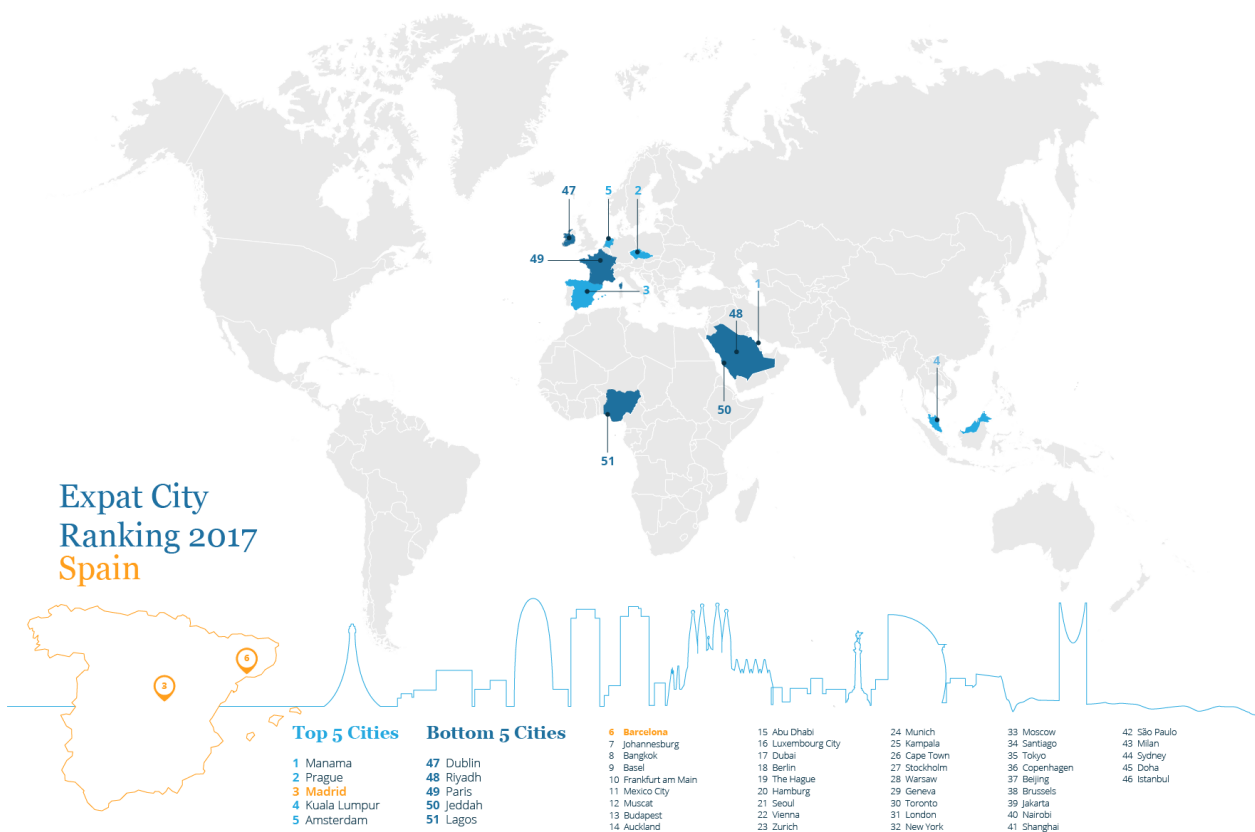


Expatriate City Ranking 2017: Expats in Madrid More Likely to Be Friends with Locals Than in Barcelona

Expats in Madrid and Barcelona are happy with the leisure options and the weather, but not satisfied with their personal finances and careers.

- More than seven in ten expats in Barcelona and Madrid are satisfied with their social lives, compared to only 59 percent globally.
- Expats in Madrid are far more likely to be mainly friends with local residents than in Barcelona (24% vs. 11%).
- Only 11 percent of expats in Barcelona and 23 percent in Madrid have an annual household income of more than 75,000 USD — compared to 31 percent globally.

Munich, 14 November 2017 — Madrid and Barcelona both rank highly in this year's Expatriate City Ranking, coming in third and sixth out of 51 cities. With more than nine in ten expats happy with the local leisure options available, as well as a high satisfaction with the climate and weather, both cities perform well in terms of quality of urban living. However, neither city can provide expats with a satisfactory working life or sufficient job security, as the so-far unpublished [Expatriate City Ranking 2017](#) reveals.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.



Leisure Activities and a Warm Climate Make Madrid and Barcelona Enjoyable

Barcelona’s and Madrid’s top-10 results in the Expat City Ranking are mainly due to their excellent performance in terms of getting settled and the quality of urban living. Coming in fourth and sixth, respectively, for the latter, about three-quarters of expats are satisfied with the quality of the urban environment (79% in Barcelona and 75% in Madrid). Furthermore, more than nine in ten respondents rate their local leisure options positively (93% in Barcelona and 94% in Madrid), and the vast majority enjoys the local climate and weather (96% Barcelona and 85% Madrid); a far higher satisfaction than the global average of 73 percent for leisure and 57 percent for climate and weather. *“Leisure options are very numerous,”* says a Romanian expat in Madrid. These might be some of the reasons why expats enjoy their social life in the Spanish cities: in fact, 75 percent in Barcelona and 70 percent in Madrid state that they are satisfied with this factor, compared to only 59 percent of expats globally. Interestingly, expats in Madrid are more likely to be mainly friends with local residents (24%) than expats in Barcelona (11%) — this is despite the fact that expats in Madrid are more likely to find it hard to live in the city without speaking the local language than those in Barcelona (52% vs. 37%).

Finances Are an Issue in Barcelona — But Not Quite as Much in Madrid

Spain’s high unemployment rate and turbulent economy go some way to explaining Barcelona’s and Madrid’s low rankings in terms of urban work life, placing 38th and 34th out of 51 cities worldwide. An Argentinian expat in Barcelona states that *“there is a lack of job opportunities”*. Both cities perform especially poorly in terms of job security, with more than two in ten expats dissatisfied with this factor (25% Madrid and 23% Barcelona). Additionally, the annual household income of expats living in the Spanish cities is far lower than the global average: while 31 percent of expats worldwide state that they have more than 75,000 USD at their disposal, only 11 percent in Barcelona and 23 percent in Madrid are able to say the same. Furthermore, Madrid ranks a good 13th out of 51 cities globally for finance and housing, while Barcelona only lands on 30th place. In fact, nearly six in ten expats in Madrid (57%) are satisfied with the affordability of housing in the city, while only about two in five (39%) feel this way in Barcelona.

	Barcelona	Madrid
 Overall City Ranking	6	3
 Quality of Urban Living Index	4	6
 Getting Settled Index	10	12
 Urban Work Life Index	38	34
 Finance & Housing Index	30	13

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 Spain

Out of 2.8 million members in 390 cities around the world, there are more than 104,000 InterNations members in Spain: about 36,000 of them live in Madrid and about 33,000 in Barcelona, making these cities the largest expat communities in Spain, followed by Marbella, Alicante and Valencia.

Learn more about the InterNations Communities in [Madrid](#), [Barcelona](#) and [Spain](#) 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](#).

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