



# 10 pros and cons of expat life — a guide for DSP professionals



October 2025

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## Helping your clients start their relocation journey with confidence

This guide gives Destination Service Provider (DSP) professionals a quick and engaging way to introduce clients to the realities of life in some of the world's most popular relocation destinations. Each section links directly to FIDI's "Pros and Cons of Expat Life" articles, which outline the unique opportunities and challenges of living in each city.

DSP professionals are encouraged to share the relevant city guide with clients as part of orientation materials or welcome kits, using it to open discussion and spark curiosity about life in each destination.

### Bangkok, Thailand

Vibrant and unpredictable, Bangkok is a city where tradition meets innovation — temples sit beside skyscrapers, and street food stalls coexist with five-star restaurants. The city offers an exciting mix of culture and convenience, attracting professionals from across the globe. Its energy is infectious, and newcomers quickly discover why Bangkok is one of Asia's most popular expatriate destinations.

**Read the full article** → <https://www.fidi.org/blog/prod-and-cons-expat-life-bangkok>

- **Pros:** Friendly locals, affordable lifestyle, world-class cuisine, diverse business opportunities.
- **Cons:** Traffic congestion, air pollution, hot climate, bureaucratic complexity.

### Shanghai, China

Shanghai blends historical grandeur with a fast-paced, futuristic outlook. It's a true global business hub and a melting pot of cultures. The city's skyline symbolises China's rise as a global power, while its food, fashion, and arts scenes reflect both tradition and innovation. Expats enjoy a lifestyle that's as dynamic as it is demanding.

**Read the full article** → <https://www.fidi.org/blog/pros-and-cons-expat-life-shanghai-O>

- **Pros:** Global business centre, excellent infrastructure, vibrant cultural life.
- **Cons:** Language barriers, high living costs, strict regulations, fast pace.

## Helsinki, Finland

Helsinki offers calm efficiency and quality of life, surrounded by nature and supported by world-class public services. Its people value equality, design, and connection to nature, making it a model for sustainable urban living. While winters are long, the community spirit and safety make it an ideal place for families.

**Read the full article** → <https://www.fidi.org/blog/pros-and-cons-expat-life-helsinki>

- **Pros:** Very safe, clean, balanced lifestyle, strong social systems.
- **Cons:** Cold winters, high taxes, limited daylight during winter months.

## Edinburgh, Scotland

Historic and charming, Edinburgh offers cultural richness and a high quality of life, all within a manageable city size. It's a hub for education, creativity, and festivals, with easy access to nature. For newcomers, its walkability and welcoming spirit make settling in straightforward and rewarding.

**Read the full article** → <https://www.fidi.org/blog/pros-and-cons-expat-life-edinburgh>

- **Pros:** Walkable city, friendly community, excellent healthcare and education.
- **Cons:** Accent or dialect differences, cold and dark winters, higher housing costs.

## Barcelona, Spain

Sunshine, creativity, and coastal living define Barcelona's appeal. It's a lively, international city with a strong sense of identity. The city's blend of architecture, cuisine, and outdoor life encourages balance between work and leisure, attracting expats from every corner of the world.

**Read the full article** → <https://www.fidi.org/blog/pros-and-cons-expat-life-barcelona-0>

- **Pros:** Mediterranean climate, cultural diversity, strong expat community.
- **Cons:** Bureaucracy, high rent, pickpocketing in tourist zones

## New York, United States of America

A city of constant motion, New York delivers unmatched diversity, opportunity, and energy — at a price. Fast-paced and full of ambition, it's ideal for those who thrive in high-intensity environments. From its world-class arts to its endless dining options, it's a city that never stops inspiring.

**Read the full article** → <https://www.fidi.org/blog/pros-and-cons-expat-life-nyc>

- **Pros:** Global opportunities, cultural diversity, exceptional amenities.
- **Cons:** High living costs, limited space, demanding lifestyle.

## Kigali, Rwanda

Kigali is a peaceful and well-organised city known for its cleanliness and sense of community — a model of development in East Africa. It is rapidly modernising, yet retains a calm and welcoming character. The city's focus on safety, order, and innovation makes it ideal for those seeking a balanced pace of life.

**Read the full article** → <https://www.fidi.org/blog/pros-and-cons-expat-life-kigali>

- **Pros:** Safe, clean, and well-organised city; welcoming community; affordable living costs; growing expat opportunities.
- **Cons:** Limited nightlife, few international schools, developing infrastructure.

## Singapore, Singapore

A model of efficiency and safety, Singapore provides world-class infrastructure and a multicultural environment perfect for global professionals. Its organised layout, reliable public services, and strong economy make it a favourite among expatriates. The city's cultural mix also means newcomers quickly feel at home.

**Read the full article** → <https://www.fidi.org/blog/pros-and-cons-expat-life-singapore>

- **Pros:** Clean, secure, top healthcare, efficient public systems.
- **Cons:** High costs, limited personal space, strict social rules.

## Seoul, South Korea

Seoul thrives on innovation, technology, and deep-rooted culture, offering expats an exciting mix of energy and heritage. The city is efficient, modern, and fast-paced, with excellent amenities and a lively social scene. It's perfect for those seeking adventure and opportunity in a global hub.

**Read the full article** → <https://www.fidi.org/blog/pros-and-cons-expat-life-seoul>

- **Pros:** Regular holidays and festivals; affordable and varied local cuisine; good public services and relatively low crime rate.
- **Cons:** Heavy traffic and road safety concerns; hierarchical social norms and expectations.

## Vienne, Austria

Vienna is elegant and orderly, combining rich culture with modern sustainability. It consistently ranks among the world's most liveable cities. With great public services, clean streets, and a vibrant cultural scene, it offers both sophistication and stability.

**Read the full article** → <https://www.fidi.org/blog/pros-and-cons-expat-life-vienna-O>

- **Pros:** High quality of life, safety, excellent public transport.
- **Cons:** Conservative pace, formal culture, cold winters.

This condensed guide helps DSP professionals give clients an informed, realistic introduction to their new destinations. Each article provides deeper context and practical insight that complements professional relocation support. For personalised guidance, clients should always contact their DSP consultant for tailored expertise.

## About FIDI Global Alliance

**FIDI Global Alliance** is the world's largest network of quality-certified international moving and relocation companies. Every FIDI Affiliate meets the FIDI-FAIM or FIDI-DSP Quality Standards, the most rigorous certifications in the industry. Through shared standards, training, and best practices, FIDI helps its members deliver professional, compliant, and sustainable moving services around the world.

Learn more at [www.fidi.org](http://www.fidi.org) or reach out to us at [contact@fidi.org](mailto:contact@fidi.org)



# CONTACT DETAILS

For questions or comments regarding this document, please contact the FIDI Office at [marketing@fidi.org](mailto:marketing@fidi.org)

## **FIDI Global Alliance**

Fountain Plaza, Building 501, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Belgicastraat 1  
1930 Zaventem  
Belgium  
[contact@fidi.org](mailto:contact@fidi.org)

[www.fidi.org](http://www.fidi.org)

