

Expatriate Insider 2018 Survey Reveals: Sunny Climates in Africa Do Not Make Up for Safety Concerns

Expats in several African destinations enjoy the climate as well as the lower cost of living, but worry about their safety and the political stability.

- *Uganda (26th) and Morocco (32nd) rank in the midfield out of 68 countries in the Expatriate Insider 2018 survey, while Kenya (51st), South Africa (52nd), and Egypt (63rd) are at the bottom of the list. The top 10 destinations for expats are Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Spain, Colombia, and Czechia.*
- *Expats find it easy to settle down in Uganda (4th) and Kenya (11th), but are unhappy with their career prospects (54% and 48% positive ratings, respectively).*
- *With 71 percent of expats feeling safe, Morocco is the best-rated destination in Africa for this factor (vs. 82% globally). Uganda (66%), Egypt (64%), Kenya (33%), and South Africa (29%) are perceived to be less safe.*
- *Egypt is the worst-rated of these five countries, partly due to a low quality of life and unsatisfying working conditions.*

Munich, 6 September 2018 — Out of the expat destinations on the African continent featured in the *Expatriate Insider 2018* survey — both in North Africa and in the Sub-Saharan region — Uganda is the best-rated country in 2018 (26th). However, Egypt ranks lowest in 63rd place out of 68 countries worldwide. Expats rank Morocco (32nd), Kenya (51st), and South Africa (52nd) somewhere in between, with the results ranging from average to rather sub-par. Common concerns for expats in all these countries are linked to safety and political stability. However, many are happy with the climate, the cost of living, and the friendliness of the local residents as the [Expatriate Insider 2018 survey](#) reveals. With more than 18,000 respondents living and working abroad, it is one of the most extensive expat studies, conducted annually by [InterNations](#), the largest expat community worldwide. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of life abroad, the survey ranks 68 countries by a variety of factors such as quality of life, working abroad, and settling in. While the results of the North African and Sub-Saharan countries vary, this year's top 10 destinations for expats are Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Spain, Colombia, and Czechia.



Click on the map for a video and more information about the *Expatriate Insider 2018* survey

Expats Feel Welcome in Uganda but Lack Career Prospects

Expats find it particularly easy to settle down in Uganda, ranking the country in the top 5 for this aspect, together with Bahrain, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Portugal. Close to nine in ten expats in Uganda (87%) say that the attitude of local residents towards them is friendly, compared to just 66 percent globally. Maybe this is the reason why 75 percent do not find it challenging to make new friends (vs. 57% globally). In fact, it seems like expats in Uganda have no trouble stepping outside of the expat bubble, as more than three in five (63%) say that their social circle consists mostly of a mix of local residents and expats. This is far above the global average of 47 percent. *"People in Uganda are incredibly friendly,"* a US American expat shares. Surrounded by friendly faces, close to seven in ten expats in Uganda (68%) feel at home in the local culture, compared to 60 percent globally.

When it comes to the quality of life, however, Uganda only ranks 55th out of 68 countries worldwide. While the large majority of expats (91%) enjoys the weather (vs. 61% globally), it is due to safety issues, among other factors, that the country ranks low in this index. Just 43 percent of expats in Uganda consider the country politically stable, which is 20 percentage points less than the global average (63%). *"The political situation is fragile,"* says an expat from the US, while one from Nigeria thinks that *"security is a problem"*. In fact, 18 percent of expats in Uganda worry about their personal safety, which is twice the global average (9%).

Close to half the expats in Uganda (47%) moved there for work-related reasons, and an impressive 79 percent are satisfied with their job in general, compared to 65 percent globally. In fact, over three in five (62%) rate their job security positively (vs. 59% globally), and over seven in ten (71%) are satisfied with their working hours (vs. 62% globally). However, despite this, Uganda only ranks 51st out of 68 for working abroad, which might be partly due to the fact that just about half the expats (54%) are happy with their career prospects. *"There is a lack of jobs,"* says an expat from Canada.

Morocco Is the Safest and Most Affordable Destination in Africa

Morocco comes in a respectable 32nd place out of 68 countries overall, achieving its best ranking for personal finance (13th). More than seven in ten expats in Morocco (74%) are generally satisfied with their financial situation, compared to 67 percent of expats globally. Almost the same share of respondents (73%) agree that the cost of living in Morocco is affordable, which is 22 percentage points more than the global average (51%). Even before moving to Morocco, 70 percent considered the cost of living a potential advantage of life abroad, compared to just 42 percent globally. A Canadian expat points out that *"the cost of living is quite low, which makes it easy to save money"*. In fact, close to nine in ten (86%) say that their disposable household income is enough or more than enough to cover the cost of everyday life (vs. 78% globally).

Although just about half the expats in Morocco (53%) find it easy to get used to the local culture, which is below the global average (62%), it is the other way around when it comes to making local friends: 53 percent find this easy in Morocco, compared to 45 percent globally. Moreover, while just 18 percent agree that learning the local language is easy (vs. 36% globally), this does not seem to stop expats from settling in: more than half (51%) find it easy to live in Morocco without speaking the local language (vs. 46% globally).

Like the respondents in the other African countries featured in the *Expats Insider 2018* survey, expats in Morocco rate the climate and weather favorably: more than nine in ten (93%) are happy with this factor, which is 32 percentage points more than the global average (61%). However, Morocco is an exception when it comes to politics: close to three-quarters (74%) rate its political stability positively, which is even above the global average (63%). What is more, Morocco is rated best for personal safety

across all African countries featured in the survey: 71 percent feel safe there. However, this is still eleven percentage points below the global average (82%).

Expats Find It Easy to Make Friends in Kenya but Do Not Feel Safe

Expats in Kenya are more than slightly concerned about their safety and the country's political stability. Just 33 percent feel safe in the country, compared to a global average of 82 percent. Even fewer (15%) consider Kenya politically stable, which is again far below the global average (63%). A Swedish expat thinks that the *"lack of security and the political challenges can be problematic"*. Expat parents are also concerned, as only 28 percent are satisfied with their children's safety, compared to the global average of 81 percent.

When it comes to working abroad, Kenya ranks a low 56th out of 68 countries. This might be especially concerning as the majority of expats (45%) moved to the country for work-related reasons (vs. 31% globally), but they seem less than pleased: just 37 percent considered the country's economy and/or labor market as a potential benefit of moving (vs. 47% globally). However, more than one-fifth (22%) were sent by their employer, which is twelve percentage points more than the global average of expats on a foreign assignment (10%). Regardless of their exact reason for moving to Kenya — whether it was for a foreign assignment or, for example, because they found a job themselves — less than half (48%) are happy with their career prospects (vs. 55% globally), and just over half (54%) are satisfied with their work-life balance (vs. 61% globally).

On the bright side, expats in Kenya enjoy the great climate (93% vs. 61% globally), and they regard it as an easy country for settling in (11th out of 68 countries). Over three in five (63%) feel at home in the local culture (vs. 60% globally), and 67 percent find it easy to make new friends, which is ten percentage points more than the global average (57%). What might have helped with settling in: more than three-quarters (76%) rate the attitude of the local population towards foreign residents positively (vs. 66% globally), and 86 percent find it easy to live in Kenya without speaking any of the local languages (vs. 46% globally).

Expat Parents Are Not Happy with Life in South Africa Anymore

Expats in South Africa are particularly happy with the local climate and weather (92% vs. 61% globally) and the available leisure options. More than four in five (83%) rate the latter positively (vs. 75% globally), and exactly half (50%) could not be any happier with this factor. *"The climate is among the best in the world,"* a Dutch expat thinks, adding that *"nature is beautiful and easily accessible"*.

In comparison to 2017's survey, South Africa has lost 13 places for family life (from 19th to 32nd). Expat parents are less satisfied with both the availability and the costs of childcare and education than they were last year: while 63 percent said that childcare was easy to afford in 2017, only 43 percent of expat parents still agree in 2018. The same is true for education, which was rated affordable by 44 percent in 2017, but just 34 percent think so in 2018. Apart from childcare and education, close to two in five expat parents (38%) also worry about their children's safety, which is close to four times the global average (10%).

Safety is not only a concern among expat parents, but one shared by many expats in South Africa: just 29 percent feel safe there, which is 53 percentage points lower than the global average (82%). *"The safety of citizens is questionable,"* says an expat from Zimbabwe. *"The crime rate is quite high."* What is more, just over one in five (22%) regard the country as politically stable, compared to the global average of 63 percent. More than one-third (35%) already considered the political situation in South Africa a potential disadvantage even before moving there (vs. 13% globally).

Expats in Egypt Are Unhappy with Their Work-Life Balance and Leisure Options

Not only does Egypt land among the bottom 10 countries overall (63rd out of 68), it also comes in 63rd place for quality of life. Just 39 percent of expats are happy with the transportation infrastructure (vs. 68% globally), and only 27 percent rate the quality of the environment positively (vs. 69% globally). What is more, over one-fifth (21%) are unhappy with the available leisure options, which is eight percentage points more than the global average (13%). *"The entertainment here is pathetic"*, an expat from Zimbabwe comments. Lastly, safety and politics play a significant role in the country's ranking, too: just 24 percent consider Egypt politically stable (vs. 63% globally), and only 64 percent feel safe there (vs. 82% globally).

Working life does not look a lot better, with Egypt ranking 61st out of 68 countries. Just one in five expats (20%) rates the state of the economy in Egypt positively, compared to 64 percent globally. Only 51 percent of expats are happy with their work-life balance (vs. 61% globally), and just 55 percent are satisfied with their working hours, compared to a global average of 62 percent. An even smaller proportion of expats (42%) are happy with their career prospects in Egypt, which is 13 percentage points less than the global average (55%).

Despite the fact that 39 percent of expats in Egypt have a gross yearly household income of less than 12,000 USD (vs. 11% globally), 82 percent agree that their income is enough or more than enough to cover their daily living expenses (vs. 78% globally). This is most likely due to the lower cost of living, which is rated positively by 63 percent of expats (vs. 51% globally). *"I like living in Egypt because the cost of living is cheaper compared to other countries,"* says an expat from the Philippines.

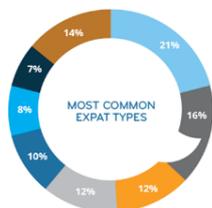
Top 3 Countries for Expats Are Great for Working Abroad and Easy to Settle In

2017's surprise winner **Bahrain** defends its first place, thanks to excellent results for working abroad and ease of settling in (1st for both). Seven in ten expats in Bahrain (70%) are happy with their career prospects (vs. 55% globally), and 81 percent find it easy to settle down in this country (vs. 59% globally). *"I do not feel like an expat in Bahrain,"* says an Indian respondent. *"I feel at home here"*. More than three-quarters of the expats living in runner-up **Taiwan** (76%) are satisfied with their job security (vs. 59% globally), with the destination ranking first in the world for this factor. Taiwan also offers the world's highest quality of life, and 77 percent of expats feel at home there (vs. 64% globally). Coming in third place, **Ecuador** is one of the biggest winners of the *Expats Insider 2018* survey, moving up 22 ranks since 2017 (25th out of 65). While less than half the expats in Ecuador (46%) were satisfied with their career prospects in 2017, 69 percent are happy now. Moreover, 76 percent find it easy to settle down in this Latin American country (vs. 59% globally).

Bottom 3 Countries for Expats Rank Low for Quality of Life

India (66th), Saudi Arabia (67th), and Kuwait (68th) do not only rank at the bottom of the overall league table, but they are also among the worst destinations in terms of quality of life. Expats in **India** are dealing with the world's lowest quality of the environment: more than four in five (82%) are unhappy with this factor (vs. 19% globally). Over two in five (41%) even give it the worst possible rating, which is more than ten times the global average (4%). *"I do not like the quality of the air, all the trash, and the pollution,"* an expat from the USA says. *"It is very dirty all over the country"*. Around half the expats in **Kuwait** (52%) and **Saudi Arabia** (47%) are also unhappy with this factor. Moreover, the two Gulf States rank last and second to last for the ease of settling in. About half the expats in Kuwait (47%) and Saudi Arabia (51%) find it hard to get used to the local culture, compared to 21 percent globally.

Read More about *Expat Insider* and the InterNations Community



The 7 Most Common Expat Types and Why They Move Abroad

Although every expat journey is unique, there are similarities when it comes to their motivation for moving and their lifestyle abroad. Based on the insights of more than 18,000 expats, InterNations presents the first comprehensive expat typology with the 7 most common expat types that roam the world.

Country-specific versions are available in different languages in the download section at the end of the press release.



InterNations Country and City Guides

In more than 200 destination guides InterNations offers valuable tips and information about expats' destinations, including helpful advice from other members.

If you would like to access the complete guides, please get in touch via press@internations.org.



InterNations Surpasses 3 Million Members

In April 2018 the world's largest expat community reached 3 million members, which equals a growth of 20 percent within the last twelve months. InterNations also expanded its international range to 420 cities around the world with 30 new communities.



Ten Moments That Made InterNations

Growing from a start-up to a global network has been an incredible journey. Here are the stand-out moments that got us to a decade of connecting global minds.

About the InterNations *Expat Insider* 2018 Survey

For its annual [Expat Insider survey](#), InterNations asked more than 18,000 expatriates representing 178 nationalities and living in 187 countries or territories to provide information on various aspects of expat life, as well as their gender, age, and nationality. Participants were asked to rate up to 48 different aspects of 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 17 subcategories, and their mean values were used to draw up six topical indices: Quality of Life, Ease of Settling In, Working Abroad, Family Life, Personal Finance, and Cost of Living Index. Except for the latter, all indices were further averaged in order to rank 68 expatriate destinations around the world. In 2018, the top 10 are Bahrain, Taiwan, Ecuador, Mexico, Singapore, Portugal, Costa Rica, Spain, Colombia, and Czechia.

For a country to be featured in the indices and consequently in the overall ranking, a sample size of at least 75 survey participants per country was necessary. The only exception to this is the Family Life Index, where a sample size of at least 40 respondents raising children abroad was required. In 2018, 68 and 50 countries respectively met these requirements. However, in most countries the sample size exceeded 100 participants.

About InterNations

With 3.2 million members in 420 cities around the world, InterNations (www.internations.org) is the largest global community and information site for people who live and work abroad. InterNations offers global and local networking both online and face-to-face. At around 6,000 official events and activities per month, 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 [Expatriate Magazine](#).

Press Contact

Vera Grossmann
Media Spokesperson

InterNations GmbH
Schwanthalerstrasse 39
80336 Munich, Germany

Tel: +49 (0)89 461 3324 79
Fax: +49 (0)89 461 3324 99
Email: press@internations.org
Homepage: <http://www.internations.org/press>