

Expats in Sydney and Melbourne Find It Easy to Get Settled and Enjoy the High Quality of Life

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

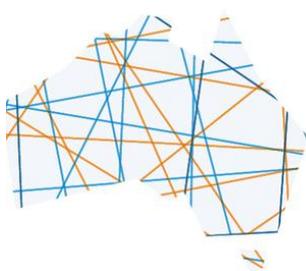
- Sydney (16th) ranks ahead of Melbourne (29th) in the Expat City Ranking 2019. While Melbourne beats Sydney in the Local Cost of Living Index, Sydney outperforms Melbourne in all other areas surveyed.
- Based on the ranking, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Montréal, Lisbon, Barcelona, 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 — Two Australian cities are featured in the Expat City Ranking 2019 by [InterNations](#), the world's largest expat community with more than 3.5 million members. While Sydney (16th) makes it into the top 20 worldwide, Melbourne ranks 29th overall. A strength common to both is how easy expats find settling in and how much they enjoy the local climate and leisure activities. Sydney, in particular, also performs very well in the Urban Work Life Index (11th). However, expats in both cities suffer from a high cost of living, an expensive housing market, and financial challenges.

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.

Expat City Ranking 2019

Expat Life in Melbourne and Sydney



Quality of Urban Living Index
30th **25th**

16th	7th	Leisure & Climate
47th	55th	Transportation
45th	41st	Safety & Politics
16th	30th	Health & Environment



Getting Settled Index
20th **16th**

20th	23rd	Local Friendliness
11th	8th	Feeling Welcome
36th	33rd	Friends & Socializing
24th	14th	Local Language



Local Cost of Living Index
49th **70th**



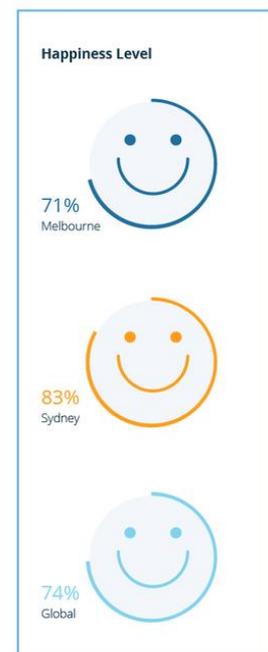
Urban Work Life Index
35th **11th**

36th	10th	Job & Career
43rd	25th	Job Security
36th	5th	Work-Life Balance



Finance & Housing Index
64th **55th**

75th	56th	Finance
47th	52nd	Housing



What Expats Think about Life in Sydney and Melbourne

16. Sydney

Coming 16th out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019 overall, Sydney's strongest area is the Urban Work Life Index (11th). Expats even rank the city fifth worldwide in the Work-Life Balance subcategory, with over three-quarters (76%) being content with this as a factor (vs. 60% globally), and 81% happy with their working hours (vs. 62% globally). The local career opportunities are also well-rated (8th) by 72% of the expats in the city (vs. 51% globally). An Irish expat shares that there is a *"more balanced lifestyle, giving more opportunities to socialize and get outdoors"*. Indeed, Sydney is among the top 10 worldwide for leisure options and climate (7th). Nearly nine in ten expats (87%) are satisfied with the local leisure activities (vs. 74% globally), and 91% enjoy the local weather and climate (vs. 59% globally). Sydney also performs well in the Getting Settled Index (16th), particularly in the Feeling Welcome subcategory (8th). More than four in five expats (81%) find the local culture easy to get used to (vs. 62% globally), placing Sydney second worldwide for this factor, behind only Calgary, Canada. Furthermore, over seven in ten (71%) feel at home in Sydney (vs. 64% globally), and a similar share (70%) find the locals generally friendly (vs. 64% globally).

Sydney's weak spot is its local cost of living (70th), as 70% of expats are unhappy with how expensive it is to live in the city (vs. 38% globally). One reason for this might be the high cost of housing (73% unhappy vs. 44% globally), as a Brazilian expat remarks, *"the cost of housing (to rent and to buy) is too high"*. Expats in Sydney are also generally dissatisfied with their finances, with only around half (51%) pleased with their financial situation (vs. 57% globally) and just 39% feeling that they have a disposable household income that is more than they need to cover their daily costs (vs. 49% globally).

29. Melbourne

Placing 29th out of 82 cities, Melbourne ranks in the upper midfield of the Expat City Ranking 2019, but behind Sydney (16th). Melbourne performs best in the Getting Settled Index (20th), particularly in the Feeling Welcome subcategory (11th). Around three-quarters of expats feel at home in the city (75% vs. 64% globally) and find the local culture easy to get used to (76% vs. 62% globally), while over four in five (81%) describe the local residents as friendly (vs. 64% globally). Melbourne's quality of environment is also among the best in the world (8th): more than nine in ten (92%) are happy with it (vs. 71% globally), as an Indian expat highlights the *"care for the environment, nature, and the people"*. While expats also rate Melbourne's leisure activities (87% happy vs. 74% globally) and the local weather and climate (67% happy vs. 59% globally) highly, the city still just ranks 30th in the Quality of Urban Living Index. This is mainly due to expats' fairly average satisfaction with the local transportation (72% happy vs. 70% globally) and their personal safety (85% happy vs. 81% globally).

That aside, another positive to living in Melbourne, according to a Colombian expat, is *"definitely the lifestyle and also how important it is for Australians to have a work-life balance"*. In fact, 65% are happy with their work-life balance (vs. 60% globally). However, overall Melbourne does not perform quite as strongly as Sydney in the Urban Work Life Index (35th). While almost six in ten (59%) expats are happy with the local career options (vs. 51% globally), a below-average 59% are satisfied with their jobs overall (vs. 64% globally). However, Melbourne's clearest weak point is its performance in the Finance & Housing Index (64th). The city falls into the bottom 10 worldwide for the Finance subcategory (75th): over a third of expats are dissatisfied with their financial situation (34% vs. 26% globally) and say that their disposable household income is not enough to cover daily life (36% vs. 23% globally). This goes hand in hand with Melbourne's below-average ranking for the local cost of living (49th): nearly half the expats (47%) give Melbourne a negative rating for this factor (vs. 38% globally). *"The cost of living is very*

high," comments a German expat, "especially the housing". In fact, 57% of expats believe that the housing in Melbourne is too expensive, compared to the global average of 44%.

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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