



WHAT ARE THE BEST CITIES IN THE WORLD?

What's the best city in the world? Every year, three different organisations try to answer that question. So, what are the results? And does everyone agree?

According to *The Economist*, the best city in the world is Melbourne (Australia). That's the result of the magazine's latest Global Liveability Report, which it publishes every six months. The report rates 140 cities worldwide and gives each one a score from 0 – 100. Points are awarded for **stability**, access to health care, culture, environment and **infrastructure**. Melbourne scored 97.5. The report **praised** the city's low crime rate, excellent infrastructure and easy access to parks. Other cities in *The Economist's* top 10 were Vienna (Austria), Vancouver (Canada) and Sydney (Australia).

A similar report is the Mercer Quality of Living Survey. In the last **survey** (in 2011), it named Vienna (Austria) as the world's best city, followed by Zurich (Switzerland) and then Auckland (New Zealand). And it said the most eco-friendly city in the world is Calgary, Canada. Lifestyle magazine *Monocle* also releases an annual "top city" list. In 2012 they decided Munich (Germany) was the best place to live because

of its "**connectivity**, cultural centres and **abundance** of green space".

But what about famous cities such as New York, Paris and London? Why aren't they in any of the top 10 lists? They're packed with fascinating museums and art galleries, full of great bars and restaurants and there's always a lot **going on**. Well, apparently, famous cities often lose points because of crime, traffic and inadequate infrastructure. For example, *Monocle* said that although Hong Kong is **vibrant** and exciting, "traffic congestion, air quality, housing and **conservation** all need attention."

And of course, not everyone agrees with the "best city" lists. Some criticise them for preferring quieter, more relaxed cities. They argue that many people actually want to live in more **hectic**, **bustling** cities. In fact, one journalist interviewed people in Melbourne and discovered that lots of Melbourne residents want to live in Paris or New York. So, *The Economist* has published another report. This new report **gives more weight** to things that big, famous cities *do* offer (such as lots of culture and **ethnic diversity**). And guess where it decided the best place to live is? Ho

Kong. Also in the top ten are Tokyo, Amsterdam, Berlin and Paris.

But what about tourists? What's their favourite city? According to a recent survey by travel website TripAdvisor, tourists rate London as the best city to visit. One traveller commented online, "I love visiting London. There's just so much to do. You almost need a month to see it. The city is rich in history, nostalgia, beauty... and pubs. It has something for everyone!"

So, what's your favourite city? ☺

1 Pre-reading

What makes a good city? Use the prompts below to think of as many ideas as you can.

- traffic green space
- museums and art galleries
- population density
- public transport history
- crime rates pollution
- cultural events buildings

Other?

2 Reading I

Which cities do you think are the best in the world? Think of three. Then, read the article to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Which magazine named Melbourne as the best city in the world?
2. How many cities are rated for the Global Liveability Report?
3. How many points did Melbourne score?
4. Which city came out top in the Mercer Quality of Living Survey?
5. In *The Economist's* other report, which city came out on top?
6. Which city is most popular with tourists?

GLOSSARY

- stability** *n*
if there's "stability", things are calm / peaceful and don't change
- infrastructure** *n*
basic facilities in a city such as transport, power supplies, buildings, etc. which enable the city to function
- to praise** *vt*
to say good things about something
- a survey** *n*
if you carry out a "survey", you try to find information about a topic by asking people questions
- connectivity** *n*
if a city has "connectivity", it's well organised and easy to move around
- an abundance of** *exp*
a lot of
- going on** *exp*
happening
- vibrant** *adj*
full of life and energy
- conservation** *n*
the practice of saving and protecting old buildings
- hectic** *adj*
if a city is "hectic", there's a lot of movement of traffic / people, etc.
- bustling** *adj*
if a city is "bustling", there are a lot of people moving around doing things
- to give more weight to** *exp*
to give more importance to
- ethnic diversity** *n*
the presence of a variety of different ethnic groups in a community