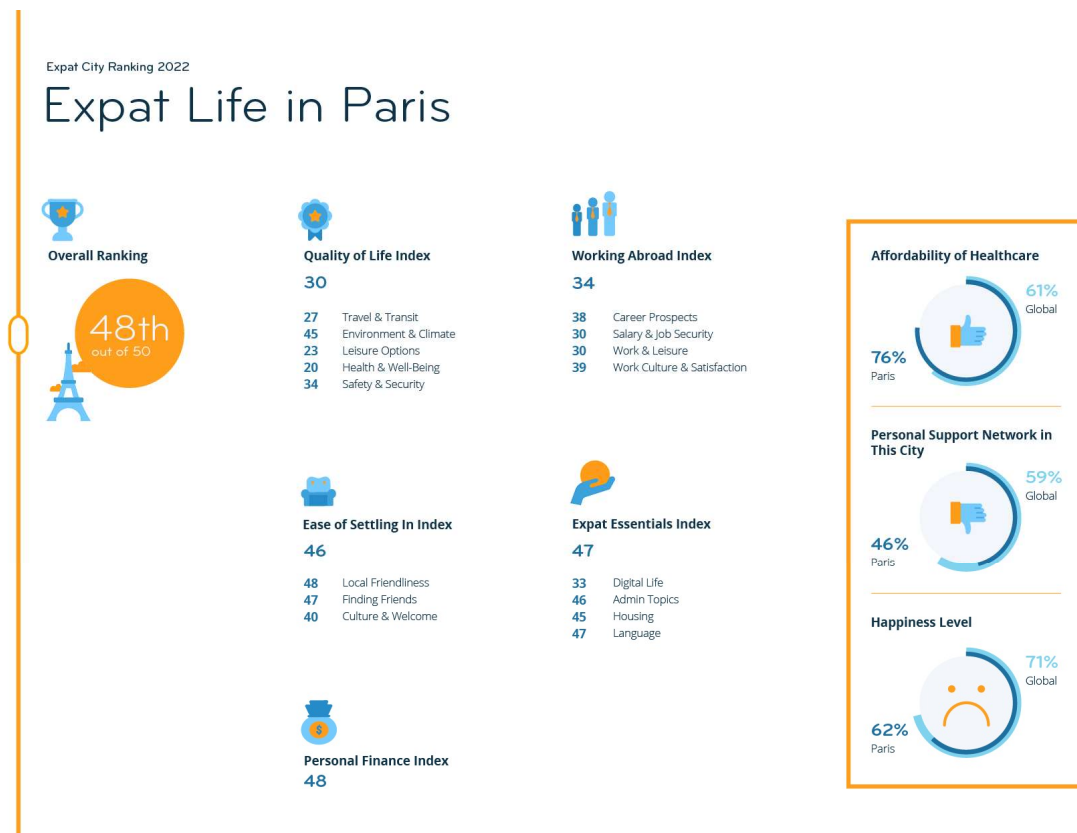


Unfriendly Locals, High Expenses: Expats in Paris Fight with Daily Hurdles but Enjoy the Cultural Life

The Expat City Ranking 2022 reveals the best and worst cities for expats around the world, including Paris.

- Paris ranks among the bottom 3 of the Expat City Ranking 2022 (48th). Expats struggle in many areas of life: housing, finding friends, and the general cost of living.
- In 2022, Valencia (1st), Dubai, Mexico City, Lisbon, Madrid, Bangkok, Basel, Melbourne, Abu Dhabi, and Singapore (10th) are the top 10 cities for expats to live in.
- On the other hand, expats consider Johannesburg (50th), Frankfurt, Paris, Istanbul, Hong Kong, Hamburg, Milan, Vancouver, Tokyo, and Rome (41st) the world's worst cities to live in.

Munich, 29 November 2022 — Paris lands in 48th place out of 50 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2022 by [InterNations](https://www.internations.org/), the world's largest expat community with over 4.5 million members. The city's ranking among the bottom 3 (only Frankfurt am Main and Johannesburg score lower) might be due to the fact that expats in Paris struggle on many fronts. They are extremely unhappy with their financial situation, with the lack of affordable housing, and with a culture they do not consider friendly towards foreign residents. Overall, Paris ranks among the bottom 5 in three indices: Ease of Settling In (46th), Personal Finance (48th), and Expat Essentials (47th). However, it performs slightly better in terms of Working Abroad (34th) and Quality of Life (30th).



The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations. It is one of the most extensive surveys about living and working abroad, with 11,970 respondents in 2022. A total of 50 cities around the globe are featured this year, offering in-depth information about five areas of expat life: Quality of Life, Ease of Settling In, Working Abroad, Personal Finance, and the new Expat Essentials Index, which covers digital life, admin topics, housing, and language.

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Paris places 48th out of 50 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2022 and lands in the bottom 5 of the **Expat Essentials Index** (47th). Expats find it extremely hard to find housing (47th). More than seven in ten (71%) also say that housing costs are too high (vs. 43% globally). Language is another obstacle: when it comes to trying to get by without speaking the local language, expats rank Paris last (50th). Admin topics, even simple ones like opening a bank account (41% find it hard vs. 21% globally), cause further problems, with Paris ranking 46th in this subcategory. *“The administration system is complicated and slow, and there is little support for expats to navigate through it. Plus, there are the language barrier and the illogically low salaries compared to the cost of living”,* says a Lithuanian expat.

High expenses in France’s capital can also be felt in the **Personal Finance Index**, where Paris ends up in the bottom 3 (48th). The general cost of living is considered too high by 62% of expats (vs. 35% globally), which might be why 35% are unhappy with their financial situation (vs. 21% globally).

Expats do not feel very welcome in Paris (45th), either, which is one of the reasons for its bottom 5 ranking in the **Ease of Settling In Index** (46th). More than one in three (35%) consider the Parisians unfriendly towards foreign residents, almost twice the global share (18%). Paris not only ranks 48th in the Local Friendliness Subcategory, but also 47th in the Finding Friends Subcategory. Expats find it hard to make local friends (58% vs. 37% globally) and do not have a personal network for practical and emotional support (33% vs. 24% globally). *“Social life in Paris will probably push many to form a support network consisting of people of their own nationality,”* says a Lebanese expat.

On the positive side, Paris ranks midfield for **Quality of Life** (30th). Nine out of ten (90%) enjoy their travel opportunities (vs. 82% globally), and 83% appreciate the availability of public transportation in Paris (vs. 73% globally). More than three-quarters (76%) find healthcare affordable (vs. 61% globally), and very few (7%) have anything negative to say about the quality of medical care (vs. 14% globally). A large majority of expats (86%) enjoy the food and dining options (vs. 77% globally), and 78% appreciate the culture and nightlife (vs. 67% globally). *“I love the quality of life, the food, the infrastructure, healthcare, and ease of travel,”* says a US American expat. However, expats worry about their personal safety (46th). More than one in five (23%) do not feel safe in Paris, more than twice the worldwide average (9%).

Paris also receives mixed reviews in the **Working Abroad Index** (34th). Nearly two-thirds (66%) are satisfied with their job security (vs. 59% globally), but only slightly more than half (53%) feel that they are being fairly paid based on industry, qualifications, and role (vs. 62% globally). In terms of overall job satisfaction, Paris ranks 43rd. More than one in three (35%) say that the local business culture does not encourage creativity or thinking outside of the box (vs. 26% globally).

You can find out more about the 50 cities featured in the Expat City Ranking in the full report as well as in the press release about the best and worst destinations worldwide (both available under “Downloads” in the email).

About the Expat City Ranking 2022

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations. For the survey, InterNations asked 11,970 expats representing 177 nationalities and living in 181 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 up to 56 different aspects of urban life abroad on a scale of one to seven. The rating process emphasized their personal satisfaction with these aspects, considering both emotional topics and more factual aspects with equal weight. The individual factors were then bundled in various combinations for a total of 16 subcategories, and their mean values were used to draw up five topical indices: Quality of Life, Ease of Settling In, Working Abroad, Personal Finance, and Expat Essentials. These were further averaged — together with the responses to the question “All things considered, how happy are you with your life abroad in general?” — to create the Expat City Ranking. In 2022, the top 10 cities for expats are Valencia (1st), Dubai, Mexico City, Lisbon, Madrid, Bangkok, Basel, Melbourne, Abu Dhabi, and Singapore (10th).

For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2022, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per destination was required. In total, 50 cities met this requirement.

About InterNations

With more than 4.5 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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