

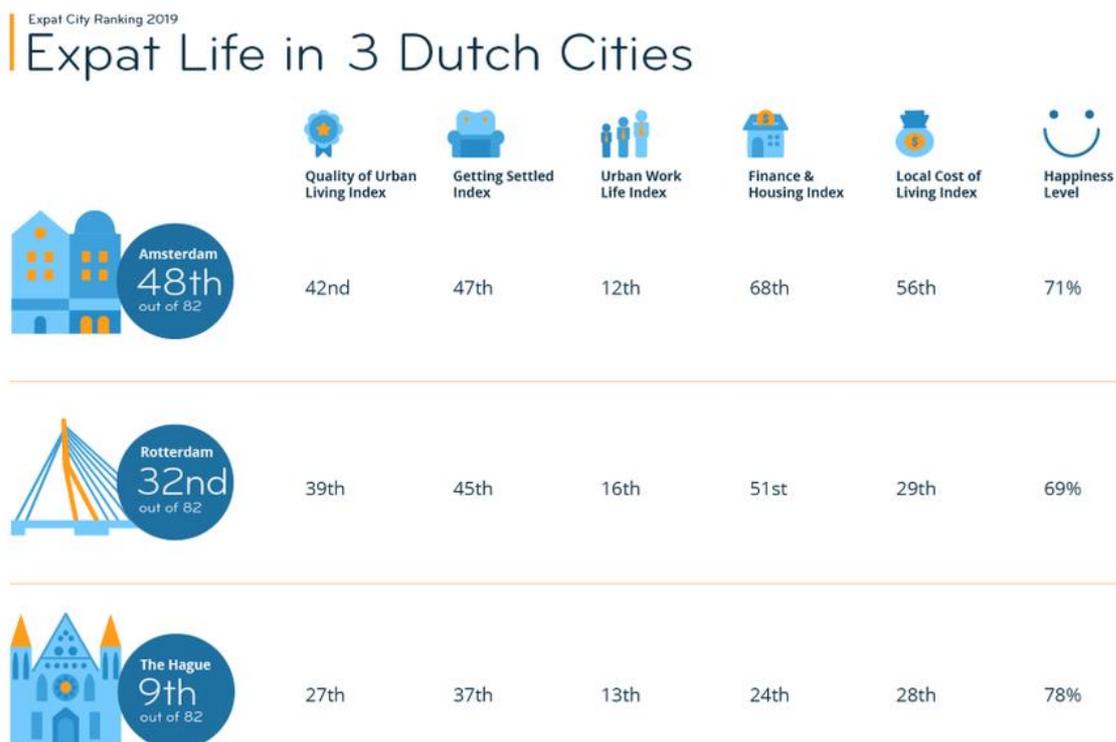
The Best and Worst Cities for Expats in the Netherlands

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

- *The Hague (9th) ranks far ahead of Rotterdam (32nd) and Amsterdam (48th) in the Expat City Ranking 2019.*
- *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 — Three Dutch 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 The Hague makes it into the top 10 worldwide (9th), Rotterdam (32nd) and Amsterdam (48th) are only listed in midfield. All three cities rank among the top 15 worldwide in the Urban Work Life Index, and expats are very happy with the state of the local economy. While Rotterdam and Amsterdam do not perform well in the Finance & Housing Index, The Hague sets itself apart from its competitors here. It also takes the lead for the quality of life and the ease of getting settled.

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 3 Dutch Cities

9. The Hague

Coming in 9th place out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019, The Hague performs particularly well in the Urban Work Life Index (13th). Expats vote The Hague even among the top 10 worldwide in the Job Security subcategory (5th): nearly seven in ten (69%) are generally satisfied with their job security (vs. 59% globally), and 88% rate the state of the local economy positively (vs. 66% globally). While the city also ranks well for work-life balance (20th), it only comes in 55th place for local career opportunities. When asked to share what they dislike most about life in The Hague, a British expat mentions *"limited career opportunities in my specialized career,"* and a Bulgarian expat shares: *"I cannot find a better and higher paid job."* In fact, 29% are unhappy with their career opportunities (vs. 27% globally), which is the highest share out of the three Dutch cities surveyed. On the other hand, The Hague is by far the best Dutch city in the Finance & Housing Index (24th). In the Finance subcategory, it comes 11th, compared to Rotterdam in 42nd and Amsterdam in 46th place. In fact, seven in ten expats (70%) are generally satisfied with their financial situation (vs. 57% globally).

Overall, The Hague also ranks a good 27th in the Quality of Urban Living Index, but lands in the bottom 10 worldwide for the local climate and weather (78th) alongside Amsterdam (76th). Close to three in five expats (56%) rate this factor negatively (vs. 23% globally), and one Turkish expat lists the *"weather conditions"* as one of the worst features of living in The Hague. The city also ranks the highest out of the three Dutch cities in the Health & Environment subcategory (37th), with 81% of expats enjoying the quality of the environment (vs. 71% globally).

32. Rotterdam

With a 32nd place out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019, Rotterdam places somewhat above average in the overall ranking; however, expats vote its local transportation (21st) the best in the Netherlands, closely followed by The Hague (22nd). The majority of expats (94%) rate this factor positively (vs. 70% globally), and more than half (51%) even consider it *very good* (vs. 36% globally). *"I like the well-maintained bike paths for any non-motorized vehicles, their availability, and their easy accessibility,"* says an expat from Venezuela. Moreover, Rotterdam is rated best in the Urban Work Life Index (16th), and the city even ranks 10th worldwide in the Job Security subcategory, among the global top 10 just like The Hague (5th). Three-quarters of expats (75%) enjoy their work-life balance (vs. 60% globally), and an Israeli expat mentions the *"balance between family life and work"* as one of the things they like best about life in Rotterdam. Expats are also very happy with the state of the local economy (91% vs. 66% globally).

On the downside, Rotterdam comes in 65th place in the Friends & Socializing subcategory. About three in seven expats (43%) find it generally difficult to make new friends (vs. 35% globally), and a further 37% are unhappy with their social life (vs. 27% globally). A British expat thinks that it is *"very, very difficult to make friends with the Dutch"*. Expats also consider the local residents of Rotterdam the least friendly in the Netherlands (52nd), with 28% finding them generally unfriendly (vs. 19% globally).

48. Amsterdam

Coming 48th out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking, Amsterdam is by far the worst city in the Netherlands when it comes to the Local Cost of Living (56th) and Finance & Housing Indices (68th). More than half the expats (52%) rate the local cost of living negatively (vs. 38% globally). This does not come as much of a surprise as Amsterdam also features in the bottom 10 cities worldwide for housing (74th): 74% of respondents say it is hard to afford (vs. 44% globally). Not only is local housing

expensive, 60% of expats also say it is difficult to find (vs. 32% globally). A German expat complains that the *“rental market here is horrible — it is all overpriced and difficult to find something,”* and a Romanian expat mentions that *“it is almost impossible to find a reasonable rent at a decent price”*.

Moreover, healthcare seems to be less easily available in Amsterdam than in the other two Dutch cities (62nd worldwide), and 22% rate this factor negatively (vs. 13% globally). *“I do not like the healthcare system,”* shares an Australian expat, *“it is impossible to get the basics such as a blood test or a pap smear here.”* Also, Amsterdam ranks lowest in the Getting Settled Index (47th), just slightly behind Rotterdam (45th). More than half the expats (51%) find it generally hard to make new friends (vs. 35% globally), and 29% do not feel at home in Amsterdam (vs. 21% globally).

On the bright side, Amsterdam ranks among the top 10 cities in the Work-Life Balance subcategory (9th), and an Indian expat finds that *“the work-life balance here is phenomenal!”*. The city is by far the best Dutch city for local career opportunities (15th), compared to Rotterdam in 40th and The Hague in 55th place. Expats are also very happy with the state of the local economy (13th), though Amsterdam does rank lowest among the three Dutch cities.

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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