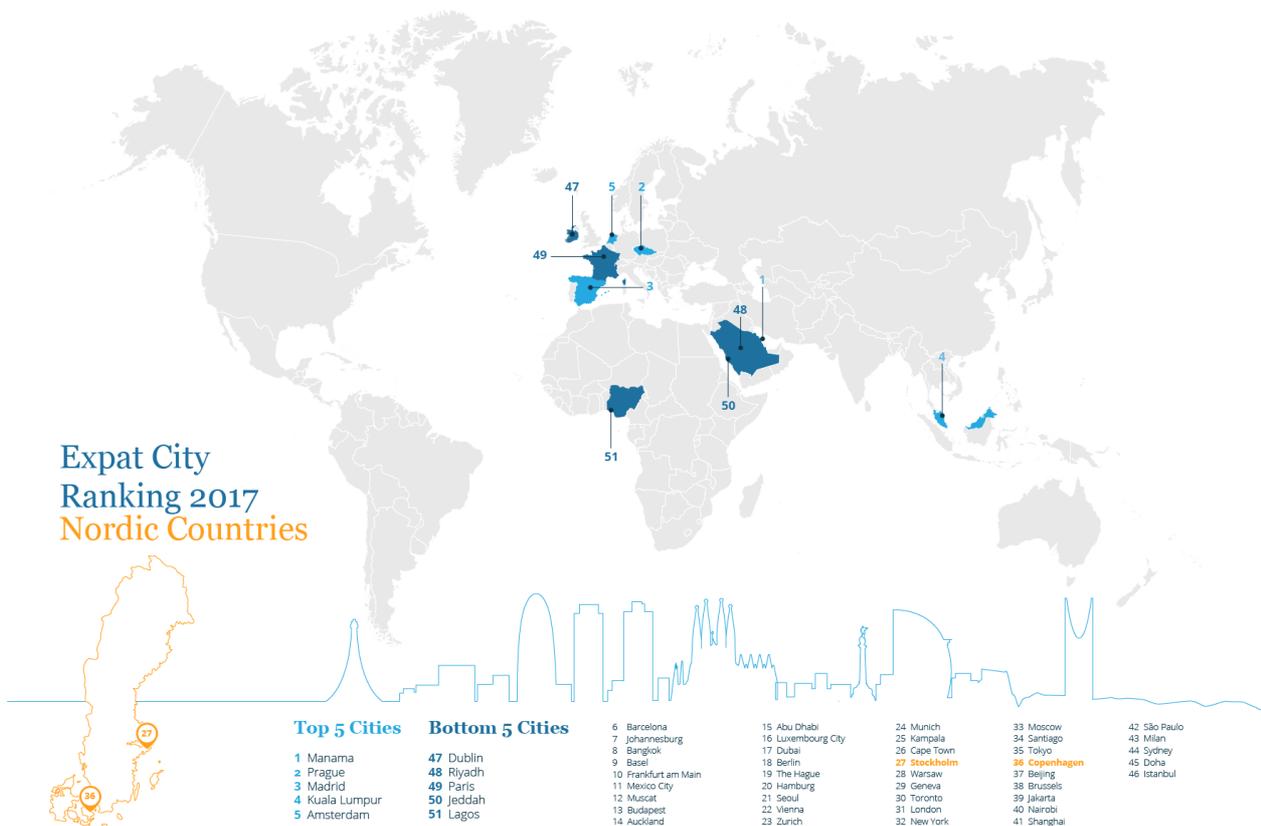


## Expatriate City Ranking 2017: Locals in Stockholm Are Friendlier towards Expats Than in Copenhagen

Stockholm and Copenhagen may be expensive, but they offer expats high living standards and a good work-life balance.

- More than half the expats in Stockholm (56%) find the attitude of the local population towards foreign residents friendly, while only 45 percent agree in Copenhagen.
- Extremely high prices make living in Stockholm and Copenhagen a struggle for expats — at least six in ten respondents in both cities are dissatisfied with this factor.
- Nearly all expats in Stockholm (96%) and Copenhagen (88%) are pleased with the abundance of green spaces and the clean environment the city has to offer.

Munich, 14 November 2017 — Both Stockholm and Copenhagen have a distinctly average performance in this year's Expatriate City Ranking, coming in 27th and 36th, respectively, out of 51 cities worldwide. Although living standards and career opportunities in both cities are remarkable, the high cost of living and unwelcoming local residents drag down their final results, as the so-far unpublished [Expatriate City Ranking 2017](#) reveals.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.



### Unfriendly Locals Make It Difficult for Expats to Feel at Home in Scandinavia

Copenhagen and Stockholm both rank in the bottom half for getting settled as an expat. However, Stockholm still outranks Copenhagen by 13 places (33rd vs. 46th). More expats living in the Swedish capital (66%) feel at home there than those in the capital of Denmark (52%). In both cities, however, expats tend to find the attitude of the local residents rather unfriendly — about three in ten are dissatisfied with the friendliness in both Copenhagen (32%) and Stockholm (29%), compared to only 18 percent of expats globally. This might also help to explain why both destinations perform poorly when it comes to making new friends: only 30 percent find this easy in Copenhagen, and an even lower 20 percent do so in Stockholm. Moreover, the extortionate local cost of living makes life difficult for expats in both Copenhagen and Stockholm: in fact, six in ten respondents in Copenhagen, as well as nearly seven in ten in Stockholm (68%), are unimpressed with the high prices — significantly more than the global average of 39 percent. One British expat living in Stockholm even says that the “prices in the city are astronomical”.

### A Balanced Working Life and High Living Standards

While Copenhagen and Stockholm leave a lot to be desired in terms of friendliness, expats can be happy about something else: both cities rank in the global top 10 for urban work life, with Stockholm (7th) closely beating Copenhagen (8th). The cities achieve the same level of satisfaction (59%) when it comes to local career opportunities, which is ten percentage points higher than the global average. Similarly, more than seven in ten expats in Copenhagen (73%) and Stockholm (74%) are happy with their work-life balance, with a German expat praising the “many job opportunities and good work-life balance” in Stockholm. Moreover, living standards in both cities are high, with 96 percent of respondents in Stockholm being satisfied with the clean environment and green spaces available to the public. Copenhagen follows closely behind with a respectable 88 percent. The two Nordic capitals rank 1st and 8th out of 51 cities, respectively, for this factor with a far higher level of satisfaction than the global average (67%).

	Copenhagen	Stockholm
 <b>Overall City Ranking</b>	36	27
 <b>Quality of Urban Living Index</b>	13	9
 <b>Getting Settled Index</b>	46	33
 <b>Urban Work Life Index</b>	8	7
 <b>Finance &amp; Housing Index</b>	49	51

### 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 the Nordic Countries

Out of 2.8 million members in 390 cities around the world, there are about 30,000 members in Sweden and more than 23,000 in Denmark. About 17,000 of them live in Stockholm and more than 19,000 in Copenhagen, making these cities the largest communities in their respective countries.

Other communities in the Nordic countries include for example Helsinki in Finland with about 10,000 members and Oslo in Norway with more than 13,000 members.

Learn more about the InterNations Communities in [Copenhagen](#) and [Denmark](#) as well as [Stockholm](#) and [Sweden](#) as well as [Finland](#) and [Norway](#) 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](mailto: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](mailto:press@internations.org)  
Homepage: [www.internations.org/press](http://www.internations.org/press)