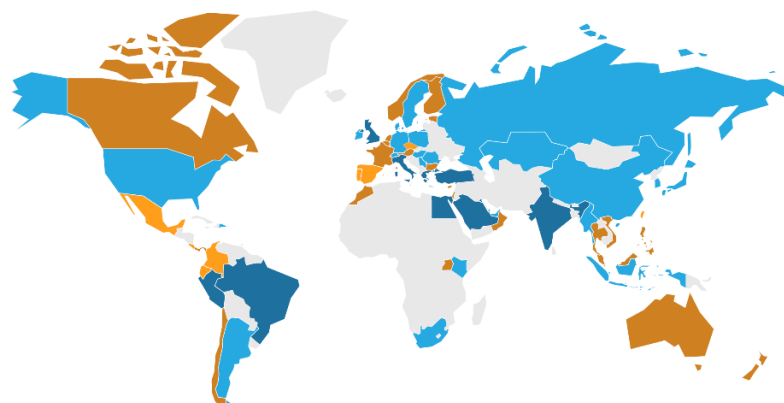


## Expatriate Insider 2018 Survey Reveals: Expats Give Qatar Its Best Ranking So Far

With Qatar having improved 20 ranks overall since last year, expats are more satisfied with the quality of life, the ease of settling in, and family life abroad.

- Bahrain leads the list of the best destinations for expats, followed by Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Czechia.
- Kuwait (68th) and Saudi Arabia (67th) are rated the worst expat destinations worldwide, together with India, Brazil, Turkey, Egypt, Peru, Italy, Greece, and the United Kingdom.
- While Qatar (from 58th to 38th) has gained in popularity among expats, Oman (from 17th to 31st) and the UAE (from 26th to 40th) are losing ground.
- While Bahrain (12th) ranks fairly high for its digital infrastructure, all other Gulf States lag behind: the restricted access to online services such as social media is an issue throughout the region.

Munich, 6 September 2018 — The Gulf States are home to the best expat destination in the world, but also to some of the worst-rated ones: Bahrain ranks at the very top of the *Expatriate Insider* survey for the second year, thanks to great results for working abroad and the ease of settling in. It is followed — at a considerable distance — by Oman (31st), which has lost 14 ranks since last year (17th). Qatar (38th), which has moved up 20 ranks since 2017 (58th), as well as the UAE (40th), which has dropped 14 positions (26th), rank in the middle of the league table. At the bottom of the list, Saudi Arabia (67th) and Kuwait (68th) keep disappointing expats year after year, as the [Expatriate Insider 2018 survey](#) reveals. With more than 18,000 respondents living and working abroad, it is one of the most extensive expat studies, conducted annually by [InterNations](#), the largest expat community worldwide. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of life abroad, the survey ranks 68 countries by a variety of factors such as quality of life, working abroad, and settling in. While results across the Gulf States vary strongly, Bahrain is this year's winner, followed by Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Spain, Colombia, and Czechia.



### The Best Destinations for Expats in 2018

1 Bahrain	9 Colombia	16 Netherlands	24 Austria	32 Morocco	39 Poland	47 USA	55 China	62 Peru
2 Taiwan	10 Czechia	17 Malaysia	25 Norway	33 Chile	40 UAE	48 Dominican Rep.	56 Hong Kong	63 Egypt
3 Ecuador	11 Thailand	18 Thailand	26 Uganda	34 France	41 South Korea	49 Kazakhstan	57 Serbia	64 Turkey
4 Mexico	12 New Zealand	19 Canada	27 Estonia	35 Denmark	42 Japan	50 Indonesia	58 Argentina	65 Brazil
5 Singapore	13 Australia	20 Malta	28 Philippines	36 Germany	43 Ireland	51 Kenya	59 India	66 India
6 Portugal	14 Panama	21 Bulgaria	29 Belgium	38 Romania	44 Switzerland	52 South Africa	60 United Kingdom	67 Saudi Arabia
7 Costa Rica	15 Vietnam	22 Israel	30 Cyprus	37 Romania	45 Hungary	53 Myanmar	61 Greece	68 Kuwait
8 Spain	15 Luxembourg	23 Finland	31 Oman	38 Qatar	46 Sweden	54 Russia	61 Italy	

Best Destinations Worst Destinations

Click on the map for a video and more information about the *Expatriate Insider 2018* survey

### Expats in Qatar Appreciate the Peacefulness and Safety

Ranking 38th out of 68 countries in the *Expats Insider 2018* survey, Qatar has moved up 20 places since 2017 (58th) and achieves its best result ever. On a global scale, the country still shows an average performance at best; however, it does receive its best ratings ever for quality of life (42nd), ease of settling in (41st), and family life (27th out of 50).

Expats in Qatar are more satisfied than ever with their socializing options and the available leisure activities: while just 44 percent rated this factor positively in 2017, 61 percent are happy with it in 2018. Moreover, expats find life in Qatar very safe and peaceful. Nearly all expats (96%) are satisfied with their personal safety, compared to 82 percent globally, and three-quarters (75%) could not feel any safer in their new country of residence (vs. 48% globally). Similarly, 89 percent describe Qatar as peaceful, which is eleven percentage points more than the global average (78%). *"It is very safe to live in this country,"* says an expat from the Philippines.

Qatar also does quite well in the new Digital Life subcategory, ranking 28th out of 68 countries. Expats are particularly happy with the availability of government services online (79% satisfied vs. 55% globally). However, the restricted access to other online services such as social media is a sore point: more than one quarter (26%) are unhappy with this factor, compared to ten percent globally.

### Welcoming Locals Make for Great Family Life

It seems as if it is getting slightly easier for expats to settle down in Qatar, with the destination having moved up six ranks since last year (from 47th to 41st). In fact, expats do feel more welcome in Qatar as 62 percent rate the attitude of the local population towards foreign residents positively in 2018, compared to just 51 percent in 2017. Moreover, just 46 percent of expats found it easy to make new friends in Qatar in 2017, which was below last year's global average (58%) — in 2018, 61 percent find this easy, which is slightly above the global average in 2018 (57%).

LIFE IN THE GCC STATES						
	Bahrain	KSA	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	UAE
Overall Rank*	1	67	68	31	38	40
Quality of Life*	20	67	68	37	42	25
Ease of Settling In*	1	67	68	16	41	26
Working Abroad*	1	66	64	39	35	46
Family Life (out of 50 countries)	7	49	48	42	27	31
Personal Finance*	22	31	50	24	30	59
Cost of Living*	25	39	59	35	62	55

Family life in Qatar is also ranked more positively by expats, with the country coming in 27th place out of 50 destinations — compared to 37th place in 2017. For example, expat parents in Qatar consider the attitude towards families with children generally friendly (19th out of 50). In fact, close to nine in ten (88%) rate this factor positively, compared to a global average of 83 percent. What is more, expat parents are also impressed with the quality of education, which has climbed from ranking 26th in 2017 to 14th in 2018. More than three-quarters (76%) rate the quality of education in Qatar positively, an increase of seven-percentage points-since 2017 (69%).

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### Top 3 Countries for Expats Are Great for Working Abroad and Easy to Settle In

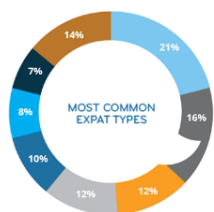
2017's surprise winner **Bahrain** defends its first place, thanks to excellent results for working abroad and ease of settling in (1st for both). Seven in ten expats in Bahrain (70%) are happy with their career prospects (vs. 55% globally), and 81 percent find it easy to settle down in this country (vs. 59% globally).

*"I do not feel like an expat in Bahrain,"* says an Indian respondent. *"I feel at home here"*. More than three-quarters of the expats living in runner-up **Taiwan** (76%) are satisfied with their job security (vs. 59% globally), with the destination ranking first in the world for this factor. Taiwan also offers the world's highest quality of life, and 77 percent of expats feel at home there (vs. 64% globally). Coming in third place, **Ecuador** is one the biggest winners of the *Expats Insider 2018* survey, moving up 22 ranks since 2017 (25th out of 65). While less than half the expats in Ecuador (46%) were satisfied with their career prospects in 2017, 69 percent are happy now. Moreover, 76 percent find it easy to settle down in this Latin American country (vs. 59% globally).

### Bottom 3 Countries for Expats Rank Low for Quality of Life

India (66th), Saudi Arabia (67th), and Kuwait (68th) do not only rank at the bottom of the overall league table, but they are also among the worst destinations in terms quality of life. Expats in **India** are dealing with the world's lowest quality of the environment: more than four in five (82%) are unhappy with this factor (vs. 19% globally). Over two in five (41%) even give it the worst possible rating, which is more than ten times the global average (4%). *"I do not like the quality of the air, all the trash, and the pollution,"* an expat from the USA says. *"It is very dirty all over the country"*. Around half the expats in **Kuwait** (52%) and **Saudi Arabia** (47%) are also unhappy with this factor. Moreover, the two Gulf States rank last and second to last for the ease of settling in. About half the expats in Kuwait (47%) and Saudi Arabia (51%) find it hard to get used to the local culture, compared to 21 percent globally.

### Read More about *Expats Insider* and the InterNations Community



#### The 7 Most Common Expat Types and Why They Move Abroad

Although every expat journey is unique, there are similarities when it comes to their motivation for moving and their lifestyle abroad. Based on the insights of more than 18,000 expats, InterNations presents the first comprehensive expat typology with the 7 most common expat types that roam the world.

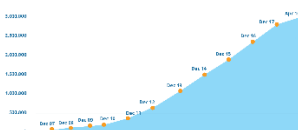
*Country-specific versions are available in different languages in the download section at the end of the press release.*



#### InterNations Country and City Guides

In more than 200 destination guides InterNations offers valuable tips and information about expats' destinations, including helpful advice from other members.

*If you would like to access the complete guides, please get in touch via [press@internations.org](mailto:press@internations.org).*



#### InterNations Surpasses 3 Million Members

In April 2018 the world's largest expat community reached 3 million members, which equals a growth of 20 percent within the last twelve months. InterNations also expanded its international range to 420 cities around the world with 30 new communities.



### Ten Moments That Made InterNations

Growing from a start-up to a global network has been an incredible journey. Here are the stand-out moments that got us to a decade of connecting global minds.

### About the InterNations *Expat Insider 2018* Survey

For its annual [Expat Insider survey](#), InterNations asked more than 18,000 expatriates representing 178 nationalities and living in 187 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 up to 48 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 17 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 68 expatriate destinations around the world. In 2018, the top 10 are Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Spain, Colombia, and Czechia.

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 at least 40 respondents raising children abroad was required. In 2018, 68 and 50 countries respectively met these requirements. However, in most countries the sample size exceeded 100 participants.

### About InterNations

With 3.2 million members in 420 cities around the world, InterNations ([www.internations.org](http://www.internations.org)) is the largest global community 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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