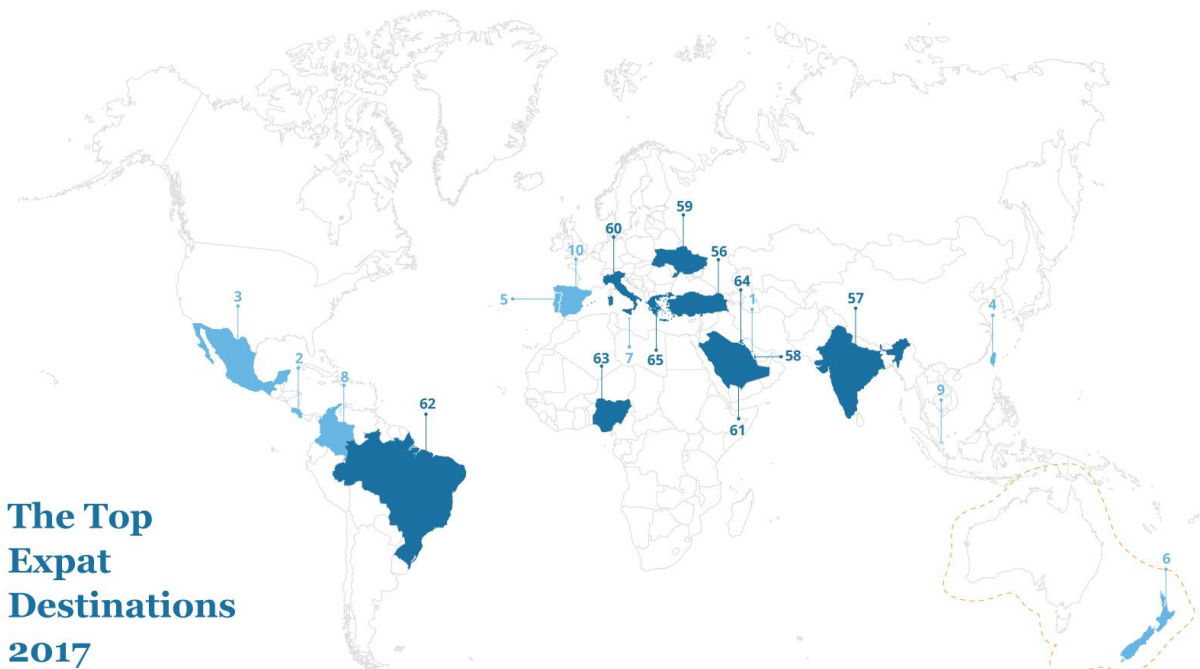


Expatriate Insider 2017 Survey Reveals: Expats Should Head Down Under for the Best Quality of Life

Sunny skies and a healthy lifestyle make expats in Oceania happy — but Australia is starting to fall behind.

- *New Zealand and Australia provide top-notch healthcare and leisure options, offering a high-quality life.*
- *Australia falls significantly behind New Zealand in terms of working abroad and settling in.*
- *Kiwis mainly go abroad for adventure (16%) or a job they found (14%), while Aussies make the move for love (15%) and their partners' career (13%).*

Munich, 06 September 2017 — Before moving Down Under, expats say they were looking forward to the warmer climate and sunny skies in Australia and New Zealand, and they were not disappointed. The climate is just one of the reasons why both countries perform so well in terms of quality of life. Life in Oceania does come at a price, though, as expats find it challenging to settle in and those in Australia are left disillusioned with their work lives, as the [Expatriate Insider 2017](#) survey reveals. With nearly 13,000 respondents living and working abroad, it is one of the most extensive expat studies, conducted yearly by [InterNations](#), the largest expat 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 Australia only achieves a mediocre 34th place, New Zealand (6th) ranks among this year's top 10 destinations for expats, together with Bahrain, Costa Rica, Mexico, Taiwan, and Portugal in the top 5 as well as Malta, Colombia, Singapore, and Spain.



The Top Expat Destinations 2017

Top 10

1 Bahrain	6 New Zealand
2 Costa Rica	7 Malta
3 Mexico	8 Colombia
4 Taiwan	9 Singapore
5 Portugal	10 Spain

Bottom 10

56 Turkey	61 Saudi Arabia
57 India	62 Brazil
58 Qatar	63 Nigeria
59 Ukraine	64 Kuwait
60 Italy	65 Greece

11 Czech Republic	18 Thailand	26 UAE	34 Australia	42 South Africa	50 Russia
12 Vietnam	19 Romania	27 Switzerland	35 Kazakhstan	43 USA	51 Chile
13 Netherlands	20 Norway	28 Austria	36 Panama	44 Israel	52 Argentina
14 Luxembourg	21 Finland	29 Philippines	37 Kenya	45 Ireland	53 Indonesia
15 Malaysia	22 Sweden	30 Denmark	38 France	46 Uganda	54 United Kingdom
16 Canada	23 Germany	31 South Korea	39 Hong Kong	47 Peru	55 China
17 Oman	24 Cambodia	32 Belgium	40 Japan	48 Myanmar	
	25 Ecuador	33 Cyprus	41 Hungary	49 Poland	

A Happy and Healthy Lifestyle

Both countries make it into the top 25 in terms of quality of life, with Australia ranking 23rd and New Zealand coming in at 15th out of 65 countries. A key reason for this is the fantastic climate, which over three-quarters of expats in both countries rate positively. The weather dramatically improves expats' moods, with one British respondent joyfully stating, "I wake up happy when the sun is shining". The clean air makes it even more enjoyable to be outside Down Under: more than 85 percent of the expats living in New Zealand and Australia are happy with the quality of the environment. This is unsurprising, seeing as both countries have some of the cleanest air in the world, according to research by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Energy Agency. A strong and comprehensive healthcare system in both countries also allows expats to live a healthy life. Expats in Oceania not only value the quality of medical care there, but more than two-fifths are also happy with its affordability. This could be linked to the fact that both countries dedicate a sizable portion of their GDP (over 9% each) to medical care, according to data from the World Bank.

Australia Trails Behind Its Neighbor

Despite performing well in 2016, Australia has fallen down the ranks in 2017: the country comes 34th in the overall ranking, dropping 27 places since 2016. New Zealand, however, retains its excellent spot in the top 10, ranking sixth and only falling one place. Australia lost the most ground in terms of working abroad: the country ranks 32nd, falling from its tenth spot in 2016. New Zealand, on the other hand, ranks second for working abroad, soaring high above its neighbor. One reason for this difference is employees' satisfaction with their personal work-life balance: while over a fifth of respondents in Australia (22%) are disappointed with this aspect, only 13 percent of expats in New Zealand feel the same way. Expats in Australia are also twice as likely (24% vs. 12% in New Zealand) to be dissatisfied with their working hours, explaining why Australia falls 35 places behind its neighbor in terms of work-life balance in general. Furthermore, salaries in Australia are far from satisfactory: over a third of expats (34%) state that their disposable income is not enough to cover everything they need for their daily life — over ten percentage points higher than the global average (23%).

It also seems more challenging to settle in in Australia than in New Zealand. While both countries have dropped down the ranks for this aspect of expat life since 2016, Australia fell eleven places and now ranks 31st, while its neighbor retains a spot in the top 10. Expats tend to feel less welcome in Australia, with over two-fifths (41%) claiming they have felt unwelcome because of their nationality at least occasionally — ten percentage points higher than in New Zealand. This might explain why close to a fifth of expats in Australia (18%) do not feel at home yet, whereas less than a tenth of those in New Zealand (7%) feel the same way. Just over half of expats in Australia (53%) also say that they have found it generally easy to make new friends, compared to an impressive 68 percent in New Zealand. This explains why Australia, where one German respondent complains about the "closed-mindedness" of the local population, ranks 41st in terms of finding friends, falling far behind its more welcoming neighbor (18th).

Leaving Down Under for Adventure and Love

Expats from Oceania tend to stay in the region. The most popular destination for New Zealanders moving abroad is in fact Australia (7%), while Australians tend to head to Indonesia (5%). Those who move further afield avoid facing a language barrier, as the second most popular destination for both nationalities is the UK. This explains somewhat why over a quarter of New Zealanders (26%) and 17 percent of Australians say that the language of their host country is the same as their mother tongue — a notable increase from the global average of eleven percent.

Life in Oceania

	Australia	New Zealand
Overall Rank*	34	6
Quality of Life*	23	15
Ease of Settling In*	31	10
Working Abroad*	32	2
Family Life (out of 45 countries)	24	14
Personal Finance*	62	49
Cost of Living*	56	48

*out of 65 countries

There is less of an overlap in their reasons for moving abroad. Kiwis tend to be more adventurous, with 16 percent moving abroad for a personal challenge and well over one in ten (14%) moving because they found a job abroad on their own. Meanwhile, Aussies are more romantic in their main reasons for relocating: 15 percent moved for love, and over a tenth (13%) relocated for their partner's job or education. Regardless of their motives or their destinations, expats from Down Under are doing very well for themselves: a third of Australians and more than two-fifths of Kiwis (41%) have access to an annual household income of 100,000 USD or more — far higher than the worldwide average of 21 percent. This is particularly interesting, as 49 percent of Australians and 26 percent of New Zealanders believe they earn less abroad than they would in a similar position back home.

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

For the first time since the *Expat 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](#).

Press Contact

Vera Grossmann
Media Spokesperson

InterNations GmbH
Schwanthalerstrasse 39
80336 Munich, Germany

Tel: +49 (0)89 461 3324 79
Fax: +49 (0)89 461 3324 99
Email: press@internations.org
Homepage: www.internations.org/press