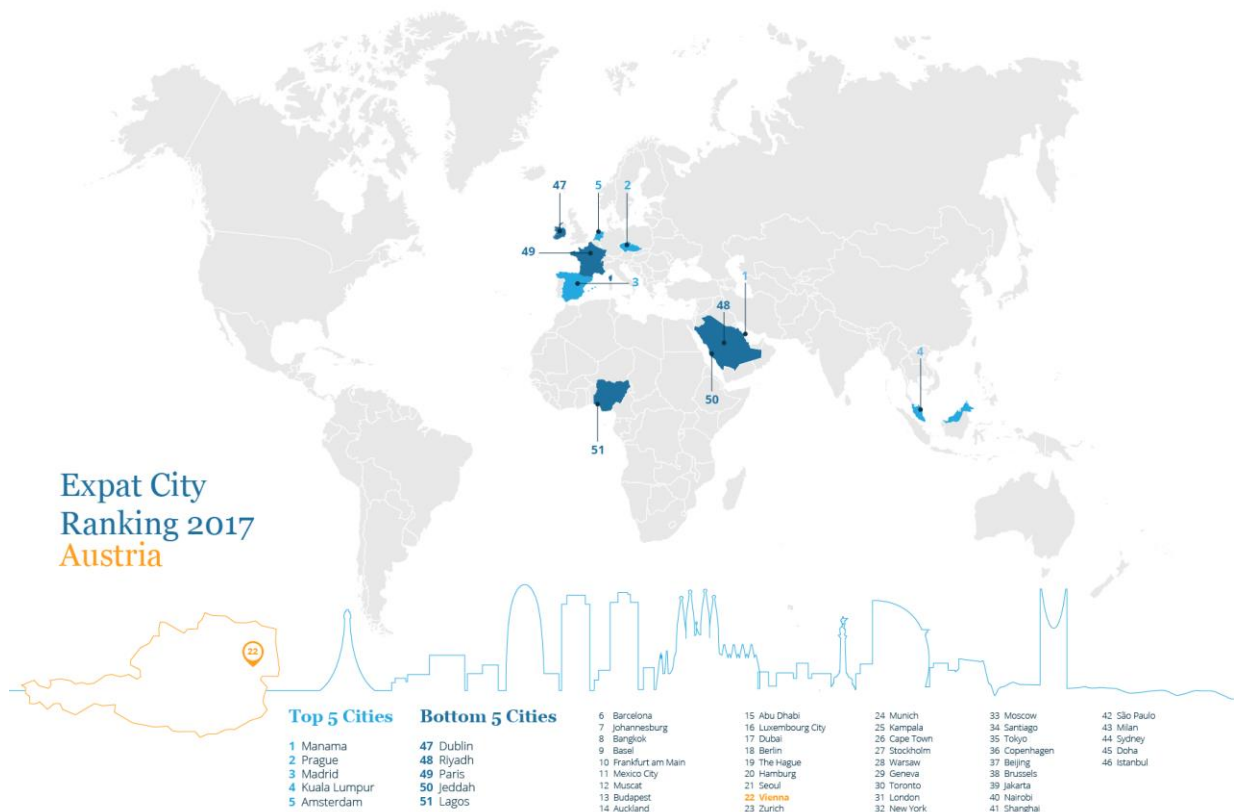


Expatriate City Ranking 2017: Vienna Is the Unfriendliest City for Expats Worldwide

Expats struggle with getting settled in Vienna, due to language issues and social isolation.

- Vienna is considered the unfriendliest city towards foreign residents, with more than double the global average of negative ratings (39% vs. 17%).
- Making friends in Vienna as an expat is perceived harder than in Austria in general: more than six in ten expats (62%) in the capital struggle with this aspect of expat life.
- Only one percent of expats are dissatisfied with Vienna's urban environment, such as the quality of water and air or the green spaces in the city.

Munich, 14 November 2017 — In this year's Expatriate City Ranking, Vienna achieves a mediocre 22nd place out of 51 cities worldwide. Although expats are extremely satisfied with the quality of urban living in Vienna, they are less than impressed by the welcome they receive. The Austrian capital even ranks last for friendliness towards foreign residents, as almost half the expats (48%) do not find it easy to make friends there, as the so-far unpublished [Expatriate City Ranking 2017](#) reveals. The ranking is based on data collected in the annual *Expatriate Insider* survey, conducted by [InterNations](#), the largest expat community worldwide. With nearly 13,000 respondents living and working abroad, *Expatriate Insider 2017* is one of the most extensive expat studies worldwide. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of expat life in 51 cities, the survey ranks them by a variety of factors from the areas quality of urban living, getting settled, urban work life, as well as finance and housing. According to all these rating factors, the top 10 cities for expats are Manama, Prague, Madrid, Kuala Lumpur, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Johannesburg, Bangkok, Basel, and Frankfurt am Main.



Expats Love Vienna, but Cannot Connect with Local Residents

Outranked only by Stockholm, Vienna performs extremely well with regard to the quality of its urban environment. Almost all expats living in Vienna (95%) are satisfied with the urban environment, 28 percentage points more than the global average (67%). A British expat states: *"I love how green it is here and how well the transport system works. I feel like there is always something to do in Vienna."* However, this does not mean that expats are necessarily happy in the Austrian capital. In fact, it ranks among the bottom 10 for happiness with life in general (44th out of 51). One of the potential reasons for this unhappiness might be that — after the Parisians — the Viennese are considered the second-unfriendliest urban population in the world. Particularly in regard to the friendliness towards foreign residents, Vienna even comes in last place: more than double the percentage of expats rate this factor negatively in Vienna, compared to the global average (39% vs 17%). For example, an expat from neighboring Switzerland thinks that *"people are not friendly or welcoming"* in Vienna.

Interestingly, it seems to be even harder to connect with the local residents in Vienna than in the rest of Austria. While 55 percent of expats struggle to make local friends in Austria in general, 62 percent feel this way in the capital. A Ukrainian expat describes the locals as *"introverted"*, and an Italian expat feels that they are *"uninterested in making new friends"*. Perhaps the language barrier plays a certain role, as half the expats find it hard to live in the city without speaking the local language. A Swiss expat considers German *"a difficult language to learn"* and that the locals *"do not speak English or do not like speaking it"*.

	Vienna
 Overall City Ranking	22
 Quality of Urban Living Index	3
 Getting Settled Index	49
 Urban Work Life Index	26
 Finance & Housing Index	27

Top 5 Cities Make It Easy for Expats to Get Settled and Enjoy a Great Work Life

Manama, Prague, Madrid, Kuala Lumpur, and Amsterdam top the list of the best cities for expats: while Prague lags behind on 35th place for getting settled, the other four cities receive good to excellent ratings in this respect. A South African expat living in Kuala Lumpur likes *"the easy-going temperament and friendliness of the local people"* while an expat from the Philippines appreciates the *"very friendly and helpful locals"* in Manama. The majority of expats rates the general friendliness towards foreign residents positively in Manama (84%), Amsterdam (83%), Kuala Lumpur (78%), and Madrid (74%), compared to a global average of 67 percent. Prague, however, performs below average here: only about half the expats living there (49%) are satisfied with this factor. Nonetheless, the capital of the Czech Republic is one of the top destinations for expats in 2017, particularly due to its outstanding ratings in terms of work: nearly seven in ten expats (68%) are satisfied with local career opportunities in Prague — 19 percentage points more than the global average.

InterNations Communities in Austria

Out of 2.8 million members in 390 cities around the world, there are more than 36,000 InterNations members in Austria: about 30,000 of them live in Vienna, making the capital the largest expat community in Austria, followed by Salzburg, Graz, and Linz.

Learn more about the InterNations Communities in [Vienna](#) and [Austria](#) online!

Interested in Talking to Expats in Your City?



Visit an InterNations Official Event and personally meet expats from all over the world who will share their stories with you. Find out [here](#) when and where the next official event in your community will take place.

To receive a personal press invitation including free access to the event and interview opportunities with InterNations members, please contact press@internations.org or +49 (0)89 461 3324 79 and let us know which event you would like to attend.

Read More about the Expat City Ranking 2017



[The Best and Worst Cities](#)



[Quality of Urban Living](#)



[Getting Settled](#)



[Urban Work Life](#)



[Finance & Housing](#)

About the Expat City Ranking 2017

For its annual [Expats 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. In 2017, the fourth year the survey was conducted, respondents were also invited to share their opinions on the city they are currently living in.

Participants were asked to rate more than 25 different aspects of urban 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 13 subcategories, and their mean values were used to draw up four topical indices: Quality of Urban Living, Getting Settled, Urban Work Life, and Finance & Housing. These were further averaged in order to rank 51 cities worldwide. In 2017, the top 10 cities for expats are Manama, Prague, Madrid, Kuala Lumpur, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Johannesburg, Bangkok, Basel, and Frankfurt am Main.

For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2017, a sample size of at least 45 survey participants per city was required. In total, the responses used for the city ranking represent 7,985 expats living in 40 countries.



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 5,000 monthly events and activities, expatriates have the opportunity to meet 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 the local job or housing search. 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