



Embargoed for Friday 8th March, International Women's Day, local time 8:00

2019 Women's Liveability Index

Study analyses data relating to infrastructure, inequality, legislation and work balance to determine the best countries for women

- **Norway is the most liveable country for women**, with high safety, health and education scores, high overall living standards and the strongest equality legislation.
- **Sweden and Canada come 2nd and 3rd place** respectively, with Sweden ranking 3rd overall for Women in Work and Canada coming out on top overall for Infrastructure related to safety, health and education.

Berlin, Germany, January, 2019 - Furnished apartment experts [Nestpick](#) have released the 2019 Women's Liveability Index, analysing the living standards for women in 100 countries around the world. As a company, Nestpick has always been fascinated with what makes certain locations better for different demographics. Given the ongoing struggle worldwide for gender parity, the apartment experts thought it would be interesting to use data and statistics to understand which countries offer the best living conditions for women. #BalanceForBetter is the theme for International Women's Day on March 8th this year, so Nestpick wanted to help the cause by bringing attention to those nations offering the best equality, legislation, infrastructure and working balance for women.

How the study was conducted:

The study began by first selecting 100 countries around the globe which provided sufficient data and polling resources. Lack of reporting and reliable data sources is an obstacle to data-driven research, therefore the final list of countries is comprised only of those where the data could be confirmed by multiple sources. A list of factors that are critical to a woman's wellbeing was then compiled, as well as those that are important for society as a whole, which are indicative of overall quality of life.

Four important categories which affect women's lives were determined: Infrastructure, Inequality, Legislation and Work. Within these categories, basic necessities such as health, safety and education were included, covering factors such as domestic violence rates, female life expectancy, contraceptive prevalence and female literacy rate. Inequality includes data on the gender wage gap, female sanitary product tax rates and human trafficking. Legislation looks at divorce laws, days of maternity leave and women's suffrage. Finally, Women in Work analyses the percentage of women in C-level, governmental and founder positions, and more.

Among other factors, the 'Equal Pay Day' was also calculated indicating the day from which women essentially work for free until the end of the year due to the gender wage gap. As part of the research, female journalists from these 100 countries were polled asking how they would rate life for women in their country, as well as which factors are most important to them. Safety, Education and Health were overwhelmingly voted as the most important, so the final weighting of this index has been scored to give Infrastructure more importance in order to reflect these values. The final index ranks these 100 countries on how liveable they are for women, with those at the top of the index offering a higher quality of life, and those at the bottom offering a lower quality of life.

Please find the complete methodology and full data set on the results page:
<https://www.nestpick.com/womens-liveability-index-2019/>

The table below reveals a sample of the results for the **Top 20 Most Liveable Countries for Women:**

#	Country	Women in Work		Infrastructure			Inequality		Legislation				Living Standard Score	Total Score
		% Government	% C - Level	Safety Score	Education Score	Health Score	Gender Wage Gap	Equal Pay Day	Women's Legislation Score	Abortion Legality	Length of Maternity Leave in Days	Year that Women Could Vote		
1	Norway	40.15%	36.00%	8.69	9.47	9.56	7.12%	December 4	8.65	4.00	637	1913	8.93	8.698
2	Sweden	49.15%	39.50%	8.40	9.26	9.11	10.20%	November 23	8.88	4.00	390	1919	8.29	8.401
3	Canada	39.35%	35.10%	9.48	9.34	9.21	18.17%	October 25	7.69	4.00	364	1918	8.16	8.387
4	Finland	40.25%	31.50%	7.84	9.46	9.26	16.47%	October 31	8.66	3.00	1127	1906	8.16	8.382
5	Iceland	39.05%	33.00%	9.01	9.53	8.69	9.93%	November 24	9.50	3.00	182	1915	8.44	8.364
6	Denmark	40.15%	27.60%	8.63	9.44	8.83	5.73%	December 10	8.98	4.00	350	1908	8.34	8.181
7	Ireland	24.45%	31.30%	8.94	9.42	8.72	10.61%	November 22	8.81	4.00	182	1918	8.79	8.114
8	Slovenia	37.20%	41.90%	8.91	9.29	8.82	7.80%	December 2	8.80	4.00	365	1945	7.41	8.111
9	Austria	28.75%	29.20%	9.37	8.97	9.05	15.67%	November 3	8.35	4.00	420	1918	7.91	8.088
10	Estonia	27.65%	34.30%	8.42	9.27	7.93	28.34%	September 18	8.30	4.00	1162	1918	7.03	8.073
11	Germany	32.00%	28.20%	7.63	9.46	8.80	15.51%	November 4	9.02	4.00	406	1918	8.31	7.953
12	Australia	26.40%	36.30%	8.19	9.71	8.84	14.29%	November 8	7.31	4.00	126	1902	8.23	7.940

13	Singapore	14.15%	35.00%	8.40	7.96	8.85	11.10%	November 20	7.86	4.00	98	1947	8.78	7.933
14	Switzerland	30.55%	30.50%	8.28	9.29	9.16	14.76%	November 7	5.65	4.00	98	1971	8.65	7.898
15	France	46.25%	32.50%	7.50	8.76	9.42	13.50%	November 11	9.17	4.00	294	1944	7.87	7.894
16	Netherlands	36.75%	26.00%	7.78	9.19	8.96	12.70%	November 14	8.03	4.00	112	1919	8.36	7.833
17	Spain	38.80%	30.90%	8.41	8.39	9.39	12.10%	November 16	8.78	4.00	112	1931	7.63	7.824
18	New Zealand	37.65%	40.00%	7.81	9.52	8.72	7.15%	December 4	9.23	2.00	126	1893	7.97	7.789
19	United Kingdom	31.50%	34.40%	7.17	9.21	9.21	17.90%	October 26	8.78	3.00	273	1928	8.06	7.703
20	Belgium	30.55%	32.90%	7.53	9.23	8.80	3.70%	December 17	7.86	4.00	226	1948	7.95	7.628

N.B. This is a sample of the full results, which can be found here along with the methodology:

<https://www.nestpick.com/womens-liveability-index-2019/>

The table below reveals a sample of the results for the **Top 15 countries based on Women in Work:**

Women in Work Rank	Overall Rank	Country	% Government	% C - level	Female Entrepreneurs Score	% Professional Female Athletes in Olympics	Women in STEM Score
1	5	Iceland	39.05%	33.00%	8.09	62.50%	8.22
2	13	Singapore	14.15%	35.00%	9.07	64.00%	10.00
3	2	Sweden	49.15%	39.50%	4.40	55.49%	7.09
4	10	Estonia	27.65%	34.30%	10.00	39.13%	8.57
5	18	New Zealand	37.65%	40.00%	4.48	50.48%	7.89
6	3	Canada	39.35%	35.10%	4.82	59.50%	6.96
7	4	Finland	40.25%	31.50%	4.80	51.85%	7.89
8	1	Norway	40.15%	36.00%	3.39	53.23%	7.44
9	12	Australia	26.40%	36.30%	5.53	51.04%	7.85
10	8	Slovenia	37.20%	41.90%	3.52	38.10%	8.01
11	32	United States	19.20%	40.50%	5.88	53.44%	6.62
12	15	France	46.25%	32.50%	3.30	42.93%	6.92
13	14	Switzerland	30.55%	30.50%	6.50	44.23%	7.08
14	29	Latvia	19.55%	44.10%	4.79	40.63%	8.26
15	35	Bulgaria	38.35%	39.30%	3.30	42.00%	6.82

Iceland ranks as the best country for Women in Work overall, followed by Singapore and Sweden. Notably, The United States and Bulgaria rank well for Women in Work despite not making the top 30 for women overall.

The table below reveals a sample of the results for the **Top 15 Countries for Women’s Infrastructure**:

Infrastructure Rank	Overall Rank	Country	Safety Score	Education Score	Health Score
1	3	Canada	9.48	9.34	9.21
2	1	Norway	8.69	9.47	9.56
3	9	Austria	9.37	8.97	9.05
4	5	Iceland	9.01	9.53	8.69
5	7	Ireland	8.94	9.42	8.72
6	8	Slovenia	8.91	9.29	8.82
7	6	Denmark	8.63	9.44	8.83
8	2	Sweden	8.40	9.26	9.11
9	14	Switzerland	8.28	9.29	9.16
10	12	Australia	8.19	9.71	8.84
11	34	Malta	8.58	8.20	9.51
12	4	Finland	7.84	9.46	9.26
13	17	Spain	8.41	8.39	9.39
14	22	Czech Republic	8.16	9.31	8.77
15	27	South Korea	8.63	8.91	8.44

Canada comes out on top overall for Infrastructure, followed by Norway and Austria. The Infrastructure category is a consolidation of multiple factors, including but not limited to, domestic violence rates, laws on violence against women, attitudes towards domestic violence, female literacy rates, expected years of education, UN education score, maternal mortality rates, access to contraceptives, rates of breast and cervical cancer, and instances of female genital mutilation.

If you are interested to see the raw data for Safety, Education or Health, please get in touch and we can provide those upon request.

The table below reveals a sample of the results for the **Top 15 Countries based on Inequality**:

Inequality Rank	Overall Rank	Country	Gender Wage Gap	Global Gender Gap Index	Female Sanitary Product Tax Rate	Female Sanitary Product Exemption Type	Women at Risk of Period Poverty Score	Human Trafficking Score	Equal Pay Day
1	1	Norway	7.12%	0.84	25.00	No Exemption	10.00	9.99	December 4
2	2	Sweden	10.20%	0.82	25.00	No	10.00	9.94	November 23

						Exemption			
3	18	New Zealand	7.15%	0.80	15.00	No Exemption	10.00	9.94	December 4
4	6	Denmark	5.73%	0.78	25.00	No Exemption	10.00	10.00	December 10
5	8	Slovenia	7.80%	0.78	9.50	Reduced	9.98	9.74	December 2
6	4	Finland	16.47%	0.82	24.00	No Exemption	10.00	9.87	October 31
7	20	Belgium	3.70%	0.74	6.00	Reduced	10.00	9.97	December 17
8	5	Iceland	9.93%	0.86	24.00	No Exemption	10.00	7.54	November 24
9	15	France	13.50%	0.78	5.50	Reduced	10.00	9.81	November 11
10	11	Germany	15.51%	0.78	19.00	No Exemption	10.00	9.85	November 4
11	72	Philippines	15.32%	0.80	12.00	No Exemption	9.95	9.18	November 5
12	14	Switzerland	14.76%	0.76	7.70	No Exemption	10.00	9.98	November 7
13	3	Canada	18.17%	0.77	0.00	Zero Tax	10.00	10.00	October 25
14	16	Netherlands	12.70%	0.75	6.00	Reduced	10.00	9.83	November 14
15	19	United Kingdom	17.90%	0.77	5.00	Reduced	10.00	9.74	October 26

Norway comes out on top overall for Inequality, followed by Sweden and New Zealand. Female Sanitary Product Tax Rate, Exemption Type and Equal Pay Day do not have any weighting on the final score, but are included as additional information. Women at Risk of Period Poverty looks at the number of young females under the poverty line, and therefore at 'risk' of period poverty. For factors based on a score of 10, the higher the score, the better. Therefore a country with a period poverty score of 10 means that they should be at a low risk of period poverty. There are undoubtedly countries in this index which have a problem with period poverty yet have no 'risk' of period poverty according to poverty statistics, which is an indicator that it is a women's related issue which has 'fallen through the cracks' and may require increased awareness.

The table below reveals a sample of the results for the **Top 15 Countries based on Women's Legislation**:

Legislation Rank	Overall Rank	Country	Women's Legislation Score	Abortion Legality	Length of Maternity Leave in Days	Year that Women Could Vote
1	10	Estonia	8.30	4.00	1162	1918
2	21	Slovakia	6.81	4.00	1148	1920
3	30	Hungary	6.85	4.00	1120	1918
4	4	Finland	8.66	3.00	1127	1906
5	1	Norway	8.65	4.00	637	1913

6	11	Germany	9.02	4.00	406	1918
7	2	Sweden	8.88	4.00	390	1919
8	22	Czech Republic	6.33	4.00	770	1920
9	6	Denmark	8.98	4.00	350	1908
10	8	Slovenia	8.80	4.00	365	1945
11	9	Austria	8.35	4.00	420	1918
12	15	France	9.17	4.00	294	1944
13	29	Latvia	8.36	4.00	364	1918
14	49	Macedonia	8.34	4.00	363	1945
15	47	Cuba	8.31	4.00	364	1934

Estonia comes out on top overall for Legislation, followed by the Slovakia and Hungary. Iceland does not rank in the top 15 for Legislation overall despite having the highest Women’s Legislation Score, due to stricter abortion laws and shorter maternity leave length.

Key Findings

- **Latvia’s** population has the highest percentage of women, at 54.07%, followed by Lithuania and Ukraine.
- **Rwanda** has the highest % of Women in Government, at 54.35%, referring to ministerial and parliamentary positions, followed by Sweden and France.
- **Namibia** has the highest % of Women in C-Level Positions, at 48.60%, followed by Latvia and Panama.
- **Estonia** has the highest score for No. of Female Entrepreneurs at 10.00, followed by Singapore and Iceland.
- **Cameroon** has the highest % of Professional Female Athletes in the Olympics, at 79.17%, followed by Cambodia and Macedonia.
- **Singapore** has the highest Women in STEM Score at 10.00, followed by China and Estonia.
- **Canada** is the safest country for women, with the highest Safety Score at 10.00, followed by Austria and Iceland.
- **Australia** has the highest Education Score, at 9.71, followed by Iceland and New Zealand.
- **Norway** has the highest Health Score, at 9.56, followed by Malta and France.
- **Cameroon** has the ‘lowest’ Gender Wage Gap, at -5.80%, which indicates that women earn more than men in this country.
- **Iceland** has the highest score for the Global Gender Gap Index, at 0.86, followed by Norway and Sweden.
- 12 countries have a ‘zero tax’ policy on female sanitary products: Ireland, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Colombia, Jamaica, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Malaysia, India and Nigeria.
- **Canada, Denmark, Australia and Austria** tie joint first place for Human Trafficking Score, at 10.00 (indicating that they have the least instances of human trafficking and put active measures in place to prevent it).
- For some countries where the Gender Wage Gap is negative (due to women earning more than men), the Equal Pay Day shown refers to the following year, i.e., women in **Cameroon and Laos** where the gap is negative will continue to earn the equivalent of men up until January 21st and 7th respectively of the following year.
- **Iceland** has the highest Women’s Legislation Score, at 9.50, followed by New Zealand and France.

- **Estonia** has the highest number of Maternity Leave in Days, at 1162, followed by Slovakia and Finland.
- **New Zealand** was the first country to give women the right to vote (1893), followed by Australia and Finland.
- **Norway** offers the highest Living Standards, with a score of 8.93, followed by Ireland and Singapore.

Quotes

“The theme for this year’s International Women’s Day is #BalanceForBetter, in a bid to drive gender balance across the world. For those who are relocating, whether for work, life or education, gender does sadly still play an impact on the quality of life they might find in that country.” comments Ömer Küçükdere, Managing Director of Nestpick. “We hope that the Women’s Liveability Index can play a small part in highlighting which countries are actively pursuing gender balance - both to help women looking to move to see which locations offer them the best opportunities, but also as a call-to-action. Those nations at the bottom of the index ought to follow the example of the top 20 countries in terms of how they can improve the infrastructure and equality balance for all their citizens, no matter their gender.”

“Understanding how different demographics can find varying levels of life quality in certain cities or countries has been a topic that has fascinated us since our company’s inception. Undertaking our previously published studies looking into the best cities for the LGBT community and for Millennials was an eye-opening experience in that sense. As you begin to understand that although one location might be a great place to call home for some, it might offer a very different experience for others,” comments Ömer Küçükdere, Managing Director of Nestpick. “With more and more women moving abroad than ever before, we wanted to create a resource that would help women to better understand the potential quality of life in different countries around the world.”

“The focus of this index should be on celebrating those countries at the top of the index, such as Norway, Sweden and Canada, and applauding their efforts towards improving gender balance and equality for women,” comments Ömer Küçükdere, Managing Director of Nestpick. “While the results also include countries which have some way to go in order to improve living standards for women, this index ought to act as a positive springboard for those nations to see how they could improve their advocacy and actions to advance living standards for women in these countries.”

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Instructions

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<https://www.nestpick.com/womens-liveability-index-2019/>

Spokespeople at Nestpick are available for interviews. If you require an exclusive quote on a particular angle, then please contact elizabeth@sweetspotpr.com.

About Nestpick: Nestpick is the largest search engine of long-term furnished apartment rentals and rooms. Users can browse more than 500,000 listings in over 200 cities, and book their apartment on the website of a trusted partner. Founded in 2014 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, Nestpick is now based in Berlin, Germany.

About SweetSpot PR: Based in Berlin, Sweet Spot PR is a team of creatives, journalists and data analysts who founded an agency in response to the growing challenges facing the media as the industry adapts to the digital world. The agency promotes fact-based, informative and compelling journalism by connecting data-driven journalists with excellent content from research agencies and industry patrons. Follow us on **Twitter** : <https://twitter.com/sweetspotberlin>