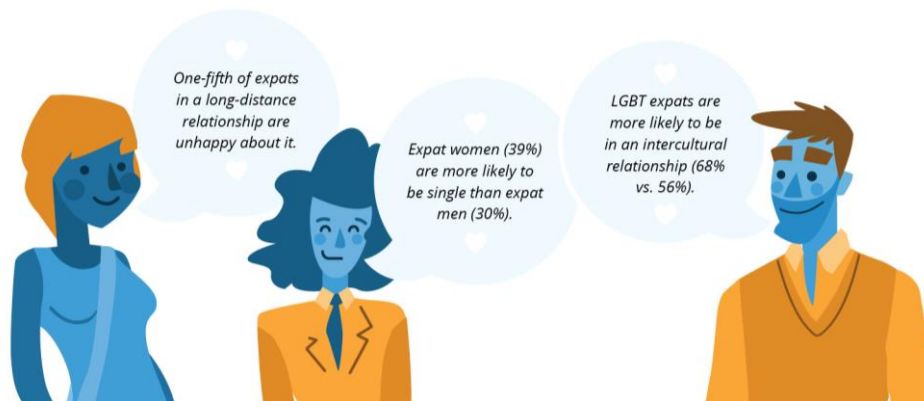


## Expats Love around the World

*Global expat community InterNations reveals how living abroad impacts your romantic life.*

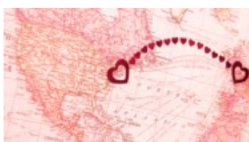


Munich, 31 January 2018 — With Valentine's Day coming up in only two weeks, many couples are getting ready to celebrate their relationship. But for expats, the special day of love can be a whole different story: they might be in a long-distance relationship, have trouble finding a partner abroad, live in a country where they have to hide their sexual orientation, or have to deal with the challenges of a multicultural relationship. [InterNations](#), the largest global network for people who work and live abroad, tells you everything you need to know about the romantic lives of expats. The data is based on the annual [Expats Insider survey](#), one of the most extensive expat studies in the world, with close to 13,000 respondents.

### Unhappy in Love: Long-Distance Relationships

Over one in eight expats in a relationship are currently separated from their partner by international borders (13%), and they are not happy about it: one in five is dissatisfied with their long-distance relationship (20%), compared to only five percent of those who live close to their partner. Moreover, expats in a long-distance relationship are substantially less happy with their life in general (74% vs. 81%). Career-focused expats, such as Foreign Recruits (30%) and Assignees (28%), are most likely to be in a long-distance relationship, followed by (Ex-)Students (24%). The latter might also be one reason why the highest share of expats in a long-distance relationship is 25 years or younger (27%), while the likelihood of having a long-distance relationship sinks rapidly with growing age. International long-distance relationships are most common among expats from Egypt (28%), the Philippines (24%), and India (23%).

### Read More about Long-Distance Relationships



#### How to Survive A Long Distance Relationship

I used to have a romantic notion about long-distance relationships. I blame it on the movie "Going the Distance", in which the lead characters, San Francisco native Erin (Drew Barrymore) and Garrett from New York City (Justin Long) fall in love, pursue a long-distance relationship, and — what do you know — have a happy Hollywood ending.



#### Six Tips on How to Save Your Relationship When Moving Abroad

For many couples, moving abroad is an exciting adventure, but they underestimate how much the expatriation can influence their relationship. We have put together six tips on how to save your relationship and get through the difficult adjustment period together.



## When Love Crosses Continents

Long-distance relationships are challenging and can often put a damper on expat life. InterNations member Maggie tells us how, after falling in love with another expat, she and her partner made it work anyway and how you can also manage to overcome the hurdles of a long-distance relationship.



## Where's Daddy?

Long-distance relationships can be tough, but what about long-distance parenting? When one parent has to move abroad for business, staying in touch with the children and simply “being there” for them can become tricky. Our guest author Jin Li tells us how she and her husband make it work.

## All Alone in a New Country: Single Expats

Expat women (39%) are more likely to be single than expat men (30%): even though the most important reasons why women leave their home country include moving for their partner's job or education (16%) and wanting to live in the same country as their partner (12%) — compared to only three percent of men stating the first and ten percent mentioning the latter. Moreover, regardless of gender, among those who originally moved for love, the romance did not necessarily live forever: one in ten is single now. And the lack of romance seems to be getting them down: twelve percent of single expats are unhappy with their life in general, just slightly more than those in a global long-distance relationship (10%) or those living close to their partner (9%). Venezuelans (51%), Nigerians (45%), and Italians (43%) in particular are often single, while Swiss (77%), Dutch (76%), and Danish (75%) expats are most likely to be in a relationship.

## Read More about Expat Singles



### Being Single in a Foreign Country: How to Find Your Second Half

For many expats, moving to another country can be accompanied by a romantic endeavor. Take advantage of the dating opportunities presented in a foreign country, and have the best experience possible by using this advice on how to find love when abroad.



### Finding Love across the Globe

Moving for love can feel like a complete leap of faith, yet thousands relocate for romance every year. Countries like France and Italy may come to mind, however, according to the Expat Insider 2017 survey, it is the Nordic countries leading in love. Here are the top destinations expats choose for love.



### Five Tips for Single Female Expats

After my own personal encounters meeting some very strong and inspiring expat women, as well as from reading recent articles here on InterNations contributed by “trailing spouses”, I was motivated to write about another group of inspirational, strong female expats.

## Happy with Their Lives: Expats in a Same-Sex Relationship

LGBT expats are less likely to be with someone from their own country (33%) compared to all expats in a relationship (44%). In fact, 45 percent of LGBT expats date someone from their new country of residence, and 23 percent are romantically involved with someone from a third country. When asked if they had ever felt unwelcome due to their sexual orientation, nearly every expat in a relationship with a partner of the opposite gender disagrees (97%), while only 64 percent of LGBT expats feel the same. Two percent even say that their sexual orientation makes them feel unwelcome abroad all the time. However, this does not

seem to affect their happiness with life overall: expats who are in a same-sex relationship are even slightly happier with their life in general (85%) than those in a heterosexual one (80%).

## Read More about LGBT Expats



### LGBT Expat Life in Mexico – How It All Started

I think the best way to start this article is with a description of 'how it happened'. I immigrated to Mexico a little over two years ago now, shortly after my wife of thirty one years died. We knew I would do this. It was a plan we had. Retired, on a limited budget, Mexico seemed a good choice.



### From New York City to a Little Village in Portugal

New York City. 2009. I had just started dating the woman that would become my wife two years later. She was only my second relationship with a woman and I was still struggling with the transition. For years, I had tried to sleep my way into heterosexuality.



### Two Moms, Swahili Style

In a moment of gay naïveté, my partner and I moved with our four-year-old son to Tanzania in 2010. We shrugged, saying we'd just act like friends out in public and keep our inner lives private. Being slightly in the closet didn't seem like a high price to pay to live in an exotic land.



### LGBT Expats and Their Partners

Are you a stay-at-home dad or an LGBT expat couple moving to a socially conservative country? Following your partner overseas is difficult, sometimes more so if the partnership is unconventional. InterNations highlights some difficulties which you might face on your assignment abroad.

## Mix and Match: Intercultural Relationships

More than half of all expats in a relationship (56%) are in an intercultural one: more than one-third has a partner from the country they live in (35%), and another 21 percent are in a relationship with a third-country national. Men are a bit more likely to meet their significant other after having moved abroad than women (31% vs. 26%). While expats from India (84%), Pakistan (83%), and South Africa (68%) tend to stick together, those from Mexico and Denmark are most likely to date someone from their new country of residence (46% each), followed by Australians, Austrians, and US Americans (45% each). The Finnish are most likely to fall in love with someone from another country altogether (34%), followed by Hungarians and Swiss expats (33% each).

## Read More about Intercultural Relationships



### Common Issues in Mixed Marriages

It always makes sense to find out as much as possible about your partner's family but it makes special sense to do so in mixed marriages – especially concerning the culture and its traditional family structures.



### Lucky in Love: The Happiest Couples in the World

Everyone knows that finding true happiness and satisfaction in a relationship takes hard work. What happens when you throw cross-cultural differences or a foreign country into the mix? This article examines what factors can influence relationship satisfaction and reveals which expats are happiest in love.





### Coping Strategies for Intercultural Marriage

While cultural issues may lead to arguments, conflicts and, in the worst case, a bitter divorce, an intercultural marriage also offers the potential for personal growth. Sofia (36) moved from Ljubljana to Edinburgh, where she met her husband David (40) and decided to stay.



### Mixed Couples, Mixed Feelings

I am Russian and I have married a Frenchman. And we have lived happily ever after. No, as you surely know, it is never that straightforward.

## 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.

### 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 about 3 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 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:  
<http://www.internations.org/press>