

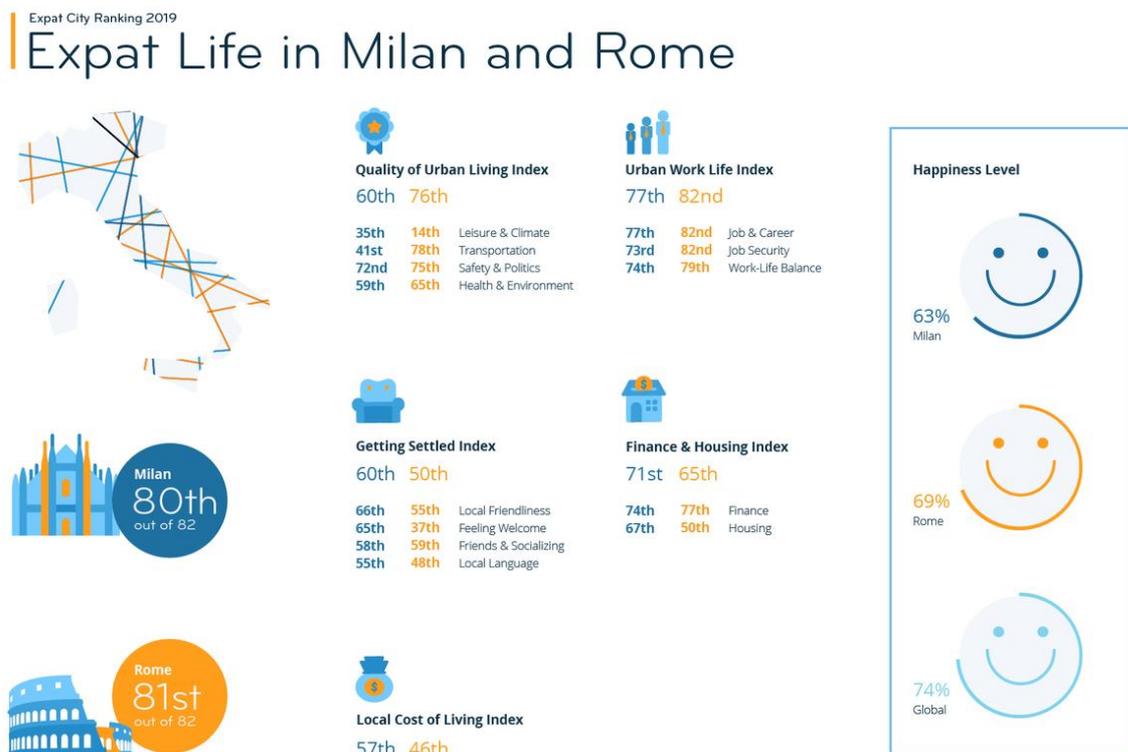
Rome and Milan are the Worst European Cities for Expats

The annual Expat City Ranking reveals how expats rate life in 82 cities around the world, including Milan and Rome.

- *Milan (80th) and Rome (81st) rank among the bottom 3 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019. They perform poorly across the board, particularly in the Urban Work Life Index.*
- *Based on the ranking, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Montréal, Lisbon, Barcelona, Zug, The Hague, and Basel are the best cities to move to in 2020.*
- *Kuwait City (82nd), Rome, Milan, Lagos (Nigeria), Paris, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Lima, New York City, and Yangon (73rd) are the world's worst cities.*

Munich. 3 December 2019 — Milan (80th) and Rome (81st) come second and third to last in the Expat City Ranking 2019 by [InterNations](#), the world's largest expat community with more than 3.5 million members. This makes them the worst cities for expats in Europe, and Kuwait City (82nd) is the only city that ranks worse globally. Both Italian cities land in the bottom 10 for the Urban Work Life Index as well as its Finance subcategory. Rome can also be found among the worst cities in the Quality of Urban Living Index, while expats find it harder to get settled in Milan.

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations, which is with more than 20,000 respondents in 2019 one of the most extensive surveys about living and working abroad. In 2019, 82 cities around the globe are analyzed in the survey, offering 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. Taken together, the first four areas make up the Expat City Ranking, which reveals the best and worst cities to move to in 2020.



What Expat Think about Life in Milan and Rome

80. Milan

Milan comes third to last, in 80th place out of 82 cities, and ranks low across the board in the Expat City Ranking 2019. The city performs particularly poorly in the Urban Work Life Index (77th), ranking among the bottom 10 in all its subcategories. It is even the world's worst-rated city in terms of job satisfaction, with only 47% of expats in Milan being happy with their job in general (vs. 64% globally). What is more, around three in ten are displeased with their job security (29% unhappy vs. 21% globally), their working hours (30% vs. 19% globally), and their work life balance (29% vs. 21% globally). All the hard work does not seem to pay off as nearly four in ten expats (39%) are dissatisfied with their financial situation, too (vs. 26% globally). A German expat complains about the *"bad balance between income and cost of living"*, and the majority of expats seems to agree: less than a quarter (23%) are satisfied with the local cost of living (vs. 43% globally).

While the shares of expats being satisfied with the local transportation in Milan (74% happy vs. 70% globally) and the local weather (61% vs. 59% globally) are slightly above the global average, the city still ranks only 60th in the Urban Living Index. One major reason for this is the low ranking for political stability (75th), as only 25% rate this factor positively. This is not only below the global average (61%) but also worse than last year (44%). *"The political situation is changing,"* a Polish expat observes. *"Foreigners now have more problems to register, use healthcare, and buy a house!"* Maybe this is one reason why expats also feel less at home in Milan, with the city ranking in the bottom 10 (75th) for this factor. Just about half the expats in Milan (53%) say they feel at home in the city, compared to 64% globally.

81. Rome

Rome is again voted the worst European city for expats, placing 81st out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019, ahead of only Kuwait City on a global scale. Similar to Milan, Rome's biggest weakness is the Urban Work Life Index, in which it ranks last worldwide for the second time running. One out of three expats in Rome (33%) is dissatisfied with their current job (vs. 19% globally), and two-thirds (67%) are unhappy with the local career opportunities (vs. 27% globally). Over half the expats in Rome (54%) do not judge their job security favorably (vs. 21% globally), and 62% rate the state of the local economy negatively — more than four times the global average (15%). *"It is difficult to find a job here,"* an expat from Turkey explains. In fact, just over a third of expats (36%) feel their disposable income is *more* than what they need to cover their daily expenses (vs. 49% globally), and less than half (44%) are happy with their financial situation (vs. 57% globally). A Spanish expat comments that *"the cost of living is too expensive and salaries in general are low"*.

Also similar to Milan, Rome is criticized by expats for its poor political stability, with less than a quarter (24%) being content with the current situation (vs. 61% globally). Yet where public transportation in Milan does not do too badly, nearly two in three expats in Rome (63%) are dissatisfied with the available services (vs. 19% globally). However, Rome does trump Milan in terms of local weather: 92% of expats enjoy the local climate (vs. 59% globally), with over half (55%) giving it the best possible rating. *"It is a gorgeous country, life is pleasant, the weather is nice, and the food is delicious,"* thinks a Spanish expat.

About the Expat City Ranking 2019

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual [Expat Insider survey](#) by InterNations. For the survey, more than 20,000 expatriates representing 178 nationalities and living in 187 countries or territories provided information on various aspects of expat life. 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 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 82 cities worldwide. In 2019, the top 10 cities for expats are Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Montréal, Lisbon, Barcelona, Zug, The Hague, and Basel. The survey also includes a Local Cost of Living Index, which does, however, not factor into the overall ranking to avoid overrepresenting financial aspects.

For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2019, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per city was required.

About InterNations

With more than 3.5 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.

Find more information about InterNations on our [press page](#), in our [company blog](#), or in our [magazine](#).

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