

The World's 10 Most Livable Cities

Vocabulary Matching

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| 1. urbanist | a. to provide what is wanted or needed for a specific group |
| 2. cater | b. suitable for living in |
| 3. definitive | c. someone living in a foreign country |
| 4. spark | d. to cause an action or feeling to start |
| 5. nuance | e. final, authoritative |
| 6. hardship | f. difficulty or suffering |
| 7. livable | g. to make something seem less important |
| 8. vibrant | h. a slight difference in meaning or opinion |
| 9. expat | i. specialists or enthusiasts in city planning and development |
| 10. overshadow | j. full of energy and life |

Gap Fill

The Economist Intelligence Unit's annual ranking of the world's most (1)_____ cities often generates debate. While Vienna topped the 2023 list, followed by Copenhagen and Melbourne, many question what "livable" actually means and who benefits from these (2)_____.

The ranking primarily (3)_____ to international companies managing (4)_____ relocations, helping them calculate (5)_____ pay. It assesses factors like stability, healthcare, and infrastructure. However, this focus may not align with what (6)_____ residents prioritize.

The index heavily weighs private healthcare and education, potentially overlooking the importance of (7)_____ services. Housing (8)_____, a major concern for many, is just one of 30 subcategories. The global scope means factors like war and censorship (9)_____ nuances between developed cities.

Importantly, the list doesn't fully capture (10)_____ priorities such as walkability, public transit quality, and vibrant street life. These factors, while harder to quantify, are crucial for day-to-day living.

urbanist

hardship

livable

public

overshadow

affordability

regular

rankings

expat

caters

True/False:

1. Vienna was ranked as the most livable city in 2023.
2. The livability ranking is primarily designed for tourists.
3. Housing affordability is the main factor in determining a city's livability score.
4. The ranking takes into account factors like walkability and public transit quality.

Discussion Questions:

1. What factors do you consider most important for a city to be "livable"?
2. How might the definition of a "livable city" differ for expats versus long-term residents?
3. Do you think rankings like this influence city policies? If so, how?
4. How important is housing affordability in your personal definition of a livable city?
5. What are some "urbanist priorities" that you think should be included in livability rankings?
6. How do you think the COVID-19 pandemic has changed people's perceptions of what makes a city livable?
7. Do you think global rankings like this are useful, or do they oversimplify complex issues?
8. How might a city's cultural offerings impact its livability, and should this be factored into such rankings?
9. What role do you think public transportation plays in a city's livability?
10. How can cities balance the needs of different groups (e.g., expats, locals, tourists) when trying to improve livability?