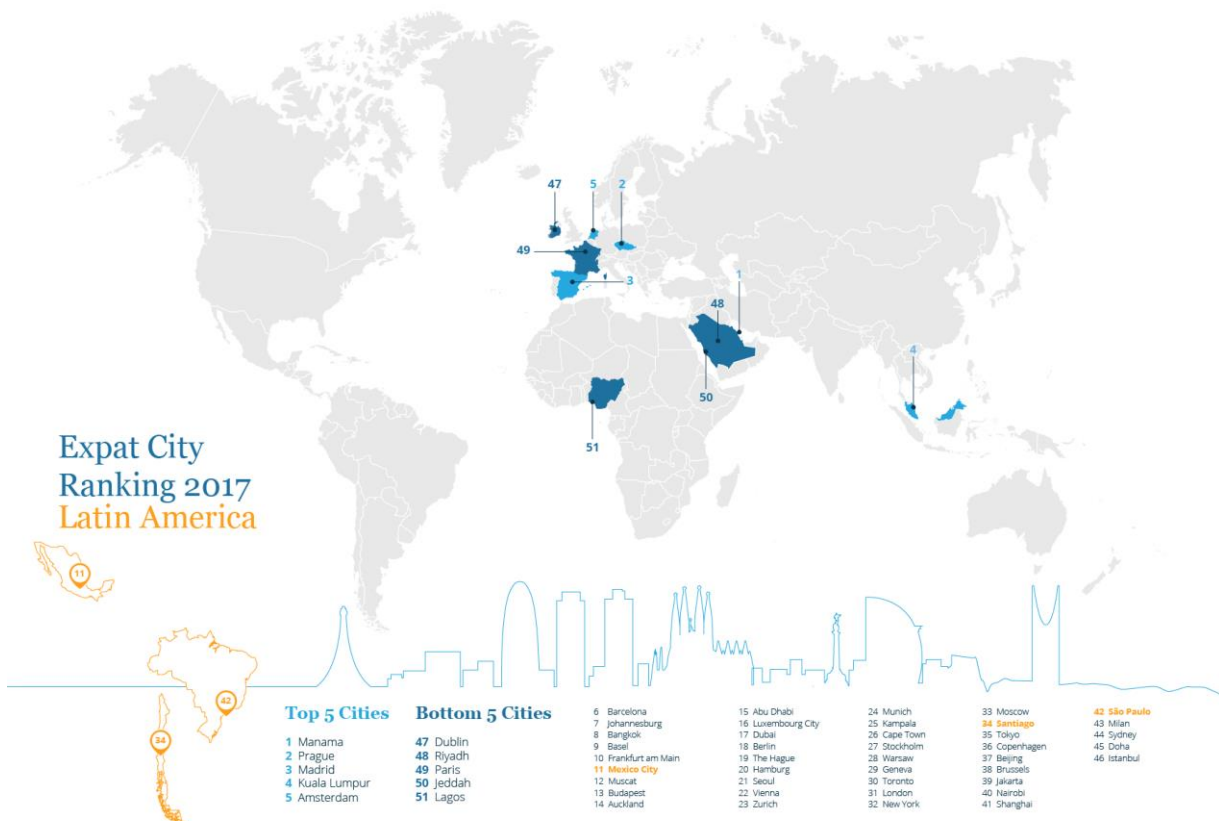


Expatriate City Ranking 2017: Santiago and São Paulo Struggle to Keep Up with Mexico City

Mexico City ranks far ahead of other Latin American cities, but Santiago stands out as the safest and most politically stable city in the region.

- Mexico City is among the top 5 cities where it is easiest to settle in and easy to afford the local cost of living.
- Santiago is the safest and politically most stable option for expats in Latin America, with about seven in ten expats being satisfied with their personal safety (68%) and the political stability (75%).
- With close to three in five expats (59%) rating their personal safety and more than seven in ten (74%) the political stability negatively, São Paulo receives the lowest ranking for these factors.

Munich, 14 November 2017 — Mexico City seems to have it all, coming in 11th out of 51 cities in this year's Expatriate City Ranking: it stands out with exceptional ratings for friendliness, feeling welcome, friends and socializing, as well as local cost of living. While Santiago offers a safer and more stable environment, its comparatively unfriendly locals drag the city down in the ranking (34th). As for São Paulo, its low ratings in terms of quality of urban living and in particular a lack of personal safety and political stability position the city on a poor 42nd rank, as the so-far unpublished [Expatriate City Ranking 2017](#) reveals.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 expatriate community worldwide. With nearly 13,000 respondents living and working abroad, *Expatriate Insider 2017* is one of the most extensive expatriate studies worldwide. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of expatriate 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.








Low Costs and a Warm Welcome Lure Expats to Mexico City

Ranking 11th out of 51 cities overall, Mexico City surpasses other surveyed Latin American cities, thanks to, among other things, top 10 positions for local friendliness (3rd), making expats feel welcome (4th), as well as the local leisure options and climate (5th). An American expat explains: *“Mexican people are generally very nice, very polite, accepting and welcoming.”* In addition to that, more than seven in ten (73%) rate the local cost of living in Mexico City positively, which is 30 percentage points higher than the global average (43%). São Paulo does not stay far behind in regard to how easy it is settle down in the city, ranking 11th out of 51 cities for making expats feel welcome. The Brazilian city even beats Mexico City by a scant margin in terms of local friendliness towards foreign residents (89% vs. 86%).

However, in contrast to Mexico City, São Paulo places 42nd in the overall ranking of the best cities for expats: one of the reasons for this poor ranking is that the city lands in the bottom 10 cities for local cost of living, with more than seven in ten expats (73%) rating this factor negatively. Similarly, Santiago performs worse than Mexico City not only in the overall ranking (34th) but also when it comes to the local cost of living, with more than half of expats (52%) rating this factor negatively. The capital of Chile also seems to be the exception to the general friendliness of Latin Americans: one in three expats rates this factor negatively, which is almost twice as much as the global average (18%).

Santiago Is Perceived as Safer and Politically More Stable than Mexico City and São Paulo

Despite Santiago’s mediocre ranking, it still seems to be the safest and most politically stable city in Latin America, according to expats. An Argentinian respondent living in Santiago explains that *“it is safe, and the economy is stable”*. In Santiago, about seven in ten expats rate their personal safety (68%) and the political stability (75%) positively, with the latter even exceeding the global average by 19 percentage points (56%). Contrastingly, less than half of the respondents in Mexico City (44%) feel the same way about the political stability in their city and even less in São Paulo (14%). Furthermore, over four in ten expats (43%) feel unsafe in Mexico City and an even higher percentage (59%) feels the same way in São Paulo, the latter being the worst-rated city for personal safety in this year’s Expat City Ranking. A British expat living in São Paulo explains that *“personal safety is an issue and political corruption does not allow the country to move forward.”*

	Mexico City	Santiago	São Paulo
 Overall City Ranking	11	34	42
 Quality of Urban Living Index	40	32	48
 Getting Settled Index	5	37	15
 Urban Work Life Index	25	30	35
 Finance & Housing Index	5	18	23

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 Latin America

Out of 2.8 million members in 390 cities around the world, there are more than 36,000 InterNations members in Mexico, over 44,000 in Brazil and more than 22,000 in Chile. Around 25,000 of them live in Mexico City, about 24,000 in São Paulo, and about 23,000 in Santiago, making these cities the largest communities in their respective country.

Other communities in Latin America include for example Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Bogota (Colombia) with about 15,000 members each, followed by Panama City (Panama) with about 14,000 members, San José (Costa Rica) with about 8,000 members, and Quito (Ecuador) with about 7,000 members.

Learn more about the InterNations Communities in [Mexico City](#) and [Mexico](#), [São Paulo](#) and [Brazil](#), [Santiago](#) and [Chile](#) as well as [Panama](#), [Costa Rica](#), and [Ecuador](#) 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 [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. 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](#).

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