Expats in Prague Are Happy with Their Careers, the Cost of Living, and the Quality of Urban Living

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

- Prague ranks 13th out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019. It performs best in the Urban Work Life Index (2nd) and worst in the Getting Settled Index (55th).
- 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 — Prague continues to be a favorite city among expats, ranking 13th 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 Czech capital ranks second in the world in the Urban Work Life Index, and expats are very happy with their local career prospects. While they are also pleased with the local cost of living (10th) and the quality of urban living (11th), they struggle to get settled (55th) and find the locals generally unfriendly (76th).

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 Prague

13. Prague
Coming 13th out of 82 cities, Prague performs very well overall in the Expat City Ranking 2019. Czechia's capital is the second-best rated city in the world for work life, only beaten by Aachen, Germany. Over seven in ten expats in Prague (72%) are satisfied with their job in general (vs. 64% globally), and almost four in five (78%) are happy with the local career opportunities (vs. 51% globally). Similarly, a high share (71%) feels secure in their job (vs. 59% globally), and nearly nine in ten (86%) are pleased with the state of the local economy (vs. 66% globally). Expats are also very happy with the cost of living in Prague (10th), with almost two-thirds (65%) rating this factor positively (vs. 43% globally). A Chilean expat describes Prague as an “affordable city, right in the center of Europe” with “good, cheap beer, a beautiful cityscape, and excellent, inexpensive public transportation”. Indeed, Prague also ranks very well in the Quality of Urban Living Index (11th), coming eighth worldwide for local transportation. Almost all expats (95%) rate this factor positively (vs. 70% globally), and nearly three-quarters (74%) give it the highest possible rating. The city is also voted the third best in the world in terms of local leisure options, as 90% of expats are satisfied with the available activities (vs. 74% globally).

Prague's main weakness seems to be the apparent lack of friendliness, the city coming in the bottom 10 for the Local Friendliness subcategory (74th). Over a third of expats (36%) find the local people to be generally unfriendly (vs. 19% globally), and a similar share (35%) are of the opinion that the locals are unwelcoming to foreign residents (vs. 19% globally). Perhaps this is why a quarter of expats (25%) finds it difficult to get used to the local culture (vs. 20% globally). A Ukrainian expat shares her experience of “Czech people's coldness towards people they do not know and have no common friends with,” and has had “difficulty making friends with locals.”

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.

www.internations.org
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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