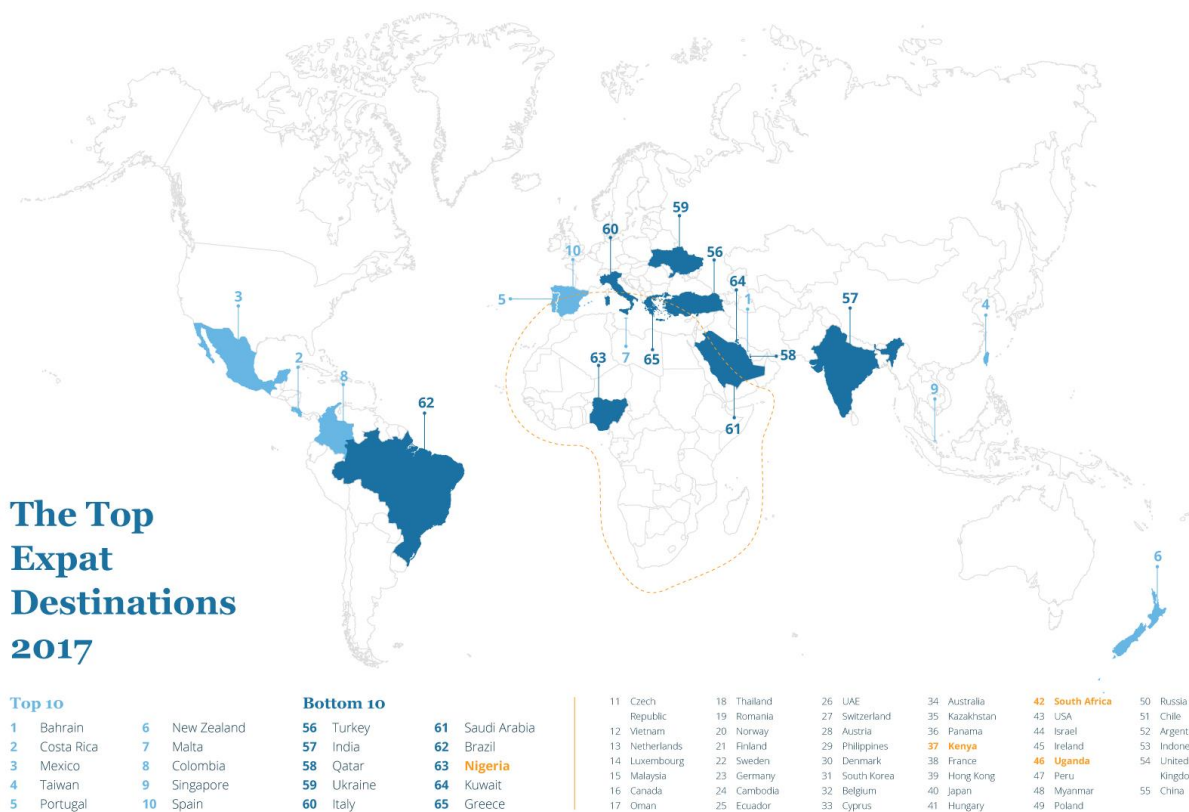


Expatriate Insider 2017 Survey Reveals: African Expatriate Destinations — Welcoming but Worrisome

Despite safety concerns and political unrest, expats continue to move to key African economies for work — and are met with open arms.

- Nigeria ranks as the most dangerous country for expats in 2017: only one percent feels very safe there.
- Expats in Africa work above-average hours, but nevertheless more than six in ten are satisfied with their job overall.
- All African countries featured in Expatriate Insider are more welcoming towards foreign residents than the average expatriate destination: Uganda even ranks 8th out of 65 countries.

Munich, 06 September 2017 — Expats in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Uganda worry about political stability and personal safety. Moreover, these African countries rank below average for working abroad, which does not stop expats from moving there for jobs, though. Interestingly, despite extended working hours, the overall job satisfaction in all of these destinations is fairly high. Additionally, friendly local residents make it easy for expats to find friends, as the [Expatriate Insider 2017](#) survey reveals. With nearly 13,000 respondents living and working abroad, it is one of the most extensive expatriate studies, conducted yearly by [InterNations](#), the largest expatriate community worldwide. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of life abroad, the survey ranks 65 countries by a variety of factors such as quality of life, working abroad, and settling in. While the final rankings for Kenya (37th), South Africa (42nd), Uganda (46th), and Nigeria (63rd) range from slightly below average to rather poor, this year's top 10 destinations for expats are Bahrain, Costa Rica, Mexico, Taiwan, Portugal, New Zealand, Malta, Colombia, Singapore, and Spain.



Safety Concerns Trouble Expats in Africa

Expats continue to feel unsafe in most African destinations: together with Turkey (62nd) and Brazil (64th), Kenya (61st), South Africa (63rd), and Nigeria (65th) make up the bottom 5 countries in terms of safety and security. In fact, only one percent of expats in Nigeria and two percent in South Africa give their personal safety the best possible rating, compared to 43 percent of global expats worldwide. An Australian expat in South Africa states: *"I would like to go out to social gatherings, but I do not feel safe to go out alone."* Besides personal safety, political instability also troubles the four countries. The political situation was considered a disadvantage prior to moving by 53 percent of expats in Nigeria, 45 percent in Kenya, 33 percent in South Africa, and 29 percent in Uganda, compared to only 14 percent of expats worrying about this factor worldwide. Only one in eleven expats in Nigeria (9%) rates the political stability favorably, whereas the majority of expats across the globe (56%) rate the political situation in their host country positively. An Irish expat considers Nigeria to have *"power issues, security issues, and political instability"*.

Expats Work Long Hours for Improved Incomes

Although all African countries surveyed in 2017 rank below average in terms of working abroad, one of the most popular reasons for moving to Africa is work. Kenya and Nigeria in particular seem to attract working expats: among the respondents, nearly one in four were sent by their employer (both 24%) or have found a job on their own (14% and 21% respectively). Even though working hours are far above the global average (44.3 hours per week) in Nigeria (47.8 h), Kenya (48.1 h), and Uganda (48.9 h), the overall job satisfaction remains fairly high: more than six in ten expats throughout these countries state to be satisfied with their work, and in Nigeria, even 75 percent agree. One US American living there expresses contentment because their work *"may be making a difference"*. In fact, both Nigeria and Kenya rank among the top 20 destinations in terms of job and career. Moreover, an impressive 60 percent of expats in Kenya and 68 percent in Nigeria believe that they are financially better off with regard to employment income than they would be at home. However, these financial benefits seem to come at a price as around a quarter of expats in both countries rate their work-life balance negatively. For fewer difficulties in balancing work and private life, expats should rather opt for South Africa or Uganda, where up to two-thirds (67% rep. 62%) rate this positively. A German expat in South Africa, for example, appreciates the *"better work life balance and outdoor activities"* available.

Good Weather and Friendly People Keep Expats' Spirits High

Prior to moving to any of these destinations, expats considered the climate and weather to be the biggest advantage. Upon arrival, more than nine in ten expats rate the climate and weather positively in Kenya (91%), South Africa (93%), and Uganda (93%). A Dutch expat's highlights of life in Uganda include the *"climate, green spaces, options for activities and leisure, as well as the environment for children"*. Additionally, all four African countries featured in the *Expatriate Insider 2017* survey perform better with regard to welcoming expats than the global average. Uganda even ranks 8th out of 67 destinations for ease of settling in, making it the only African country to rank among the top 10 in any area. In fact, 79 percent of expats in Uganda describe the local population as welcoming rather than distant, compared to a global average of 55 percent. The same applies to Nigeria (79%) and Kenya (76%), with only South Africa trailing behind (57%). Moreover, expats find making local friends easy: positive ratings for this factor range from 55 percent in Nigeria to 67 percent in Uganda, compared to 42 percent of expats worldwide. *"My favorite thing about Kenya is meeting amazing people who welcome you with open arms, making Nairobi feel like home,"* says a US American expat. This might be one reason why despite all the security and political issues more than seven in ten respondents in all four African destinations are happy with their life in general.

A Heartwarming Welcome Leads Bahrain, Costa Rica, and Mexico to the Top

For the first time since the *Expatriate Insider* survey was introduced, none of the previous year's top 3 destinations lead the ranking: Surprise winner Bahrain even leaps from 19th position to 1st place, winning the overall ranking. The Gulf State makes it easy for expats to feel at home due to its friendly local residents — nearly nine out of ten expats (86%) rate the friendly attitude of Bahrainis towards expats positively. In addition, about three-quarters of expats in Bahrain (73%) are satisfied with their jobs, compared to a

global average of 64 percent. Runner-up Costa Rica and Mexico on third place also rank among the top 20 in terms of working abroad, but are even more valued for their extremely friendly local population. In fact, nearly nine in ten expats (87%) rate the friendly attitude of locals towards foreign residents positively in both countries, compared to a global average of only 67 percent of expats feeling this way about their destination.

Greece, Kuwait, and Nigeria Are the Worst Destinations for Expats Again

The countries featured in the bottom 3, on the other hand, have remained the same for the third year in a row: Greece has now hit rock bottom, ranking last overall, as well as in terms of working abroad, personal finance, and family life. Half of the respondents in Greece say that their household income is not enough to cover their daily expenses, which is more than twice the global average (23%). The main issue in Nigeria and Kuwait, 63rd and 64th out of 65 countries, remains the constant struggle with the quality of life: more than two in ten expats in Kuwait (23%) are unhappy with their life in general, compared to only 10 percent of expats worldwide. In Nigeria, safety and security cause additional problems, with nearly seven out of ten (68%) rating their personal safety negatively.

About the InterNations Expat Insider 2017 Survey

For its annual [Expat Insider survey](#), InterNations asked about 13,000 expatriates representing 166 nationalities and living in 188 countries or territories to provide information on various aspects of expat life, as well as their gender, age, and nationality. Participants were asked to rate 43 different aspects of life abroad on a scale of one to seven. The rating process emphasized the respondents' personal satisfaction with these aspects and considered both emotional topics as well as more factual aspects with equal weight. The respondents' ratings of the individual factors were then bundled in various combinations for a total of 16 subcategories, and their mean values were used to draw up six topical indices: Quality of Life, Ease of Settling In, Working Abroad, Family Life, Personal Finance, and Cost of Living Index. Except for the latter, all indices were further averaged in order to rank 65 expatriate destinations around the world. In 2017 the top 10 were Bahrain, Costa Rica, Mexico, Taiwan, Portugal, New Zealand, Malta, Colombia, Singapore, and Spain.

For a country to be featured in the indices and consequently in the overall ranking, a sample size of at least 75 survey participants per country was necessary. The only exception to this is the Family Life Index, where a sample size of more than 40 respondents raising children abroad was required. In 2017, 65 and 45 countries respectively met these requirements. However, in most countries the sample size exceeded 100 participants.

About InterNations

With 2.8 million members in 390 cities around the world, InterNations (<http://www.internations.org>) is the largest global network and information site for people who live and work abroad. InterNations offers global and local networking both online and face-to-face. At around 6,000 monthly events and activities, expatriates have the opportunity to meet with other global minds. Online services include country and city guides created by a team of professional writers, guest contributions about life abroad, and discussion forums to help members with topics such as local housing and job searching. InterNations membership is by approval only to ensure we remain a community of trust.



The InterNations app is available for Android and iOS and can be downloaded for free on [Google Play](#) and the [App Store](#).

Find more information about InterNations on our [press pages](#), [company website](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), or in our [Expat Magazine](#).

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