

UK and Ireland among Worst Expat Destinations for Climate and Weather

The poor weather in the UK and Ireland makes expats unhappy – and drives the locals away, too.

Satisfied with weather

- *United Kingdom: 20%*
- *Ireland: 15%*
- *Global Average: 61%*

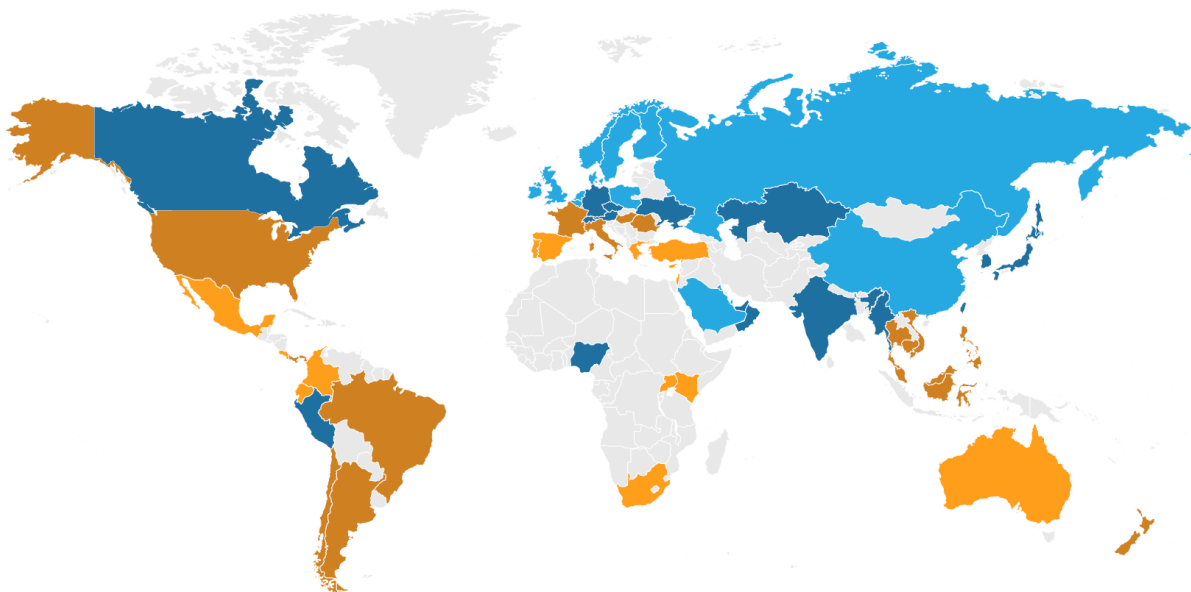
Happy with life

- *United Kingdom: 72%*
- *Ireland: 80%*
- *Global Average: 78%*

Moved for a better quality of life

- *United Kingdom: 5%*
- *Ireland: 8%*
- *Global Average: 8%*

Munich, 03 May 2018 — According to expats, the sun never seems to shine in the UK and Ireland: both countries rank at the bottom of the list for the fourth year in a row when it comes to expats' satisfaction with the local climate and weather. In 2017, the UK lands on place 62 out of 65 countries worldwide, while Ireland even comes in last. However, the available leisure activities seem to satisfy expats in the UK (82%), while those living in Ireland enjoy the peaceful environment (90%), as the latest [Expat Insider survey](#) reveals. Based on the insights of close to 13,000 expats living in 188 countries and territories, [InterNations](#), the world's largest network for people who live and work abroad, [has compiled a so-far unpublished ranking of the destinations with the best weather around the world](#). Expats looking for a sunnier escape should consider moving to Greece, Portugal, Spain, Costa Rica, Uganda, South Africa, Malta, Mexico, Cyprus, or Kenya.



Best Countries for a Sunny Escape

1 Greece	9 Cyprus	16 Thailand	24 Malaysia	32 Vietnam	39 Nigeria	47 Myanmar	54 Sweden	62 United Kingdom
2 Portugal	10 Kenya	17 Brazil	25 Panama	33 Taiwan	40 Czech Republic	48 Kazakhstan	55 China	63 Kuwait
3 Spain	11 Colombia	18 Philippines	26 Cambodia	34 Switzerland	41 Bahrain	49 Canada	56 Norway	64 Belgium
4 Costa Rica	12 Ecuador	19 Italy	27 Hungary	35 Peru	42 Hong Kong	50 Germany	57 Finland	65 Ireland
5 Uganda	13 Turkey	20 Argentina	28 France	36 Japan	43 South Korea	51 Qatar	58 Luxembourg	
6 South Africa	14 Israel	21 Chile	29 Romania	37 Austria	44 Ukraine	52 Saudi Arabia	59 Russia	
7 Malta	15 Australia	22 New Zealand	30 Singapore	38 Oman	45 UAE	53 Poland	60 Netherlands	
8 Mexico		23 USA	31 Indonesia		46 India		61 Denmark	



Peacefulness and Leisure Activities Brighten the Mood among Expats

Around half of the expats in the UK (53%) and Ireland (50%) saw the weather in their country of choice as a potential disadvantage prior to moving abroad, compared to only 20 percent globally. According to a Portuguese resident, *"the weather is always cold and grey"* in the UK, and most expats appear to agree: about three in five survey respondents in the UK (61%) — as well as Ireland (60%) — rate the weather negatively. The UK ranks therefore 62nd out of 65 countries, and Ireland even lands at the bottom of the list. In this context, it is hardly a surprise that 10 percent of the Irish and 17 percent of the British leave their home country in search for a better quality of life, such as nicer weather. For the British, this is even the most important reason for moving abroad.

On the bright side, most expats in the UK are satisfied with the available leisure activities in the country (82% vs. 73% globally), compared to only three in five expats in Ireland (60%). Meanwhile, those in Ireland enjoy the country's peacefulness (90%), which is far above both the global average (76%) and satisfaction with this factor in the UK (70%).

Top 10 Countries for a Sunny Escape

1. Greece

- Satisfied with weather: 96%
- Happy with life: 74%
- Moved for a better quality of life: 15%

Overall, Greece ranks last in the latest *Expat Insider* survey, yet the country's sunny skies appear to brighten expats' spirits: not a single respondent had anything negative to say about the climate and weather! A British expat states they enjoy *"the safe and friendly outdoor lifestyle in beautiful surrounding"*. Additionally, more than three-quarters (77%) appreciate the great quality of the environment.

2. Portugal

- Satisfied with weather: 97%
- Happy with life: 89%
- Moved for a better quality of life: 28%

Expats in Portugal can make the most out of the country's excellent weather: they are significantly more likely to work part time (37%) than the global average (17%) and only spend about 33 hours per week at work (vs. 40.7 h globally). In their free time, they seem to have plenty of options to keep themselves busy, as more than nine in ten (92%) are satisfied with the available leisure activities — the highest share within the top 10 countries for a sunny escape.

3. Spain

- Satisfied with weather: 96%
- Happy with life: 89%
- Moved for a better quality of life: 26%

Close to four in five expats living in Spain (79%) are satisfied with the quality of environment such as water and air quality and an even higher share is happy with the available leisure activities (89%). A Canadian expat particularly enjoys *"the culture of outdoor enjoyment at the beach, sea and in the*

mountains”.

4. Costa Rica

- Satisfied with weather: 98%
- Happy with life: 86%
- Moved for a better quality of life: 31%

In addition to the great weather, expats in Costa Rica are satisfied with the quality of the environment (91%) — out of the featured countries, only Portugal (94%) receives better ratings for this factor. Moreover, expats enjoy the country’s peacefulness (93%) and the local’s friendly attitude (87%) — a US American appreciates the *“freedom to live a peaceful, happy life, surrounded by kind people”*.

5. Uganda

- Satisfied with weather: 93%
- Happy with life: 76%
- Moved for a better quality of life: 2%

Most expats moving to Uganda cite work-related reasons (55%), be it their own or their partner’s job, and only 77 percent considered the weather to be a potential benefit prior to their move — this is the smallest share among the top 10 countries for a sunny escape. However, once they arrive, expats enjoy the *“wonderful climate on the equator and the amazing people,”* as a South African expat mentions.

6. South Africa

- Satisfied with weather: 93%
- Happy with life: 74%
- Moved for a better quality of life: 10%

Expat life in South Africa can be worrisome under the sunny skies, as only 38 percent find the country peaceful, which is the lowest share out of the top 10 countries. However, close to three-quarters still state to be generally happy (74% vs. 78% global). Maybe it is the high satisfaction with the available leisure options that makes life in South Africa enjoyable (89%), which is well above the global average (73%).

7. Malta

- Satisfied with weather: 93%
- Happy with life: 88%
- Moved for a better quality of life: 27%

Ranking 2nd out of 65 countries in terms of work-life balance, expats in Malta seem to have lots of time to enjoy the sun. In fact, a Polish expat particularly values the *“laid back attitude and weather”* in the country. Maybe that is the reason why 37 percent of expats felt at home nearly right away, which is close to twice the global average (19%) and the highest share among the top 10 countries for a sunny escape.

8. Mexico

- Satisfied with weather: 93%
- Happy with life: 89%
- Move for a better quality of life: 14%

Mexico remains a consistent favorite among expats, ranking within the top 5 destinations for expats in general since 2014. In addition to the great weather, 87 percent of expats are happy with the available leisure options. An Irish expat especially likes the *"relaxed living, with almost continuous sunshine"* — maybe that is one of the reasons why Mexico ranks 1st out of 65 destinations for personal happiness.

9. Cyprus

- Satisfied with weather: 91%
- Happy with life: 78%
- Moved for a better quality of life: 32%

More than one in ten expats (11%) moved to Cyprus to retire, which is the largest share among these ten countries. *"Life is generally easy here,"* states a British expat. In addition to the great weather, the majority (91%) enjoys how peaceful the country is. However, only 64 percent are satisfied with the available leisure activities, compared to 73 percent globally.

10. Kenya

- Satisfied with weather: 91%
- Happy with life: 79%
- Moved for a better quality of life: 1%

Exactly three in five expats (60%) moved to Kenya for work-related reasons (including their partner's job). Working the longest hours out of the top 10 countries (46.5 h/week), it seems like they do not have a lot of time to enjoy the great climate. Additionally, more than two in five (41%) are unsatisfied with the quality of the environment — a US American expat specifically mentions *"air pollution"* to be an issue.

Read More about a High Quality of Life Abroad



Top 10 Countries for a Sunny Escape

Greece moves up four places to claim this year's top spot, as the best expat destination for those in search of a sunny escape, according to the *Expat Insider* survey. Expats seeking an outdoor lifestyle and the weather to match should consider Portugal, Spain, Costa Rica, Uganda, South Africa, Malta, Mexico, Cyprus, or Kenya.



Which Country Could Provide Your Ideal Lifestyle?

From leisure activities to family traditions, lifestyles vary hugely around the world! We've explored some different international habits to give you an insight into how your new country's culture could affect your everyday life.



Anything but Vanilla: Five Must-Try Ice Creams from Across the World

There's nothing better than a cooling ice cream when the temperature starts to rise but after your millionth mint-chocolate-chip this summer, you may want to expand your flavor repertoire. InterNations takes a look at the finest varieties and interesting alternatives eaten across the globe.

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 3 million members in 420 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 official events and activities per month, 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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