

Expatriate Life in Austria: An Exceptional Quality of Life, with an Exceptionally Unfriendly Population

The *Expatriate Insider 2022* survey by InterNations reveals the best and worst destinations for living and working abroad.

- *Mexico, Indonesia, Taiwan, Portugal, Spain, the UAE, Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, and Singapore are the best destinations for expats in 2022.*
- *The worst destinations for expats are Kuwait (52nd), New Zealand, Hong Kong, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Japan, South Africa, Turkey, Italy, and Malta (43rd).*
- *Austria comes 24th out of 52: it receives stellar results in the Quality of Life Index but other factors, especially those related to settling in, impact its placement.*

Munich, 12 July 2022 — For the ninth time, [InterNations](https://www.internations.org), the world's largest expat community with more than 4 million members, has published the results of its *Expatriate Insider* survey. With nearly 12,000 respondents, it is one of the most extensive surveys about living and working abroad, providing insights into expat life in 52 destinations. The survey offers in-depth information on expats' satisfaction with the **Quality of Life**, **Ease of Settling In**, **Working Abroad**, and **Personal Finance** in their respective country of residence. For the first time, the ranking also includes the new **Expatriate Essentials Index**, which covers digital life, admin topics, housing, and language.

Destination Report

Austria



Austria ranks 24th out of 52 destinations in the *Expatriate Insider 2022* survey. It even lands in an outstanding third place in the Quality of Life Index, followed by solid ranks in the Personal Finance (16th) and Working Abroad (19th) Indices. But in the Expat Essentials Index, Austria comes in a somewhat below-average 32nd place, and it even lands in the bottom 5 of the Ease of Settling In Index (49th). Overall, 70% of expats are happy with their life in Austria, compared to 71% globally.

Mexico (1st), **Indonesia** (2nd), and **Taiwan** (3rd) make up the top 3 destinations, and they all rank very well in the Ease of Settling In and Personal Finance Indices. On the other hand, the bottom 3 destinations, **Kuwait** (52nd), **New Zealand**, and **Hong Kong**, all perform poorly in terms of personal finances for expats. While Kuwait ranks among the worst destinations worldwide for all factors, expats in New Zealand struggle with their career and those in Hong Kong are unhappy with the local environment.

Austria in the *Expatriate Insider 2022* Survey

In the *Expatriate Insider 2022* ranking, Austria lands in an average 24th place out of 52. In the Quality of Life Index in particular, though, it comes in third. It owes its top place in this index, right after Spain (1st) and Taiwan (2nd), mainly to its great results in three subcategories: Travel & Transit (2nd), Health & Well-Being (3rd), and Environment & Climate (5th).

More than nine in ten expats in Austria (94%) appreciate their travel opportunities (vs. 82% globally). *"I love Austria's history, architecture, and culture, as well as the ease of travel and the excellent public transportation,"* says an Australian expat. In fact, 91% are satisfied with the availability of public transportation (vs. 73% globally), while 85% approve of its affordability (vs. 70% globally).

Speaking of affordability and availability: 83% of expats describe healthcare in Austria as affordable (vs. 61% worldwide), and more than three-quarters (77%) confirm they can access all the healthcare services they need (vs. 67% globally).

Clean & Many Options to Work Out

A clean environment is also a major part of a healthy life — and Austria does not disappoint here. Expats give positive ratings to both the natural (96% happy vs. 83% globally) and the urban environment (85% happy vs. 67% globally). And 84% judge the availability of green goods and services favorably as well, compared to 64% globally.

The results in the Leisure Options Subcategory (21st) are just slightly above average. For example, only 67% rate the local culture and nightlife positively, which is the same as the global average. However, close to nine in ten (88%) are happy with the opportunities for recreational sports (vs. 75% globally), and 47% are even *completely* satisfied (vs. 38% globally).

Solid in Terms of Work & Finance

Despite the high quality of life, Austria does not seem to be too expensive. It ranks 16th out of 52 in the Personal Finance Index. Slightly more than half (53%) rate the cost of living positively (vs. 45% globally), and 64% are happy with their financial situation (vs. 60% globally).

Its 19th place in the Working Abroad Index is equally solid but far from outstanding. Expats are satisfied with several key aspects: 68% give their job security a good rating (vs. 59% globally), and 85% describe the state of the local economy positively (vs. 64% globally). However, only 62% believe that they are paid fairly based on their industry, qualifications, and role, which is just the same as the global average.

Ample leisure time might make up for a slight dissatisfaction with salaries: 72% are happy with their working hours (vs. 63% globally). But expats are a bit more critical of the Career Prospects (25th) and the Work Culture & Satisfaction (28th) Subcategories: 35% believe the local business culture stifles creativity and unconventional thinking (vs. 26% globally), and 26% are unhappy with their career prospects (vs. 22% globally). *"The international job market is very small and limited to specific positions,"* an expat from Italy comments.

Affordable Housing — Lack of Cashless Payments

The Expat Essentials Index is the first topic where Austria's ranking drops below the global average (32nd). The results in three of its subcategories are rather mediocre: Housing (25th), Admin Topics (27th), and Digital Life (29th). However, a closer look reveals that Austria does quite well for some of the factors and quite badly for a few others.

For example, 93% of expats appreciate the unrestricted access to online services (vs. 82% globally), and 47% consider local housing affordable (vs. 39% globally). On the other hand, 14% find it hard to pay without cash (vs. 8% globally), and 31% of those who needed a visa struggled with getting one (vs. 24% globally).

Moreover, Austria only ranks 38th in the Language Subcategory. Expats find it neither easy to live there without speaking the local language (39th) nor to learn it (31st). *"Fluent German would be a huge benefit, but I do not see myself achieving this,"* a British expat states.

One of the Unfriendliest Destinations Worldwide

Placing 49th in the Ease of Settling In Index, Austria ends up among the worst-rated destinations worldwide. It also ranks among the bottom 10 in two subcategories, coming 51st for Local Friendliness and 47th for Culture & Welcome. Austria does just a little better in the Finding Friends Subcategory (41st).

Expats in Austria find it hard to make local friends (52% unhappy vs. 37% worldwide). *"It takes such a long time to make local friends here,"* a respondent from Chile remarks. Another 41% also describe the local population as unfriendly towards foreign residents, more than twice the global average (18%). Moreover, 34% find it hard to get used to the local culture (vs. 19% globally), while 28% do not feel welcome (vs. 16% globally).

The Best and Worst Destinations for Living and Working Abroad in 2022

According to the *Expat Insider 2022* survey results, Mexico (1st), Indonesia, Taiwan, Portugal, Spain, the UAE, Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, and Singapore (10th) are the best destinations for expats. The top 5 destinations stand out with regard to the Ease of Settling In and Personal Finance. They also tend to perform well in the Expat Essentials Index. While they all land just midfield in the Working Abroad

Index, their results in the Quality of Life Index are somewhat mixed. Spain (1st), Taiwan, and Portugal make up the top 3 worldwide, but expats in Mexico (24th) and Indonesia (41st) are not satisfied with the local quality of life.

The worst destinations for expats are Kuwait (52nd), New Zealand, Hong Kong, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Japan, South Africa, Turkey, Italy, and Malta (43rd). Kuwait is among the world's worst destinations in each individual index as well as in the overall ranking. Moreover, all bottom 5 destinations have an average to poor performance in the Working Abroad and Personal Finance Indices. While Italy is an exception regarding Personal Finance (33rd), it only ranks 48th in the Expat Essentials Index.

You can find out more about the best and worst destinations for expats in 2022 in the respective press release (available under "Downloads" in the email).

About the InterNations *Expat Insider 2022* Survey

For its annual [Expat Insider survey](#), InterNations asked 11,970 expats representing 177 nationalities and living in 181 countries or territories to provide information on various aspects of expat life, as well as their gender, age, and nationality. Participants were asked to rate up to 56 different aspects of life abroad on a scale of one to seven. The rating process emphasized the respondents' personal satisfaction with these aspects, considering both emotional topics and more factual aspects with equal weight. The respondents' ratings of the individual factors were then bundled in various combinations for a total of 16 subcategories, and their mean values were used to draw up five topical indices: Quality of Life, Ease of Settling In, Working Abroad, Personal Finance, and Expat Essentials. These indices were further averaged together with expats' general happiness with their life abroad in order to rank 52 expat destinations around the world. In 2022, the top 10 are Mexico, Indonesia, Taiwan, Portugal, Spain, the UAE, Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, and Singapore.

To be featured in the indices and consequently in the overall ranking, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per destination was necessary.

About InterNations

With more than 4 million members in 420 cities around the world, [InterNations](#) is the largest global community and a source of information for people who live and work abroad. InterNations offers global and local networking and socializing, both online and face-to-face. At around 6,000 events and activities per month, expatriates have the opportunity to meet other global minds. Online services include discussion forums and helpful articles with personal expat experiences, tips, and information about life abroad. Membership is by approval only to ensure we remain a community of trust. InterNations is part of the New Work SE, a group of brands that offer products and services for a better working life.

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