

Expats in Warsaw Struggle to Settle In but Enjoy the Low Cost of Living

The annual Expat City Ranking reveals how expats rate life in 82 cities around the world, including Warsaw.

- *Warsaw ranks 57th out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019. It performs best in the Local Cost of Living Index (8th) and worst in the Getting Settled Index (76th).*
- *Based on the ranking, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Montréal, Lisbon, Barcelona, Zug, The Hague, and Basel are the best cities to move to in 2020.*
- *Kuwait City (82nd), Rome, Milan, Lagos (Nigeria), Paris, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Lima, New York City, and Yangon (73rd) are the world's worst cities.*

Munich, 3 December 2019 — Warsaw ranks a below-average 57th out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019 by [InterNations](#), the world's largest expat community with more than 3.5 million members. While the city features among the world's best in terms of local cost of living (8th), it lands in the bottom 10 for the ease to get settled (76th) as expats find the local residents generally unfriendly.

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations, which is with more than 20,000 respondents in 2019 one of the most extensive surveys about living and working abroad. In 2019, 82 cities around the globe are analyzed in the survey, offering in-depth information about five areas of expat life: Quality of Urban Living, Getting Settled, Urban Work Life, Finance & Housing, and Local Cost of Living. Taken together, the first four areas make up the Expat City Ranking, which reveals the best and worst cities to move to in 2020.

Expat City Ranking 2019

Expat Life in Warsaw



What Expats Think about Life in Warsaw

57. Warsaw

With a below-average 57th place in the Expat City Ranking, Warsaw makes it into both the top and bottom 10, depending on the respective index. Expats struggle to get settled in the Polish capital, ranking it 76th in the Getting Settled Index. This is mainly due to over a third of expats (35%) finding the city's population generally unfriendly towards foreign residents (vs. 19% globally) and 30% also rating their general friendliness negatively (vs. 19% globally). What is more, 41% of expats think that it is difficult to live in Warsaw without speaking the local language (vs. 37% globally), while another 80% say it is challenging to learn Polish (vs. 45% globally). *"Language is still a big barrier for me,"* shares a South African expat. *"For example, the nurses do not speak English, which is a big concern."* Warsaw also does not perform well in the Quality of Urban Living Index (53rd). Its biggest weakness is the Health & Environment subcategory (70th), as one in three expats (33%) is unhappy with the quality of the environment (vs. 17% globally). Additionally, expats are dissatisfied with both the quality of medical care (43% vs. 18% globally) and its availability (28% vs. 13% globally).

On a positive note, Warsaw ranks in the top 10 worldwide of the Local Cost of Living Index (8th), with 62% of expats feeling satisfied with the local cost of living (vs. 43% globally). What is more, 47% of expats find housing in the city affordable (vs. 36% globally), while 57% also consider it easy to find (vs. 50% globally). This helps Warsaw land in a good 23rd place in the Housing subcategory, while it only ranks 58th in the Finance subcategory. In fact, less than half the expats (46%) are satisfied with their financial situation (vs. 57% globally).

About the Expat City Ranking 2019

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual [Expat Insider survey](#) by InterNations. For the survey, more than 20,000 expatriates representing 178 nationalities and living in 187 countries or territories provided information on various aspects of expat life. In addition to their satisfaction with life in their host country, 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 82 cities worldwide. In 2019, the top 10 cities for expats are Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Montréal, Lisbon, Barcelona, Zug, The Hague, and Basel. The survey also includes a Local Cost of Living Index, which does, however, not factor into the overall ranking to avoid overrepresenting financial aspects.

For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2019, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per city was required.

About InterNations

With more than 3.5 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.

Find more information about InterNations on our [press page](#), in our [company blog](#), or in our [magazine](#).

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