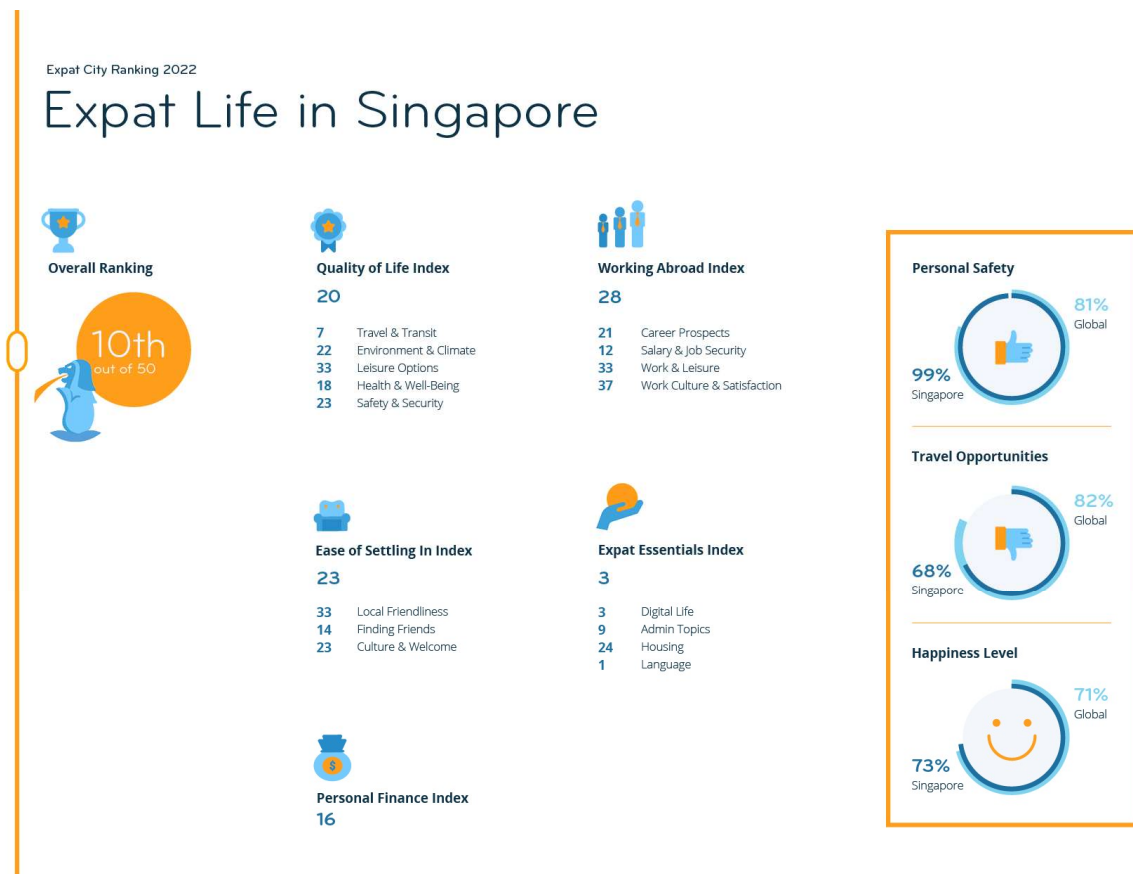


Singapore Is Great for Expats' Careers, but the Work Culture Could Be Better

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

- Singapore ranks 10th out of 50 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2022: expats find it easy to navigate their life there, but working abroad has some room for improvement.
- 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 2022.
- On the other hand, expats consider Johannesburg (50th), Frankfurt am Main, Paris, Istanbul, Hong Kong, Hamburg, Milan, Vancouver, Tokyo, and Rome (41st) the world's worst cities to live in.

Munich, 29 November 2022 — Singapore ranks 10th out of 50 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 performs best in the Expat Essentials Index (3rd) thanks to its high level of digitalization and the ease of handling admin topics. Expats are also satisfied with their personal finances and most aspects regarding the quality of life, but the Working Abroad Index (28th) has some room for improvement. While expats are happy with their personal career opportunities, they rate their work-life balance and the local business culture negatively.



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 11,970 respondents in 2022. This year, 50 cities around the globe are analyzed in the survey, which offers in-depth information about five areas of expat life: Quality of Life, Ease of Settling In, Working Abroad, Personal Finance, and Expat Essentials Index, which covers digital life, admin topics, housing, and language.

10 | Singapore Is the Place to Be for Easy Administration, Satisfying Finances & Improved Career Prospects

Singapore ranks 10th out of 50 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2022 and even 3rd in the **Expat Essentials Index**. The city-state comes first worldwide in the Language Subcategory. It also lands among the best-rated destinations for Digital Life (3rd) and Admin Topics (9th): expats are very happy with the ease of getting high-speed internet access at home (97% happy vs. 79% globally) and the ease of paying without cash (97% vs. 84% globally). They also rate the availability of government services online (91% vs. 61% globally) and the ease of dealing with the local bureaucracy (63% vs. 40% happy) positively. An expat from Indonesia mentions the *“fast and organized online services for many administrative purposes”* as one of her highlights of living in Singapore.

While 73% of expats describe it as easy to find housing in Singapore (vs. 54% globally), 71% find it unaffordable (vs. 43% globally). Additionally, 56% rate the general cost of living negatively, compared to 35% globally. Still, expats are satisfied with their financial situation (75% happy vs. 60% globally) and feel that their disposable household income is enough or more than enough to lead a comfortable life in Singapore (87% vs. 72% globally). This helps the city lands in 16th place in the **Personal Finance Index**.

It might help with regard to finance that close to three-quarters (74%) feel paid fairly for their work, based on their industry, qualification, and role (vs. 62% globally). Singapore ranks third worldwide for this factor, only beaten by Basel (1st) and Dublin (2nd). In fact, 78% say that moving to Singapore has improved their career (vs. 60% globally) — 46% even very much so (vs. 33% globally). However, Singapore only ranks 28th in the **Working Abroad Index** since the Work & Leisure (33rd) and Work Culture & Satisfaction (37th) Subcategories leave a lot to be desired. The city ranks low in terms of work-life balance (39th) and expats seeing a purpose in their job (38th). They also find that the local business culture encourages neither creativity (40% unhappy vs. 26% globally) nor independent work and/or flat hierarchies (36% vs. 28% globally).

Singapore shows a better performance in the **Ease of Settling In** (23rd) and the **Quality of Life** (20th) **Indices**. However, the latter features some ups and downs. While Singapore ranks among the best cities worldwide for both the affordability (3rd) and the availability (4th) of public transportation, as well as the infrastructure for cars (3rd), it is among the worst-rated ones for the opportunity to travel (46th). Similar trends can be found among the results in the Health & Well-Being (18th) and the Safety & Security (23rd) Subcategories. For example, expats describe healthcare as unaffordable (44th) but are happy with its availability and quality (2nd for both). Singapore even ranks first worldwide for the ease of accessing all kinds of necessary healthcare services (84% positive ratings vs. 67% 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.

Find more information about InterNations on our [press page](#), in our [company blog](#), or in our [magazine](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) for updates and data insights on expat life.

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