

Lisbon: Where Expats Feel Very Much at Home

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

- Out of 57 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2021, Lisbon ranks 18th.
- 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 — Lisbon ranks 18th out of 57 in the Expat City Ranking 2021 by [InterNations](#), the world's largest expat community with over 4 million members. The Portuguese city is one of the easiest destinations worldwide to get settled in (7th). Expats are also happy with the local cost of living (10th) and the high quality of life (12th). However, the city only has average results in the Finance & Housing Index (28th) and is among the worst worldwide for expats' working life (50th).

Expat City Ranking 2021 Expat Life in Lisbon



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 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 Lisbon

Out of 57 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2021, Lisbon comes in 18th place. It performs best in the **Getting Settled Index** (7th), even ranking 1st worldwide for expats feeling at home in this city (80% vs. 65% globally). Expats find it easy to get used to the local culture (84% vs. 65% globally) and describe the local people as generally friendly (80% vs. 69% globally). *"Many people here are warm, good-natured, respectful, friendly, and welcoming,"* says a US American expat. And indeed, expats do find it easy to make new friends (62% vs. 48% globally) and are happy with their social life (68% vs. 57% globally).

Lisbon also performs very well in the **Quality of Urban Living Index** (12th). Expats are particularly satisfied with the climate (87% vs. 66% globally) and leisure options (85% vs. 72% globally). *"There is good food, great weather, and plenty to see and do,"* says a British expat. They also feel safe in Lisbon (96% vs. 84% globally) and rate the urban environment positively (81% vs. 71% globally).

While Lisbon ranks well in the **Local Cost of Living Index** (10th), it only lands in 28th place in the **Finance & Housing Index**: 26% are dissatisfied with their financial situation (vs. 19% globally), and 33% say that their disposable household income is not enough to cover their expenses (vs. 23% globally).

Lastly, Portugal's capital ends up in the bottom 10 of the **Urban Work Life Index** (50th). Expats rate the state of the local economy (40% vs. 19% globally) and the job security (22% vs. 20% globally) negatively. They are also unhappy with the local career opportunities (49% vs. 33% globally) and their job in general (26% vs. 16% globally). In fact, Lisbon ranks among the bottom 10 for all factors of this index, except for work-life balance (18th).

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](#).

Press Contact

Stephanie Anko-Hubik
Media Spokesperson

InterNations GmbH
Schwanthalerstrasse 39
80336 Munich, Germany

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