

Moscow: A Difficult Destination for Career-Driven Expats

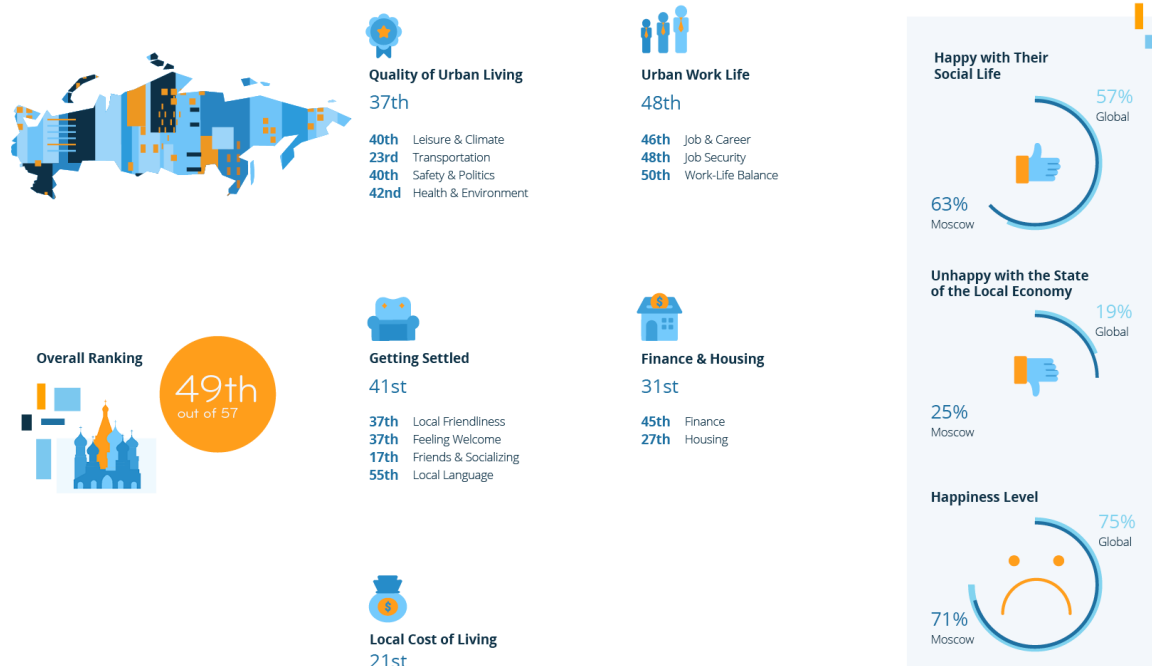
The Expat City Ranking 2021 reveals the best and worst cities for expats around the world, including Moscow.

- Out of 57 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2021, Moscow ranks 49th.
- 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 — Moscow ranks 49th out of 57 in the Expat City Ranking 2021 by [InterNations](#), the world's largest expat community with over 4 million members. It ranks best in the Local Cost of Living (21st) and Finance & Housing (31st) Indices. However, expats give below-average ratings to the quality of life (37th), find it hard to get settled in Moscow (41st), and are unhappy with their working life (48th).

Expat City Ranking 2021

Expat Life in Moscow



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 Moscow

Moscow (49th out of 57) lands in the bottom 10 of the Expat City Ranking 2021. The **Urban Work Life Index** (48th) is the city's sore spot, especially in the Work-Life Balance Subcategory (50th): 27% of expats are unhappy with their work-life balance (vs. 17% globally), and 22% are dissatisfied with their working hours (vs. 16% globally). What is more, only 34% are happy with the state of the local economy (vs. 62% globally). And according to 41% of expats, Moscow could also offer better career opportunities (vs. 33% globally). *"It is difficult to get a job without having local citizenship,"* says a Danish expat.

Moscow also lands in a low 41st place in the **Getting Settled Index**. Expats find it hard to learn the local language (60% vs. 42% globally), which is an issue since just 25% find it easy to live in Moscow without speaking it (vs. 54% globally). More than a quarter (27%) perceive the local residents as generally unfriendly (vs. 16% globally), and 23% do not feel at home in Moscow (vs. 19% globally). Still, 57% find it easy to make new friends (vs. 48% globally), and 63% are happy with their social life (57% globally).

The city receives mediocre results in the **Quality of Urban Living** (37th) and the **Finance & Housing** (31st) **Indices**. About three in ten expats are unhappy with their financial situation (29% vs. 19% globally) and say that their disposable household income is not enough to cover expenses (32% vs. 23% globally). Moscow performs best in the **Local Cost of Living Index** (21st). Still, just 36% of expats rate the local cost of living positively, compared to a global average of 48%.

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.

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