

Expatriate Life in Graz and Vienna

The Expat City Ranking 2020 reveals the best and worst cities for expats around the world, including Graz and Vienna.

- Out of 66 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2020, Graz ranks 11th, followed by Vienna in 16th place.
- Valencia (1st), Alicante, Lisbon, Panama City, Singapore, Málaga, Buenos Aires, Kuala Lumpur, Madrid, and Abu Dhabi (10th) are the top 10 cities for expats to live in 2020.
- On the other hand, expats consider Salmiya in Kuwait (66th), Rome, Seoul, Milan, Nairobi, Paris, Johannesburg, Santiago, Dublin, and Hong Kong (57th) the world's worst cities to live in

Munich, 26 November 2020 — Graz (11th) and Vienna (16th) both make it into the top 20 of the Expat City Ranking 2020 by [InterNations](#), the world's largest expat community with around 4 million members. Both Austrian cities rank very well for their quality of life, but expats struggle to get settled in. In the end, Graz beats Vienna thanks to its better results in the Urban Work Life, Finance & Housing, and Local Cost of Living Indices.

Expat City Ranking 2020

Expatriate Life in Graz and Vienna



Quality of Urban Living Index

5th 2nd

22nd 18th Leisure & Climate
8th 1st Transportation
18th 23rd Safety & Politics
12th 4th Health & Environment



Urban Work Life Index

8th 16th

19th 32nd Job & Career
5th 14th Job Security
10th 12th Work-Life Balance

Happiness Level



Overall Ranking



Graz
11th
out of 66



Getting Settled Index

59th 53rd

50th 64th Local Friendliness
52nd 44th Feeling Welcome
60th 47th Friends & Socializing
61st 50th Local Language



Finance & Housing Index

18th 25th

25th 36th Finance
23rd 28th Housing



Vienna
16th
out of 66



Local Cost of Living Index

16th 22nd

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations, which is one of the most extensive surveys about living and working abroad, with more than 15,000 respondents in 2020. This year, 66 cities around the globe are analyzed in the survey, which offers 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. Together, the first four topics make up the Expat City Ranking, which reveals the best

and worst cities for expats to live in. As the data was collected in March 2020, just before COVID-19 turned into a global pandemic, one question, however, remains: Will these cities still come out on top in a post-COVID world?

What Expats Think about Life in Graz and Vienna

11. Graz — Great Quality of Life but Hard to Get Settled In

Coming 11th out of 66 destinations in total, Graz narrowly misses out on a spot among the top 10 cities worldwide. This Austrian city performs better than the capital Vienna (16th), and it ranks among the top 10 in both the Quality of Urban Living (5th) and the Urban Work Life (8th) Indices. Regarding the quality of urban living, Graz stands out with its public transportation system: 96% of expats rate this factor positively (vs. 66% globally). Additionally, it lands in 5th place for its urban environment, with 92% of survey respondents happy with this factor (vs. 65% globally). A Tunisian expat living in Graz lists the *"nature, quality of life, infrastructure, and green spaces"* as things he likes most about his life abroad. In the Urban Work Life Index, Graz comes 5th in the Job Security subcategory and 10th in the Work-Life Balance subcategory. In fact, 80% of expats in Graz are happy with their job security in Austria (vs. 59% globally), and 79% rate their working hours positively (vs. 65% globally).

On the downside, Graz loses a lot of points in the Getting Settled Index (59th), even ranking among the bottom 10. The Austrian city comes in 60th place in the Friends & Socializing subcategory, with 41% of respondents unhappy with their social life in Graz (vs. 24% globally). Moreover, 45% of expats find it difficult to find new friends (vs. 33% globally). *"It is not easy to make friends. Austrians tend to stick with Austrians and do not speak much English or enjoy speaking English. So, sometimes I feel lonely,"* shares a South African expat. The local population of Graz is also not perceived as very friendly towards foreign residents (37% negative ratings vs. 18% globally), which leads to poor results in the Local Friendliness subcategory (50th).

16. Vienna's Quality of Urban Living is Outstanding

Placing 16th overall, Vienna performs generally well in the Urban Work Life (16th), Finance & Housing (25th), and Local Cost of Living (22nd) Indices. However, when it comes to the two other indices featured in the survey, the results could not be any more different: Austria's capital city does best in the Quality of Urban Living Index (2nd), where it is only preceded by Valencia, Spain (1st). Expats are particularly happy with the local transportation system (96% positive ratings vs. 66% globally), ranking the city first worldwide for this factor. Vienna is also one of the top 5 cities in the Health & Environment subcategory (4th), with 89% of survey respondents happy with the urban environment (vs. 65% globally) and 86% satisfied with the availability of healthcare (vs. 74% globally). *"Vienna is a wonderful city with a high quality of life,"* says a German expat. *"The infrastructure, public transportation, and healthcare are working very well. And the environment of Vienna is beautiful and diverse."*

However, Vienna ranks low in the Getting Settled Index (53rd) and is even among the bottom 3 cities in the Local Friendliness subcategory (64th). Only Salmiya in Kuwait (66th) and Prague, Czechia (65th), perform poorer for local friendliness. Close to three in eight survey respondents in Vienna (37%) rate the general friendliness of the local residents negatively (vs. 17% globally), and 42% consider them unfriendly towards foreign residents (vs. 18% globally). A British expat living in Vienna says that he does not like *"the unfriendly attitude of some Austrians towards certain foreigners"*.

About the Expat City Ranking 2020

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations. For the survey, more than 15,000 expatriates representing 173 nationalities and living in 181 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, considering both emotional topics and 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 66 cities worldwide. In 2020, the top 10 cities for expats are Valencia, Alicante, Lisbon, Panama City, Singapore, Málaga, Buenos Aires, Kuala Lumpur, Madrid, and Abu Dhabi. 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 2020, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per city was required.

About InterNations

With around 4 million members in 420 cities around the world, [InterNations](#) is the largest global community and a source of information for people who live and work abroad. InterNations offers global and local networking and socializing, both online and face to face. At around 6,000 events and activities per month, expatriates have the opportunity to meet other global minds. Online services include discussion forums and helpful articles with personal expat experiences, tips, and information about life abroad. Membership is by approval only to ensure we remain a community of trust. InterNations is part of the New Work SE, a group of brands that offer products and services for a better working life.

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Press Contact

Caroline Harsch
Media Spokesperson

InterNations GmbH
Schwanthalerstrasse 39
80336 Munich, Germany

Email: press@internations.org
Homepage: <https://www.internations.org/press>