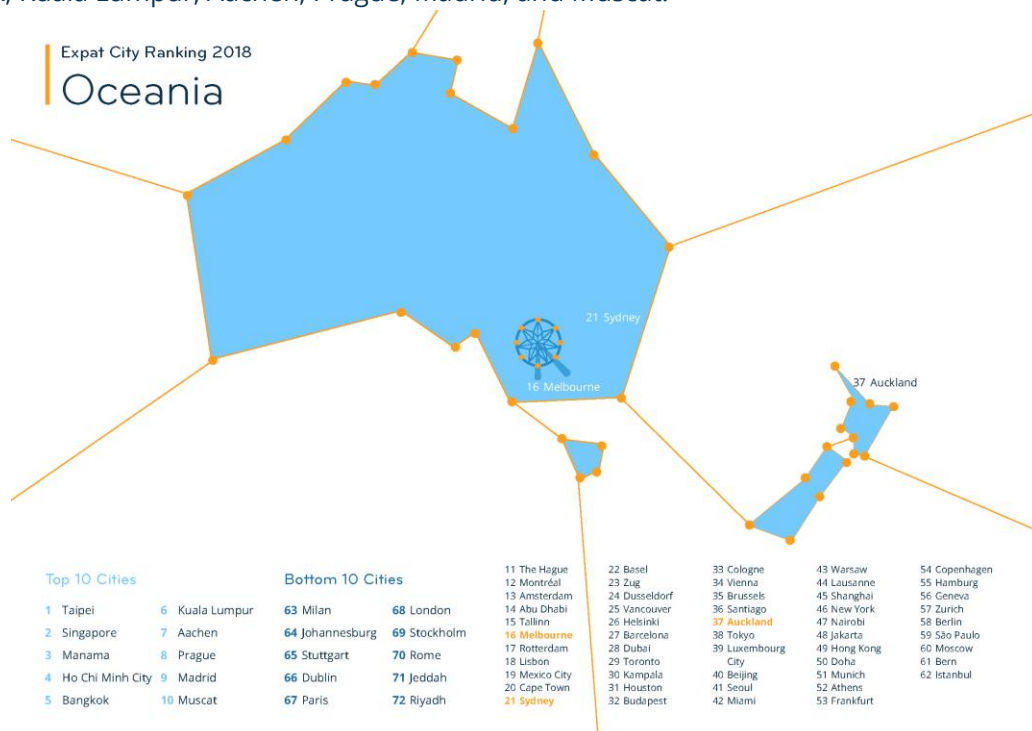


Expat City Ranking 2018: Melbourne Beats Sydney and Auckland as the Best City for Expats in Oceania

High cost of living and little affordable housing burden expat life in the Oceanian cities, but they still have their individual perks.

- Melbourne (16th) and Sydney (21st) rank ahead of Auckland (37th) in the Expat 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.
- A difficult housing situation impacts all Oceanian cities surveyed negatively, but it is the worst in Auckland: 78% find the cost of accommodation too high.
- Melbourne is the worst Oceanic city in terms of quality of urban work life (32nd), passed by Auckland (17th) and Sydney (12th).
- Sydney comes fifth globally for leisure & climate, with close to nine in ten (88%) expats rating their local leisure options positively.

Munich, 20 November 2018 — Melbourne (16th) and Sydney (21st) rank well in the Expat City Ranking 2018, while Auckland comes in at a mediocre 37th place out of 72 cities worldwide. All three cities disappoint expats in terms of finance & housing as well as local cost of living, but they still have their perks: while the Australian cities offer a good quality of urban living, Auckland is the easiest Oceanic city to get settled as an expat. The so-far unpublished Expat City Ranking 2018 is based on this year's [Expat Insider survey](#), conducted by [InterNations](#), the largest expat community worldwide.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.



Melbourne (16th) Is Expensive but Still Affordable Compared to Sydney and Auckland

Of the Oceanian cities, Melbourne's performance in the Expat City Ranking 2018 is best, coming in 16th place out of 72 cities worldwide. The Australian city receives its best ratings in terms of quality of urban living (19th) and getting settled (23rd). In fact, more than nine in ten expats (92%) are satisfied with the quality of the urban environment (vs. 70% globally), and 43 percent even give it the best possible rating (vs. 32% globally). An expat from France shares that they like the *"nature, parks, forests, and valleys"* in Melbourne. What is more, 85 percent of expats are happy with the local leisure options, which is 11 percentage points more than the global average (74%).

Still below the global average in 46th place out of 72 cities, Melbourne does not do as badly as Sydney (58th) and Auckland (65th) when it comes to finance & housing. However, 65 percent still find it hard to afford housing in Melbourne (vs. 44% globally), with one expat from the Philippines commenting that the *"cost of housing is high"*. Similarly, the local cost of living is the best in Melbourne (46th) out of the three Oceanian cities, with Sydney and Auckland ranking 60th and 64th, respectively. In comparison to the global average, expats in Melbourne are still worse off, though, as half the respondents (50%) are unhappy with the local cost of living, compared to 37 percent globally.

Despite its better ranking overall, Melbourne is the worst Oceanian city for urban work life, ranking at 32nd place worldwide, after Sydney (12th) and Auckland (17th). The level of overall job satisfaction in particular is lower, with over a quarter of respondents (26%) answering that they are not satisfied in Melbourne. This is higher than the share in Sydney (17%) and Auckland (13%) and among all survey respondents (18%).

Expats in Sydney (21st) Are Happy with the Leisure Option but Not the Cost of Living

Coming in 21st out of 72 cities worldwide, Sydney places in the middle of the Oceanian cities, making it into both the top and the bottom 10 for different aspects surveyed. Expats are pleased with the local leisure & climate (5th), just after Cape Town (1st), Barcelona, Lisbon, and Miami (4th): close to nine in ten respondents (88%) are happy with the leisure options (vs. 74% globally), and 84 percent rate the local climate and weather favourably (vs. 55% globally). More than half (52%) could not be any happier with the latter (vs. 22% globally). One expat from Belgium states that they like the *"outdoors life, climate, relaxed lifestyle, and proximity of beautiful nature"* in Sydney.

What is more, expats feel welcome in Sydney (9th), which might be due to the fact that 78 percent state it is easy to get used to the local culture (vs. 61% globally). Only expats in Manama (1st), Lisbon, Dublin, and Montréal (4th) find this easier. Sydney also ranks in the top 10 cities in the world for work-life balance (8th) and far ahead of Auckland (18th) and Melbourne (30th). In fact, 74 percent state to be satisfied with their work-life balance in Sydney, while just 68 percent in Auckland and 62 percent in Melbourne agree.

However, the high local cost of living (60th) and expats' dissatisfaction with finance & housing (58th), that can be observed in all Oceanian cities, also burdens expats in Sydney. While the satisfaction with the availability of housing for expats (46%) is below the global average (52%), it does not seem to be the biggest issue of expats in Sydney: over four in five expats (82%) find the pricing of housing too high (vs. 44% globally). What is more, two in three expats (67%) are unhappy with the local cost of living, compared to 37 percent globally.

The Cost of Living Drags Auckland (37th) Down

Auckland ranks last amongst the Oceanian cities surveyed, coming in 37th place out of 72 cities worldwide. Out of the three cities surveyed, it is also the worst when it comes to finance & housing (65th worldwide) and the local cost of living (64th). In fact, 42 percent say it is hard for expats to find housing (vs. 30% globally), and 78 percent of expats are unhappy with its affordability in Auckland (vs. 44% globally). Close to half (45%) even give it the worst possible rating, which is far higher than the shares in Melbourne (32%), Sydney (34%), and across the world (15%)! *"The opportunities to rent a place are limited,"* shares an expat from Russia, *"and the prices are high in general."* More than seven in ten expats (71%) agree by rating the local cost of living negatively, which is 34 percent more than the global average (37%). It therefore comes as no surprise that the financial satisfaction among expats in Auckland is also in the bottom 5 worldwide (68th), only ahead of Paris (69th), Athens, Bern, and Vancouver (72nd). The results show that close to two in five respondents in Auckland (38%) are dissatisfied with their financial situation, compared to 25 percent globally.

Nonetheless, expat life in Auckland also seems to have its perks: expats rank it among the top 10 globally for local leisure options (8th), with 90 percent of respondents agreeing that they are good (vs. 74% globally). Almost half (49%) even think they could not be any better (vs. 34% globally). Auckland is also narrowly voted the best city for getting settled among the Oceanian cities (21st), followed by Melbourne (23rd) and Sydney (25th). Close to three-quarters of expats in Auckland (74%) finding the locals generally friendly, compared to 62 percent globally. *"The friendliness and helpfulness of the people"* are even the best things about life in Auckland for an expat from the UK. Maybe that is the reason why 68 percent of expats feel at home in Auckland (vs. 62% globally), and 37 percent even say that they feel *completely* at home (vs. 27% globally).

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 emphasised 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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