

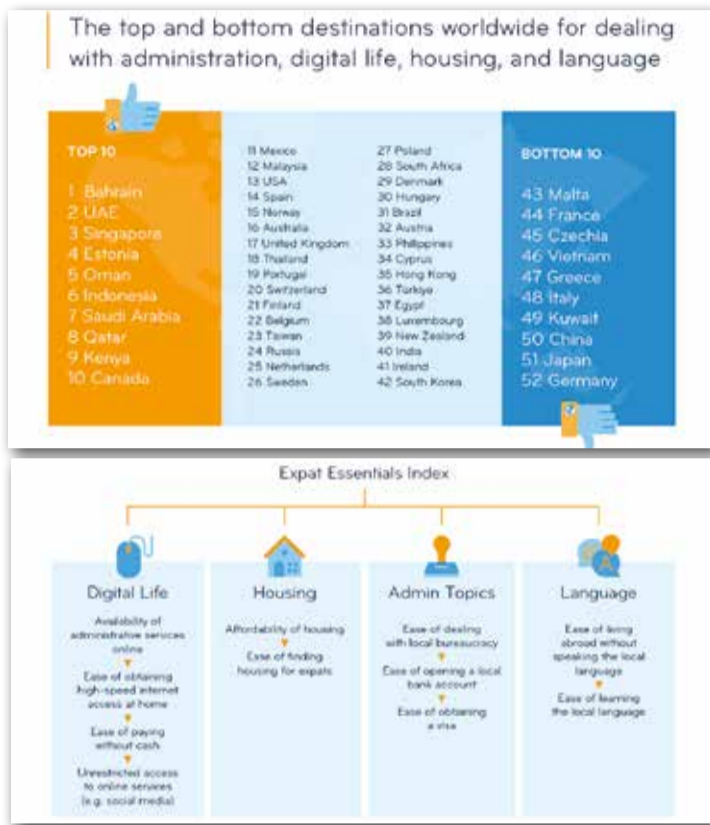
# Bahrain 'ideal place for easy beginnings'

InterNations ranks Bahrain as expatriates' 'Best Destination for Getting Started Abroad' in 2023

● Bahrain takes top rank out of the 52 countries

● Key highlights are easy communication, lack of a language barrier and minimal bureaucratic issues

TDT | Manama



Covering housing, language, digital life, and admin topics, the Expat Essentials Index focuses on some of the most important elements of getting life started abroad. Bahrain (1st), the UAE, Singapore, Estonia, Oman, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kenya, and Canada (10th) are the destinations that make this especially easy for expats.

country, which include digital readiness, online government services, ease of digital payments, ease of opening a bank account and obtaining a visa in addition to ease and affordability of housing.

#### Zero language barriers

The metrics assessed potential language barriers - for living without speaking the local lan-

guage - where Bahrain ranked 4th globally.

Two in three survey respondents (67%) confirm that it is easy to deal with the local authorities, an impressive 27 percentage points more than the global average (40%), the report said.

#### No visa issues

Visa issues also pose very few problems: 70% say it is easy to

get a visa to move there (vs. 56% globally).

#### Easy to find housing

The survey also highlights that expatriates in Bahrain (82%) say it is easy to find housing, while only about half of them globally (54%) can say the same.

However, only 39% find housing in Bahrain affordable, the same share as the worldwide average (39%).

Expatriates surveyed by InterNations, however, said that, in Bahrain, they are at least not held back by language barriers; 82% say it is easy to live there without speaking the local language(s) (vs. 51% globally).

#### Easy Bank account

Bahrain also ranked 1st in MENA and 3rd globally in ease of opening a bank account.

#### UAE takes 2nd rank

From the Gulf Cooperation Council, the UAE takes second place in the ranking. Expatriates voted the country 1st worldwide for the ease of obtaining a visa to move there. Additionally, 61% say it is easy to deal with the local bureaucracy in the UAE, compared to 40% globally. When it comes to the Housing Subcategory (14th), 75% consider it easy to find housing in the UAE (vs. 54% globally), but only 38% say that it is affordable (vs. 39% globally).

Singapore takes the third rank, followed by Estonia, Oman, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Kenya and Canada.

In Saudi Arabia, respondents said the kingdom facilitates a smooth transition to local life for expats, ranking 7th in the Expat Essentials Index. Like

Bahrain (1st), the UAE (2nd), Oman (5th), and Qatar (8th), it offers expatriates relatively worry-free bureaucracy, easily available housing, and not much of a language barrier.

Not only do 62% say that housing in Saudi Arabia is easy for expats to find (vs. 54% globally), another 42% say it is affordable as well (vs. 39% globally).

Admin topics (11th) offer little frustration for expatriates in Saudi Arabia, and 73% say it is easy to open a local bank account (vs. 64% globally).



Geri Halliwell (Geri Horner), wife of Red Bull Racing's British team principal Christian Horner, arrives to attend the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix at the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir

## Meat and Vegetable price stable ahead of Ramadan Rush, Saloona emerges as popular dish

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Despite the high demand for meat and vegetables, local market prices largely remained stable yesterday with vendors confirming that stock levels are sufficient to meet the Ramadan rush.

Merchants, however, said they anticipate a surge in demand during the weekend.

According to merchants at the Central Market, Saloona, a curry-based meal prepared using vegetables and enjoyed as an everyday meal, has become a hot-selling dish for its availability and reasonable prices.

Prices of some favourite tray pack items are as follows: Zucchini BD1.3, carrot BD1.8, green pepper BD2, eggplant BD1, green bean BD1.5, and popper BD3.5.

An Indian okra basket cost BD1.3, pumpkin BD2.8, potato bag BD1.8, Large onion bag BD2, garlic bag BD1.4, tomato basket BD1.5, lemon basket BD5.5, broccoli 500 fils each, and small ginger bag 500 fils.

The prices of leafy green vegetables, such as Lettuce, Watercress, and Barbir, range from 100 to 500 fils, depending on the type, source, and quantity.

## Pakistan Ambassador calls for boosting ties during National Day celebration

Ashen Tharaka  
TDT | Manama

Muhammad Ayub, the Ambassador of Pakistan to Bahrain, called for further strengthening Bahrain-Pakistan bilateral ties during an event held to celebrate the National day of Pakistan at the embassy.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, the Ambassador emphasized the deep and longstanding fraternal bonds that unite both countries, making the occasion significant for all.

Further highlighting the shared history, the cultural and social values, the ambassador emphasised the need for developing economic relationships between the two nations.

The ambassador said that Pakistan is seeking investors and businesspeople, particularly in areas of food production, packaging, and storage.

Besides, the Embassy has declared 2023 as a Tourism year for Bahrainis to visit Pakistan and explore the country's natural beauty.

Marking the day, the Pakistani community members in Bahrain organised an art ex-



In pictures, the National Day celebrations yesterday at the Pakistan Embassy

hibition on the embassy premises.

In a message to Bahraini

leaders, Pakistani leaders expressed gratitude and stressed the importance of developing

stronger economic and tourism connections between both countries.

## NBR held 495 inspection visits in two months

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The National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) said it held 495 inspection visits during January and February to protect consumer rights and ensure the effective implementation of VAT and excise.

The campaigns resulted in detecting several violations and possible evasion of VAT & Excise Laws. As a result, some businesses were in danger of being closed as a precautionary measure.

NBR said it will initiate criminal actions against those found guilty. They may face imprisonment for up to five years and a fine equivalent to three times the amount of VAT. Alternatively, they may face imprisonment for up to one year and a fine equivalent to double the amount of the evaded excise, according to the Excise law.

NBR officials said the campaign contributed significantly to addressing tax evasion and preventing the possession, trade, sale, or supply of products that have not fulfilled their VAT or excise obligations.

The Digital Stamps Scheme on cigarette products in the local markets, which came into effect on October 16, 2022, is also a part of these efforts.