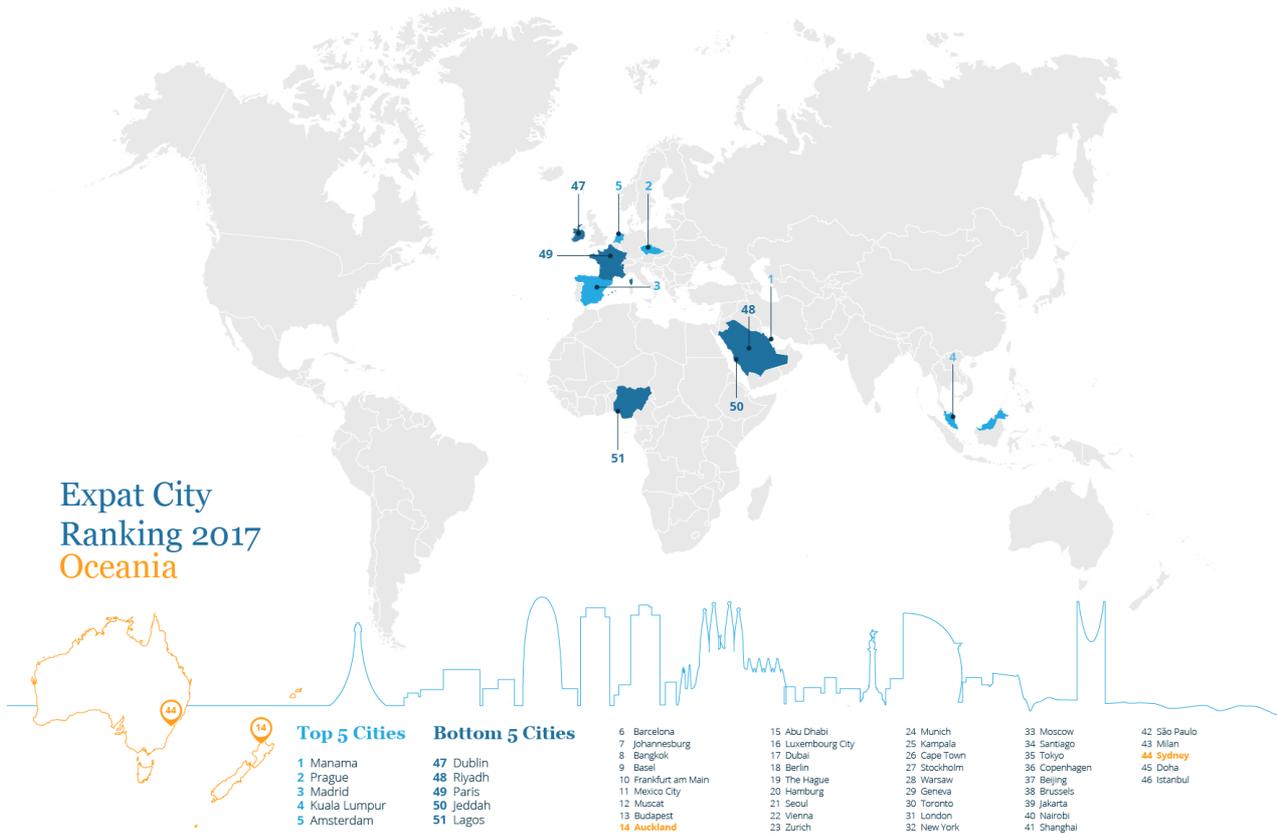


## Expats City Ranking 2017: Auckland Outranks Sydney as the Best Destination for Expats

Expats prefer Auckland to Sydney thanks to friendly local residents and better working conditions.

- Expats in Auckland find it easy to settle in, with four out of five (82%) feeling at home there, while only 61 percent feel this way in Sydney.
- Eight in ten respondents in Auckland rate their working hours positively, compared to 59 percent in Sydney.
- Neither city is seen as particularly affordable, with over half the respondents in both destinations being unhappy with their financial situation.

Munich, 14 November 2017 — Auckland ranks 30 places ahead of Sydney in this year's Expats City Ranking: while the city in New Zealand lands on an impressive 14th place out of 51 cities worldwide, the Australian one ranks among the bottom 10 (44th). In fact, Auckland outperforms Sydney by far in terms of getting settled, as well as regarding urban work life. However, both cities rank poorly for their high cost of living and the lack of affordable housing, as the so-far unpublished [Expats City Ranking 2017](#) reveals. The ranking is based on data collected in the annual *Expats Insider* survey, conducted by [InterNations](#), the largest expat community worldwide. With nearly 13,000 respondents living and working abroad, *Expats Insider 2017* is one of the most extensive expat studies worldwide. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of expat life in 51 cities, the survey ranks them by a variety of factors from the areas quality of urban living, getting settled, urban work life, as well as finance and housing. According to all these rating factors, the top 10 cities for expats are Manama, Prague, Madrid, Kuala Lumpur, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Johannesburg, Bangkok, Basel, and Frankfurt am Main.



### Working and Making Friends Is Easier in Auckland

Out of 51 cities worldwide, Auckland leads the list of destinations where expats feel the most welcome, while Sydney trails far behind in 17th place: while more than eight in ten expats living in Auckland (82%) feel at home in the city, only 61 percent agree in Sydney, which is even slightly below the global average (64%). One of the reasons for this difference might be that only about half the expats in the Australian city (55%) are satisfied with their social life, compared to more than three-quarters in Auckland (76%). Moreover, only every other expat in Sydney (51%) finds it easy to make new friends there, with one US American expat complaining that it is *"hard to make sincere friendships"*. This might be connected to the fact that only about two-thirds of expats in Sydney (65%) consider the local residents friendly, in contrast to more than nine in ten in Auckland (92%).

Another reason for Auckland's high ranking is the city's superior result for working abroad: 80 percent of expats are satisfied with their working hours, as opposed to only 59 percent in Sydney. Moreover, local career opportunities are rated positively by 68 percent of expats in Auckland, but 55 percent in Sydney. Last but not least, about three-quarters of expats in Auckland (76%) say they are overall satisfied with their job, compared to 57 percent in Sydney.

### Expat Life in Both Auckland and Sydney Comes at a Price

While Auckland triumphs over Sydney in many ways, they also have several negative aspects in common: both places perform poorly with regard to local cost of living, with Auckland ranking 38th and Sydney 49th out of 51 cities. Only about one in eight expats in Sydney (12%) is satisfied with their living expenses, and just about two in ten (22%) rate them favourably in Auckland. Moreover, about one in four expats in Auckland (27%) are not satisfied with their financial situation, and this increases to more than one out of three in Sydney (32%). Covering daily costs seems to be an issue, too, especially in Auckland, where only 65 percent state that their disposable income is enough or more than enough to cover everything they need (vs. 77% worldwide). Housing seems to be an especially strong drawback for expats living in the two cities, which rank among the global bottom 10 for this factor. A mere eight percent of expats in Auckland are satisfied with the affordability of local housing. At ten percent, this share is barely higher in Sydney, with one British expat saying that *"housing affordability is unattainable for all but the wealthiest of expats"*. On the bright side, however, expats in both cities enjoy a pleasant climate and a range of leisure options, with about nine in ten expats in Auckland (92%) and Sydney (88%) being satisfied with the latter.

	Auckland	Sydney
 <b>Overall City Ranking</b>	14	44
 <b>Quality of Urban Living Index</b>	19	25
 <b>Getting Settled Index</b>	4	23
 <b>Urban Work Life Index</b>	5	23
 <b>Finance &amp; Housing Index</b>	46	47

### Top 5 Cities Make It Easy for Expats to Get Settled and Enjoy a Great Work Life

Manama, Prague, Madrid, Kuala Lumpur, and Amsterdam top the list of the best cities for expats: while Prague lags behind on 35th place for getting settled, the other four cities receive good to excellent ratings in this respect. A South African expat living in Kuala Lumpur likes *"the easy-going temperament and friendliness of the local people"* while an expat from the Philippines appreciates the *"very friendly and helpful locals"* in Manama. The majority of expats rates the general friendliness towards foreign residents positively in Manama (84%), Amsterdam (83%), Kuala Lumpur (78%), and Madrid (74%), compared to a global average of 67 percent. Prague, however, performs below average here: only about half the expats living there (49%) are satisfied with this factor. Nonetheless, the capital of the Czech Republic is one of the top destinations for expats in 2017, particularly due to its outstanding ratings in terms of work: nearly seven in ten expats (68%) are satisfied with local career opportunities in Prague — 19 percentage points more than the global average.

### InterNations Communities in Oceania

Out of 2.8 million members in 390 cities around the world, there are more than 70,000 InterNations members in Australia and more than 14,000 in New Zealand. About 24,000 of them live in Sydney, and around 10,000 in Auckland, making these cities the largest communities in their respective countries, followed by Melbourne and Brisbane in Australia, as well as, Wellington and Christchurch in New Zealand

Learn more about the InterNations Communities in [Sydney](#) and [Australia](#) as well as [Auckland](#) and [New Zealand](#) online!

### Interested in Talking to Expats in Your City?



Visit an InterNations Official Event and personally meet expats from all over the world who will share their stories with you. Find out [here](#) when and where the next official event in your community will take place.

To receive a personal press invitation including free access to the event and interview opportunities with InterNations members, please contact [press@internations.org](mailto:press@internations.org) or +49 (0)89 461 3324 79 and let us know which event you would like to attend.

### Read More about the Expat City Ranking 2017



[The Best and Worst Cities](#)



[Quality of Urban Living](#)



[Getting Settled](#)



[Urban Work Life](#)



[Finance & Housing](#)

### **About the Expat City Ranking 2017**

For its annual [Expat Insider survey](#), InterNations asked about 13,000 expatriates representing 166 nationalities and living in 188 countries or territories to provide information on various aspects of expat life, as well as their gender, age, and nationality. In 2017, the fourth year the survey was conducted, 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 and considered both emotional topics as well as 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 51 cities worldwide. In 2017, the top 10 cities for expats are Manama, Prague, Madrid, Kuala Lumpur, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Johannesburg, Bangkok, Basel, and Frankfurt am Main.

For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2017, a sample size of at least 45 survey participants per city was required. In total, the responses used for the city ranking represent 7,985 expats living in 40 countries.

### **About InterNations**

With 2.8 million members in 390 cities around the world, InterNations (<http://www.internations.org>) is the largest global network and information site for people who live and work abroad. InterNations offers global and local networking both online and face-to-face. At around 5,000 monthly events and activities, expatriates have the opportunity to meet other global minds. Online services include country and city guides created by a team of professional writers, guest contributions about life abroad, and discussion forums to help members with topics such as the local job or housing search. InterNations membership is by approval only to ensure we remain a community of trust.

The InterNations app is available for Android and iOS and can be downloaded for free on [Google Play](#) and the [App Store](#).

Find more information about InterNations on our [press pages](#), [company website](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), or in our [Expat Magazine](#).

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