

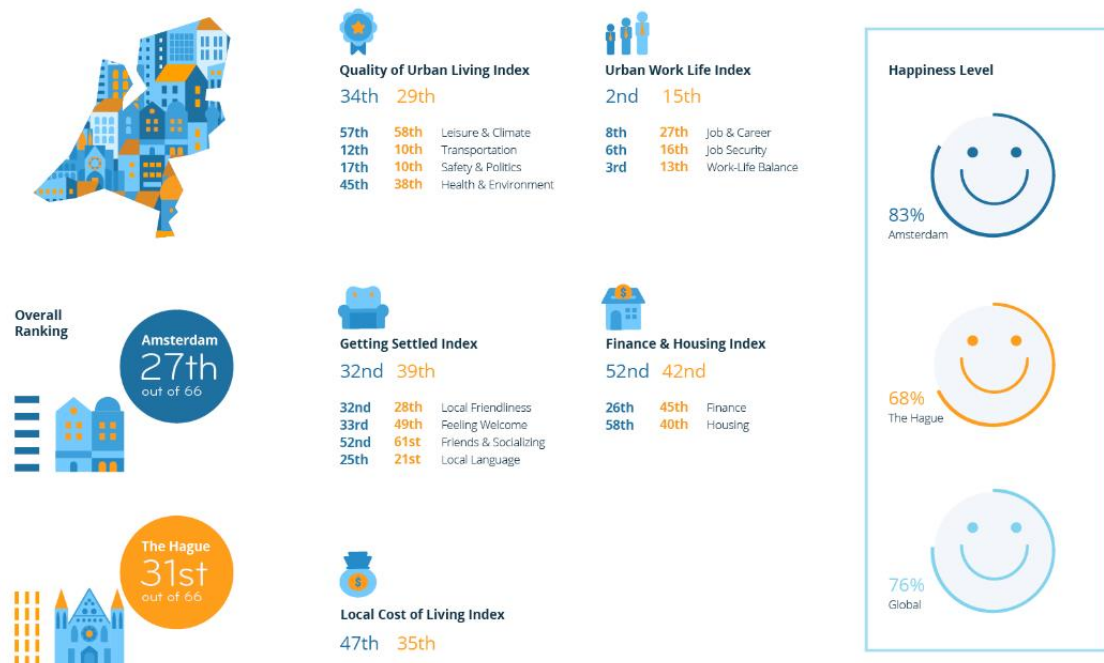
Expatriate Life in Amsterdam and The Hague

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

- Out of 66 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2020, Amsterdam ranks 27th and The Hague 31st.
- 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 — With a difference of just four ranks, Amsterdam (27th) and The Hague (31st) show a fairly similar performance in the Expat City Ranking 2020 by [InterNations](https://www.internations.org/), the world's largest expat community with around 4 million members. They both rank best in the Urban Work Life Index, with Amsterdam even landing in second place worldwide. In the Quality of Urban Living and Getting Settled Indices, they both come in midfield and perform worst in the Finance & Housing and Local Cost of Living Indices. Regarding the latter two, Amsterdam ranks worse in both indices, mainly due to the local housing situation.

Expat City Ranking 2020 Expatriate Life in Amsterdam and The Hague



The [Expat City Ranking](https://www.internations.org/) 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 Amsterdam and The Hague

27. Amsterdam: Great Urban Environment and Local Economy

Coming in at 27th place in the Expat City Ranking 2020, Amsterdam receives rather mixed results. The Dutch capital performs very well in the Urban Work Life Index (2nd), ranking just behind Luxembourg City (1st). Close to two in three expats (65%) rate their career prospects positively (vs. 43% globally), and 90% are happy with state of the local economy (vs. 63% globally). An Indian expat says they like *“the digital economy and the work opportunities”*. Expats in Amsterdam are also satisfied with the public transportation infrastructure (94% vs. 66% globally) and the urban environment (86% vs. 65% globally). However, the city just ranks 34th in the Quality of Urban Living Index, due to the local climate and weather (64th), the availability of healthcare (58th), and the quality of medical care (61st).

Amsterdam receives even weaker results in the Finance & Housing Index (52nd). This is due to its poor ranking in the Housing subcategory (58th), where fewer than one in six survey respondents (16%) state that housing is affordable (vs. 41% globally). Additionally, 64% say it is difficult to find housing there (vs. 27% globally). Amsterdam’s results in the Getting Settled Index (32nd) are also mixed. In the Friends & Socializing subcategory (52nd), more than four in nine expats (45%) find it difficult to make friends (vs. 33% globally), and 28% are unhappy with their social life (vs. 24% globally). However, the language barrier does not seem to be an issue, as 90% of expats say it is easy to get around without speaking the local language (vs. 54% globally).

31. The Hague: Excellent Public Transportation, but Unsatisfying Social Life

Ranking 31st out of 66 destinations in the Expat City Ranking 2020, The Hague performs best in the Urban Work Life Index (15th). With the city coming 16th in the Job Security subcategory, 88% of expats are happy with the state of the local economy (vs. 63% globally). An Italian expat says they like the *“job opportunities for people who are over 45 years old.”* In fact, 50% of respondents are happy with their local career opportunities (vs. 43% globally).

The Hague ranks slightly above the global average in the Quality of Urban Living Index (29th). Expats are particularly satisfied with the public transportation system (94% vs. 66% globally) and the political stability (91% vs. 61% globally). However, the city only ranks 58th in the Leisure & Climate subcategory, which is mainly due to 54% of expats being unhappy with the local climate and weather (vs. 20% globally).

Similar to Amsterdam, The Hague’s results in the Getting Settled Index (39th) are mixed. The city is among the bottom 10 in the Friends & Socializing subcategory (61st) — expats are unhappy with their social life (41% vs. 24% globally) and have trouble finding friends (49% vs. 33% globally). However, expats like the fact that it is easy to get around without knowing the local language (87% positive ratings vs. 54% globally). The Hague beats Amsterdam in both the Finance &

Housing (42nd) and the Cost of Living (35th) Indices. But in comparison with the other cities featured in the ranking, expats in The Hague are still not that satisfied with their financial situation (26% unhappy vs. 21% globally).

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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