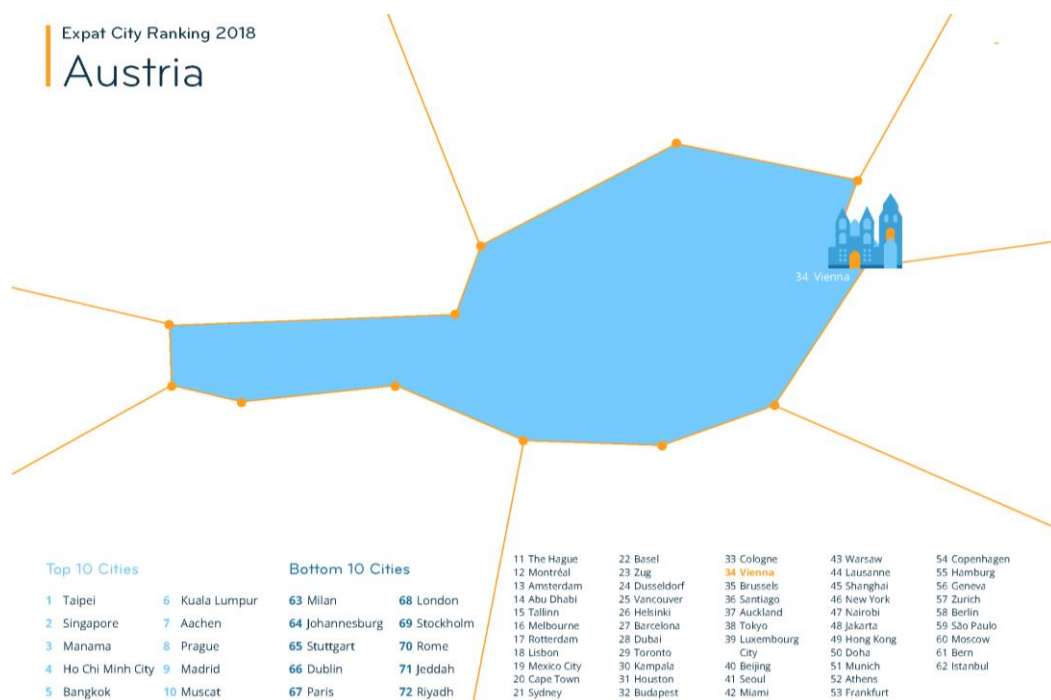


Expatriate City Ranking 2018: Expats Find It Easier to Make Friends in Vienna

Expats in the Austrian capital see an improvement in terms of getting settled but are worried about political changes and their finances.

- Vienna comes in an average 34th place out of 72 cities worldwide in the Expatriate City Ranking 2018 by InterNations. The top 10 cities for expats are Taipei, Singapore, Manama, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Aachen, Prague, Madrid, and Muscat.
- Respondents in Vienna are more satisfied with their social life than last year (61% vs. 53%), but the city is still in the bottom 10 for local friendliness (ranking 65th out of 72).
- More than nine in ten expats in Vienna are happy with the local transportation infrastructure (95%) and their personal safety (92%).
- Over three in ten expats in Vienna (31%) are dissatisfied with their financial situation, more than double the average among expats in Austria (14%).

Munich, 20 November 2018 — Vienna comes in a mediocre 34th place out of 72 cities worldwide in the Expatriate City Ranking 2018 by InterNations. The city does well for quality of urban living and it shows some improvements when it comes to the ease of getting settled in as an expat. However, there are still drawbacks for expats, in particular in terms of housing & finance, as the so-far unpublished Expatriate City Ranking 2018 reveals. It is based on the [Expatriate Insider 2018 survey](#), conducted by [InterNations](#), the largest expat community worldwide. With more than 18,000 respondents living and working abroad, it is one of the most extensive expat studies in the world. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of expat life in 72 cities, the survey ranks these destinations by a variety of factors such as quality of urban living, getting settled, urban work life, as well as finance & housing. The top 10 cities for expats in 2018 are Taipei, Singapore, Manama, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Aachen, Prague, Madrid, and Muscat.



Great Quality of Urban Living and Improved Social Life in Vienna

Ranking 65th out of 72 cities in terms of local friendliness, Vienna is still among the unfriendliest cities for expats in the world. *"The Austrians could be a little friendlier,"* says a British expat, while a Canadian respondent notes that *"it is hard to get to know people"*. One major reason might be the language barrier: almost half of the respondents (48%) find it difficult to live in Vienna without speaking the local language (vs. 38% globally). On the bright side, expats seem to be happier with their social life, with 61 percent rating it positively, compared to 53 percent in 2017. What is more, 42 percent of respondents state that it is easy to find friends in Vienna, which is eleven percentage points more than in 2017 (31%). A Venezuelan expat comments that *"Austrian people, when they become your friends, are very special and will always be there for you"*, while an Armenian respondent thinks that *"people are open-minded"*.

Vienna holds on to its place in the top 10 in terms of quality of urban living, in particular when it comes to local transportation and health & environment. Almost all respondents (95%) are satisfied with the transportation system, compared to 70 percent globally, and 82 percent even think that it is very good (vs. 37% globally). *"I like the ease of public transport in Vienna,"* says an Irish expat. *"I generally do not need a car"*. When it comes to health & environment, 86 percent of expats are satisfied with the availability of healthcare in Vienna, compared to 75 percent globally. What is more, more than nine in ten (91%) are happy with the quality of the urban environment (vs. 70% globally).

Politics and Finance: Sore Points for Expats in the Austrian Capital

In 2018, expats' satisfaction with political stability got worse: just 68 percent of the respondents are happy with this aspect of life in Vienna, compared to 83 percent in 2017. In terms of finance & housing, Vienna does not perform well, either. Only 43 percent of the respondents think it is easy to find housing in Vienna (vs. 52% globally), and many expats living in the Austrian capital struggle with their personal finances. Over three in ten respondents (31%) are not satisfied their financial situation, which is 17 percentage points more than the level of dissatisfaction across Austria in general (14%).

The Best and Worst Cities for Expats

Taipei (1st), Singapore (2nd), and Manama (3rd) top the list of the Expat City Ranking 2018. This is largely due to how easy expats find it to settle in to life in these cities. This might be related to the friendliness of the local population and the personal safety in the cities. In fact, Taipei is rated the world's friendliest city by expats, with 94 percent finding the local residents friendly. *"People here are so friendly and always want to help,"* shares an expat from the Netherlands. The majority of expats in Manama (87%) also agrees that there is a friendly attitude toward foreign residents in the city, compared to 62 percent globally. Personal safety is one of the biggest perks of expat life in Singapore: 88 percent state to feel completely safe in the city (vs. 48% globally). *"It is easy for everyone to enjoy life here without worrying about safety,"* shares an expat from India.

On the other hand, Riyadh (72nd), Jeddah (71st), and Rome (70th) rank at the bottom of the list. While all three cities receive low ratings across the board, they seem to be particularly disappointing in terms of urban work life: close to three in five expats in Rome (58%) are dissatisfied with the local career opportunities (vs. 27% globally). An Albanian expat states that *"career opportunities are non-existent"*. Meanwhile, Jeddah and Riyadh are rated the two worst cities in the world for work-life balance: 34 and 38 percent, respectively, are unsatisfied with this factor (vs. 20% globally).

Read More about the Best and Worst Cities for Expats



Best & Worst
Cities for Expats



Quality of Urban
Living Index



Getting Settled
Index



Urban Work Life
Index



Finance &
Housing Index

About the Expat City Ranking 2018

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. In 2018, the fifth 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 72 cities worldwide. In 2018, the top 10 cities for expats are Taipei, Singapore, Manama, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Aachen, Prague, Madrid, and Muscat.

In total, the responses used for the city ranking represent 11,966 expats living in 55 countries. For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2018, a sample size of at least 45 survey participants per city was required; 72 cities in 47 different countries made this threshold in 2018.

About InterNations

With 3.3 million members in 420 cities around the world, InterNations (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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