# The World's Happiest Cities

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**When author Dan Buettner went looking for the world's happiest people on four different continents, he found some really great places to live!**

___ a. Singapore

With a population of 5.1 million, Singapore is really crowded, and people work very long hours. Yet 95 percent of Singapore residents say they are happy. Subway trains almost always arrive on time. The police are good at their jobs and always ready to help. People in Singapore love that their city is so clean and safe.

___ b. Aarhus, Denmark

Although people pay an incredible 68 percent of their salaries in taxes here, they get lots of services for free: healthcare, education, and daycare for young children. The city has lots of entertainment options too, like museums, shopping, and nightlife. For those who love nature, it's only a 15-minute bike ride to incredible beaches and forests.

___ c. San Luis Obispo, California, U.S.A.

People here smile and feel happy more than in any other American city. Most people travel less than 10 minutes to work, and there are lots of bike lanes, so commuting is easy. Residents share their joy with others, too. Almost 25 percent of people in San Luis Obispo volunteer to help people in their free time.

___ d. Monterrey, Mexico

Although many of its people don't earn high salaries, they still feel rich. People in Monterrey have strong family relationships and very busy social lives. They also have a positive attitude about life – they laugh and stay strong even in times of trouble.

*Adapted from http://www.rd.com/advice/travel/the-4-happiest-cities-on-earth*

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**B** Read the article. Match the paragraphs (a–d) to the pictures (1–4).

**C** Read the comments from residents of these four cities. Which city do you think they live in? Write the letter.

1. "I spend a lot of time with my relatives." ____
2. "A lot of what I earn goes to the government, but I don't mind." ____
3. "I can see great art in my city." ____
4. "I often have to spend eleven hours or more in the office." ____
5. "I help children with their homework after school for free." ____
6. "I try to be cheerful, even when things are going badly." ____
7. "I take the train to work, and I'm never late." ____
8. "On weekends, I can get out of the city without taking the car." ____

**D** **PAIR WORK** Which sentences in part C are true for you and your city or town?

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