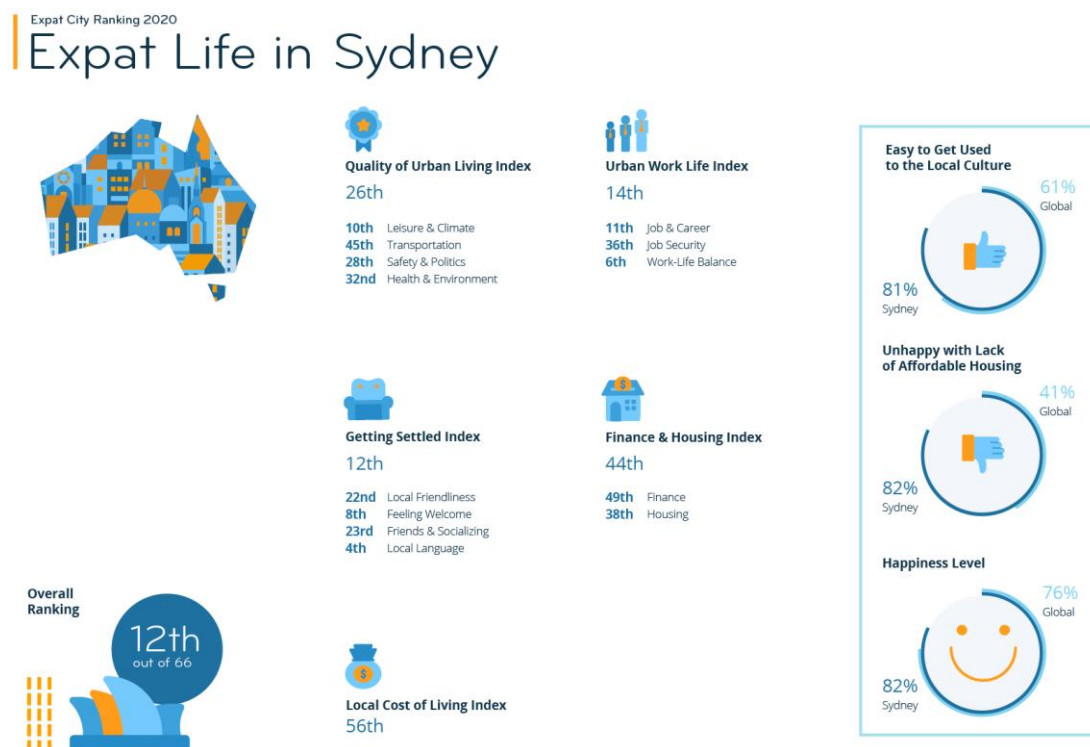


Expats Love Life in Sydney but Not the Local Cost of Living

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

- Out of 66 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2020, Sydney ranks 12th. It does best in the Getting Settled Index (12th) and worst in the Local Cost of Living Index (56th).
- 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 — Sydney ranks 12th in the Expat City Ranking 2020 by [InterNations](https://www.internations.org/), the world's largest expat community with around 4 million members. It ranks best in the Getting Settled Index (12th): expats find it especially easy to get used to the local culture. Sydney also performs well in the Urban Work Life Index (14th), with a large proportion of survey respondents rating their local career opportunities and their work-life balance positively. While the city also receives good results in the Quality of Urban Living Index (26th), it lands in a mediocre 44th place in the Finance & Housing Index and performs rather poorly in the Local Cost of Living Index (56th).



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 Sydney

12. Expats Love Life in Sydney but Not the Local Cost of Living

Overall, Sydney (12th) performs well in the Expat City Ranking 2020, particularly in the Getting Settled Index (12th). More than four in five expats (81%) say it is easy to get used to the local culture (vs. 61% globally), and 75% feel at home in Sydney (vs. 64% globally). A US American expat shares: *"The people have positive attitudes and are usually in good spirits!"* It also seems like they have enough time to spend with their friends since Sydney also performs well in the Urban Work Life Index (14th): close to four in five expats (79%) are satisfied with their work-life balance (vs. 64% globally). *"I like the work-life balance! And I enjoy working to live, not living to work,"* shares a US expat. But it is not just the work-life balance — 71% of expats are also happy with the local career opportunities (vs. 43% globally).

Moreover, 88% of survey respondents rate the local leisure options positively (vs. 71% globally), putting the city on rank 10 in the Leisure & Climate subcategory. In the Quality of Urban Living Index (26th), this is Sydney's best result. On the downside, all of this comes at a price: Sydney does not perform well in both the Local Cost of Living Index (56th) and the Finance & Housing Index (44th). In fact, 70% of expats rate Sydney's cost of living negatively (vs. 36% globally), and an expat from Canada says that *"the housing in Sydney is old, but the cost of living is very high"*. This statement does not come as a surprise, with more than four-fifths of survey respondents (82%) saying that housing in Sydney is not affordable (vs. 41% 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.

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

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