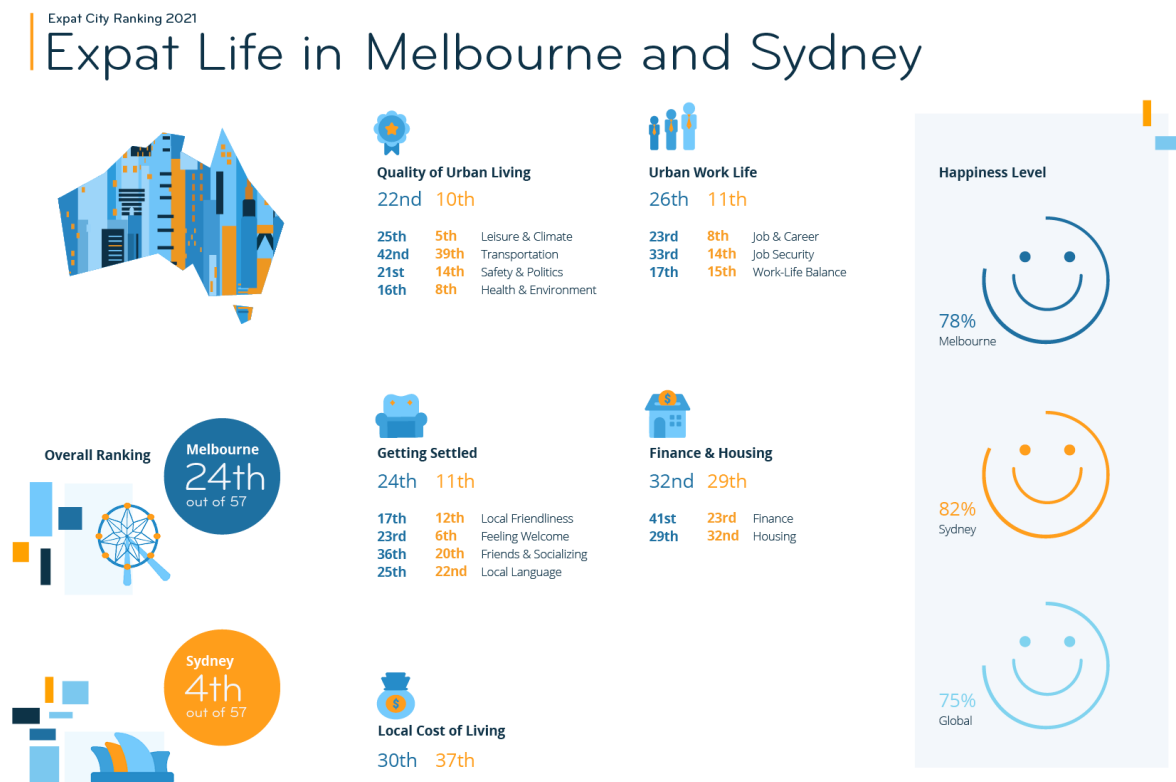


How Expats Rate Their Life in Melbourne and Sydney

The Expat City Ranking 2021 reveals the best and worst cities for expats around the world, including Melbourne and Sydney.

- Out of 57 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2021, Sydney ranks 4th and Melbourne lands in 24th place.
- Kuala Lumpur (1st), Málaga, Dubai, Sydney, Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City, Prague, Mexico City, Basel, and Madrid (10th) are the top 10 cities for expats to live in 2021.
- On the other hand, expats consider Rome (57th), Milan, Johannesburg, Istanbul, Tokyo, Cairo, Paris, Maastricht, Moscow, and New York (48th) the world's worst cities to live in.

Munich, 1 December 2021 — Sydney ranks 4th and Melbourne lands in 24th place in the Expat City Ranking 2021 by [InterNations](https://www.internations.org/), the world's largest expat community with over 4 million members. Sydney outperforms Melbourne in every index except for the Local Cost of Living Index, where Melbourne ranks 30th and Sydney 37th. While Sydney is voted among the best cities in the world for its quality of life, urban work life, and the ease of getting settled, Melbourne receives more average results.



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 12,420 respondents in 2021. This year, 57 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.

What Expats Think about Life in Melbourne and Sydney

4 | Sydney: A Sunny Destination with Great Career Opportunities for Expats

Placing 4th out of 57 in the Expat City Ranking 2021, Sydney only ranks behind Kuala Lumpur (1st), Málaga (2nd), and Dubai (3rd). The city shows its best performance in the **Quality of Urban Living Index** (10th): expats are particularly happy with the local leisure options (89% vs. 72% globally), the local climate and weather (95% vs. 66% globally), the quality of medical care (89% vs. 71% globally), and the urban environment (92% vs. 71% globally). *"I like the clean environment, the beautiful scenery, and the diverse community with its mix of cultures,"* says a male expat from Pakistan.

Most expats seem to agree with him, since more than four in five (81%) find it easy to get used to the local culture (vs. 65% globally). This is just one of the reasons for the city's excellent ranking in the **Getting Settled Index** (11th). Another four in five expats (80%) describe the local residents as generally friendly (vs. 69% globally), and 72% report feeling at home in Sydney (vs. 65% globally). Sydney also ranks 11th worldwide in the **Urban Work Life Index**. Nearly two-thirds of expats (66%) are happy with the local career opportunities (vs. 45% globally), and 78% rate their work-life balance positively (vs. 66% globally).

However, Sydney only places 37th in the **Local Cost of Living Index**: 56% rate the cost of living negatively, compared to 34% globally. In the **Finance & Housing Index**, it comes in 29th place. While 67% say it is easy to find housing as an expat (vs. 60% globally), 68% describe it as unaffordable (vs. 39% globally). *"Rent is very high, and it is almost impossible to buy property,"* shares a female expat from Brazil.

24 | Melbourne: More Affordable than Sydney, but Expats Still Struggle to Cover Expenses

Coming 24th in the Expat City Ranking 2021, Melbourne lands far behind Sydney (4th). It only outperforms Sydney in the **Local Cost of Living Index**: Melbourne ranks 30th, while Sydney lands in 37th place. Still, 42% of expats in Melbourne rate the cost of living negatively, compared to 34% globally. And they are generally less satisfied with their finances than expats in Sydney: 26% rate their financial situation negatively (vs. 19% globally), and 28% say that their disposable household income is not enough to cover all expenses (vs. 23% globally). While the housing situation is rated somewhat better than in Sydney, housing is still hard to afford (57%), compared to the global average of 39%. Overall, Melbourne ranks 32nd in the **Finance & Housing Index**.

Melbourne performs best in the **Quality of Urban Living Index** (22nd). Like in Sydney, expats are particularly happy with the local leisure options (83% vs. 72% globally). Close to half (49%) even consider them *very good* (vs. 30% globally). *"The weather is much better, the salaries are much higher, and the natural environment is stunning,"* says a female expat from the UK. In fact, 83% are happy with the urban environment in Melbourne (vs. 71% globally). However, the same person also adds: *"I do not have many friends here. It is hard to make friends like the ones you have back home."* While the city lands in an above-average 24th place in the **Getting Settled Index**, expats do find it hard to make friends (38% vs. 32% globally) and are unhappy with their social life (30% vs. 25% globally). Lastly, Melbourne gets some rather mixed results in the **Urban Work Life Index** (26th). Expats are happy with their working hours (73% vs. 66% globally) but less so with their job security (47% vs. 61% globally).

About the Expat City Ranking 2021

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations. For the survey, InterNations asked 12,420 expats representing 174 nationalities and living in 186 countries or territories to provide information on various aspects of expat life, as well as their gender, age, and nationality. 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 all cities worldwide that had the required number of participants for the minimum sample size. (The survey also includes a Local Cost of Living Index, which does, however, not factor into the overall ranking to avoid overrepresenting financial aspects.) In 2021, the top 10 cities for expats are Kuala Lumpur (1st), Málaga, Dubai, Sydney, Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City, Prague, Mexico City, Basel, and Madrid (10th).

For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2021, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per city was required. In total, 57 cities met this requirement.

About InterNations

With more than 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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