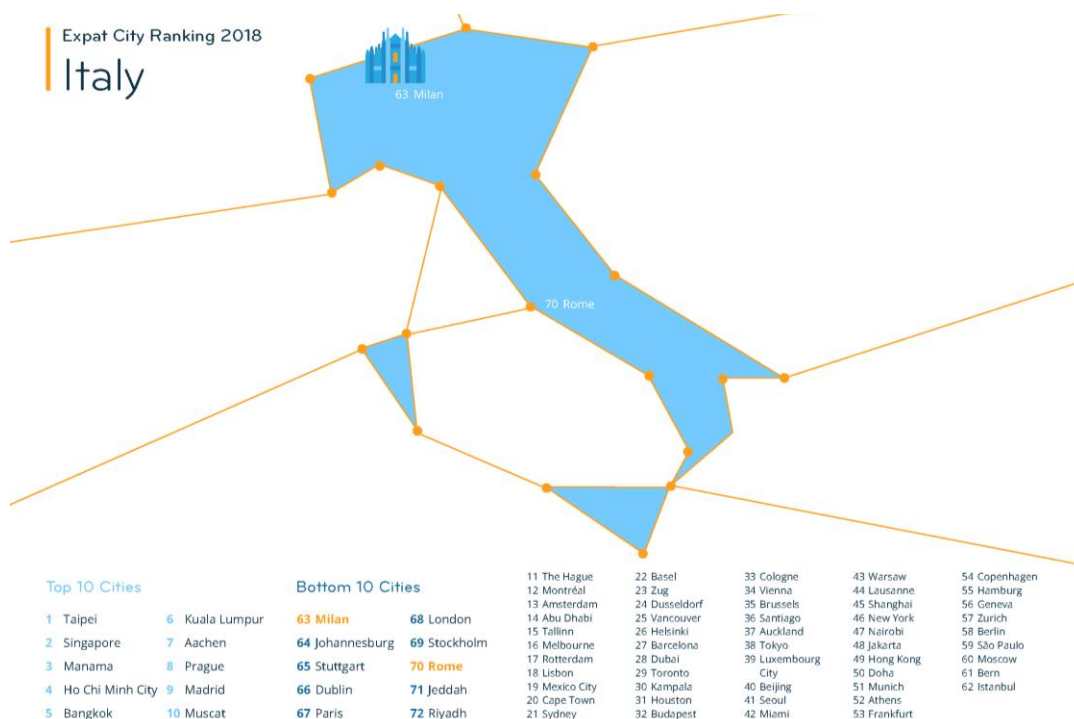


## Expatriate City Ranking 2018: Rome and Milan Both Rank among the Bottom 10 Cities for Expats Worldwide

Rome and Milan disappoint in terms of urban work life as well as finance and housing for expats.

- *Milan (63rd) ranks ahead of Rome (70th) 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.*
- *Both cities rank among the bottom 10 in terms of urban work life, with Milan coming in 67th place and Rome even landing in the last place (72nd).*
- *Milan does better than last year in terms of the quality of urban living, especially when it comes to political stability (44% positive ratings in 2018 vs. 24% in 2017).*
- *Rome ranks 8th out of 72 cities for local climate and weather, doing by far better than Milan in this respect (38th).*

Munich, 20 November 2018 — Ranking among the ten worst cities for expats in the world, Milan (63rd) and Rome (70th) both disappoint foreign residents. According to the Expatriate City Ranking 2018, both cities offer a rather unsatisfying urban working life, and Rome also ranks in the bottom 10 for quality of urban living. On the bright side, expats in Milan are more satisfied with the political stability and the local leisure options than last year, and expats in Rome really enjoy the local weather. The so-far unpublished Expatriate City Ranking 2018 is based on this year's [Expatriate Insider survey](#), conducted by [InterNations](#), the largest expat community worldwide.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 them 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.



### **Expats in Milan (63rd) Are Happier with the Quality of Urban Living than Last Year**

Coming in 63rd place out of 72 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2018, Milan has improved in every aspect regarding the quality of urban living, compared to 2017. In particular, expats are more satisfied with the political stability in the city, the positive ratings for this factor increasing from 24 percent in 2017 to 44 percent this year. The latter is even twelve percentage points more than the average across the whole country in 2018 (32%). Expats are also happier with the leisure options the city offers: more than four in five (82%) are satisfied with them, compared to 70 percent in 2017. A Belgian expat living in Milan comments: *"I like the variety of fine dining options, museums, and exhibitions"*.

On the other hand, Italy's second-largest city receives worse ratings for finance (67th) and housing (52nd). In fact, while just 25 percent of expats in Milan were unhappy with their financial situation in 2017, 38 percent are not content in 2018. The dissatisfaction with this factor is higher in Milan than across the whole country (31%) and around the globe (25%). What is more, just 38 percent of respondents state that their income is *more* than what they need to cover all their living expenses, which is ten percentage points less than last year (48%) and even 13 percentage points less than the global average (51%). *"Salaries are low,"* an Iranian expat says, *"but expenses are high"*. In fact, just 18 percent think that housing is affordable in Milan (vs. 37% globally) — in 2017, 32 percent of expats were still happy with this aspect of life in Milan. Moreover, in 2018, only 28 percent of expats say it is easy to find housing there, while last year more than half (51%) thought the same.

Overall, finance & housing, as well as cost of living, are the only categories in which Milan does worse than the Italian capital, Rome. Just 33 percent of expats are satisfied with the local cost of living in Milan, while 44 percent rate this factor positively in the capital. An Argentinian expat says: *"It gets hard if you are an expat in Milan and you do not have enough money."*

### **Rome (70th) Is the Worst European City for Expats**

Rome ranks among the three worst cities for expats worldwide in the Expat City Ranking 2018, just ahead of Jeddah and Riyadh. The city seems to offer a particularly unsatisfying working life, coming last worldwide and ranking in the bottom 5 for each factor featured in this category. The majority of expats in Rome is unhappy with their job security (37% vs. 21% globally), their work-life balance (33% vs. 20% globally), and their career options (58% vs. 27% globally). *"Career opportunities do not exist here"*, an expat from Albania thinks. Moreover, 38 percent are generally unhappy with their job, which is 20 percentage points more than the global average (18%) and the lowest level of satisfaction among all 72 cities worldwide. Expats are not only unhappy with their working life but also with their financial situation: just 44 percent of respondents rate this factor favorably, compared to 58 percent globally. However, ranking 64th out of 72 cities worldwide, Rome still beats Milan by a few places (67th).

But Milan (43rd) outperforms Rome (65th) when it comes to the quality of urban living: the capital ranks particularly low for local transportation (65th) and safety & politics (66th). Almost three in five respondents (56%) are not satisfied with the local transportation infrastructure, which is nearly three times the global average (19%) and even eight times the share in Milan (7%). *"Public transportation is bad and I do not feel safe"*, summarizes a Hungarian expat. In fact, just 64 percent of respondents in Rome rate their personal safety as good, compared to 80 percent globally, and when it comes to political stability, just 37 percent are satisfied with the local situation (vs. 63% globally).

The only factor for which Rome makes it into the top 10 worldwide is the local climate and weather: close to nine in ten (88%) are happy with its sunny climes (vs. 55% globally), and 58 percent even think

it could not be any better (vs. 22% globally). A German expat living in Rome shares her love for *“the food, the weather, and the sea”*.

### 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). 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](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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