

Oman Welcomes Expats with Open Arms

The *Expats 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).
- Oman ranks 12th out of 52: housing is easy to find and to afford, and it is easy for expats to get settled in.

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 *Expats 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 **Expats Essentials Index**, which covers digital life, admin topics, housing, and language.

Oman comes 12th out of 52 destinations in the *Expats Insider 2022* survey. The country ranks best in the Ease of Settling In and Expats Essentials Indices (5th for both). However, expats are unhappy with regards to Working Abroad (39th) and the Quality of Life (38th). Oman also ranks in a fairly average place for Personal Finance (21st). Overall, 72% of expats are happy with their life in Oman, compared to 71% globally.



Mexico (1st), **Indonesia** (2nd), and **Taiwan** (3rd) make up the top 3 destinations, all ranking 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.

Oman in the *Expat Insider 2022* Survey

A Welcoming Culture

Expats find it very easy to find their footing in Oman, as the country ranks 5th out of 52 in the Ease of Settling In Index. In fact, nearly four in five expats in Oman (79%) feel welcome there (vs. 66% globally). *"There is a good, accommodating culture here,"* says a Pakistani expat. The country ranks third in the Local Friendliness Subcategory, with 89% describing the Omanis as generally friendly towards foreign residents (vs. 65% globally). A British expat notes that *"the local people are very friendly and make you feel very welcome in the relaxed atmosphere"*. In fact, Oman ranks second worldwide for the general friendliness towards foreign residents, only beaten by Mexico.

Supported and Connected Expats

With a friendly and welcoming culture, Finding Friends is also a high point. Oman ranks tenth in this subcategory. Nearly two in three expats in Oman (65%) find it easy to make local friends (vs. 42% globally). Close to two-thirds of expats (63%) have a personal support network in Oman (vs. 59% globally), and 73% find it easy to get used to the local culture (vs. 62% globally). More than one-third (34%) even find it *very easy*, compared to 24% globally.

The Basics of Life in Oman

Oman also excels in the Expat Essentials Index (5th), ranking in the top 10 in both the Housing (8th) and Language (7th) Subcategories. Expats say that housing is easy to find (79% vs. 54% globally) and to afford (57% vs. 39% globally) in Oman. Additionally, it is easy to live in Oman without speaking the local language (75% vs. 51% globally). However, expat life in Oman is not completely free: 13% of expats feel that their access to online services, such as social media, is restricted, nearly twice the global average (7%).

Disappointing Job Prospects

Expats rate Oman rather poorly when it comes to Working Abroad (39th). The majority of expats in Oman (53%) is unhappy with the local job market, nearly double the global average (27%). Oman even ends up in the bottom 10 for personal career opportunities (46th). Accordingly, nearly one in three expats (31%) are unhappy with this factor (vs. 22% globally). An Indian expat feels that *"there are no career opportunities for women"*.

Mixed Results for Work Culture

Salary is another low point for Oman, as about one in four expats (26%) feel that they are not paid fairly for their work (vs. 20% globally). What is more, 36% are also worried about their job security, compared to 20% globally. Only 45% feel that the work culture in Oman supports flexibility (vs. 60% globally), which makes the country fall behind today's increasingly modern world of business. Still, 66% are happy with their work-life balance (vs. 62% globally).

Difficulty Getting Out and About

Oman falls short when it comes to Leisure Options (46th): over one in three expats (34%) are unhappy with the culture and nightlife (vs. 16% globally), and 15% are not satisfied with the opportunities for recreational sports (vs. 11% globally). A Syrian expat explains that *"there is a lack of activities outside the capital"*. It also seems hard to get to the activities, since the country ranks in the bottom 10 for both the affordability (46th) and the availability (52nd) of public transportation. While 73% of expats find it easy to get around on foot and/or by bicycle (vs. 77% globally), they are happiest with the infrastructure for cars (91% vs. 75% globally).

Clean Air but No Green Goods

Expats are generally satisfied with the Environment & Climate (20th). Especially in regards to air quality, Oman only narrowly misses out on the top 10 (11th). While the respondents find that the government supports policies to protect the environment (70% vs. 61% globally), they are disappointed with the availability of green goods and services (30% unhappy vs. 17% 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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