

Expats in Moscow Are Unhappy with the State of the Economy but Still Satisfied with Their Finances

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

- Moscow ranks 54th out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019: the city performs best in the Finance & Housing Index (19th) and worst in the Urban Work Life Index (69th).
- 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 — Moscow ranks 54th out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019 by [InterNations](#), the world's largest expat community with more than 3.5 million members. The city ranks particularly low in the Urban Work Life and the Getting Settled Indices as expats are unhappy with the state of the local economy and describe the Russians as generally unfriendly. On the bright side, Moscow ranks among the top 20 worldwide of the Finance & Housing Index.

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 Expats Think about Life in Moscow

54. Moscow

Ranking 54th out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019, Moscow receives its worst marks in the Urban Work Life (69th) and the Getting Settled (66th) Indices. The latter is partly due to the fact that Moscow ranks second to last in the Local Language subcategory (81st), only ahead of Beijing. In fact, 65% of expats find it hard to live in Moscow without speaking Russian (vs. 37% globally), and 32% even find it *very difficult* (vs. 15% globally). However, 29% of expats also perceive the locals in Moscow as generally unfriendly, compared to 19% globally. *"People do not smile,"* says an expat from the UK.

The Russian capital receives its best ratings in terms of finance and housing (19th): 63% are generally satisfied with their financial situation (vs. 57% globally), and close to a quarter (23%) even say that their disposable household income is a *lot* more than enough to cover everything needed for daily life (vs. 11% globally). However, only a third (33%) find housing in Moscow affordable (vs. 36% globally).

Nine in ten expats (90%) are happy with the local transportation (vs. 70% globally), ranking the city 24th worldwide for this factor. Also, 76% of expats are happy with the local leisure options, which is slightly above the global average (74%). One expat from the USA explains: *"Moscow never sleeps so you can always find something culturally interesting and fun to do any time of the day."* Still, Moscow only ranks 49th in the Quality of Urban Living Index, which is partly due to expats' dissatisfaction with the local climate and weather (75th).

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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