The World's Best 'Work from Anywhere' Cities 2026





IWG International Workplace Group

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The booming 'work from anywhere' trend is reshaping both travel and work. International Workplace Group's latest Work from Anywhere Index reveals the destinations that currently offer the most attractions for remote workers abroad.





"We're seeing more workers than ever extending their trips to work remotely or choosing to spend longer periods abroad as digital nomads. Employees now have the freedom to work wherever and whenever suits them best – whether that's a local flexible workspace or a coworking centre on the other side of the world."

Mark Dixon, Executive Chairman and Founder, International Workplace Group

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Introduction

Technology has radically changed the geography of work. Thanks to advances such as cloud computing and online collaboration tools, many jobs can now be conducted with equal efficiency from just about anywhere in the world that provides reliable internet access.

As a result, the option to 'work from anywhere' (WFA) is becoming an increasingly powerful trend, as employees choose to spend time – from a few days to months – doing their jobs abroad. Over the last five years, online searches for the word 'workcation' – the practice of carrying out work in a holiday destination during agreed working hours – have surged by 4,900%. Increasing numbers of employers are also offering WFA policies.

The latest edition of International Workplace Group's Work from Anywhere Index shows the strength of this trend, while also highlighting the growing variety of destinations that appeal to employees: from major Asian hubs and European city-break favourites to the booming metropolises of the Americas. The mix of cities underlines how successful workcation destinations need to offer more than holiday appeal alone, combining strong connectivity, transport, accommodation and access to flexible workspace with the culture, food and lifestyle experiences that make extending a trip worthwhile.

In this paper we look at the major drivers of the trend and reveal the world's best WFA destinations.





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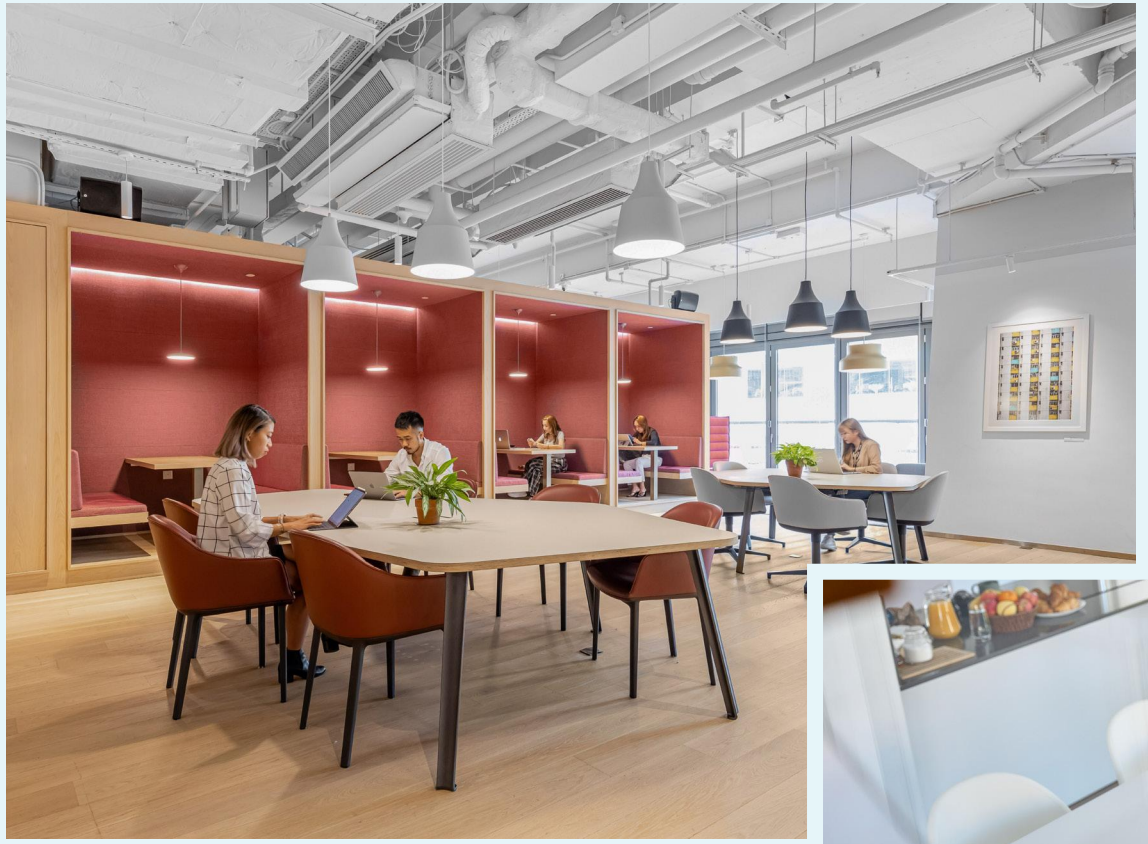
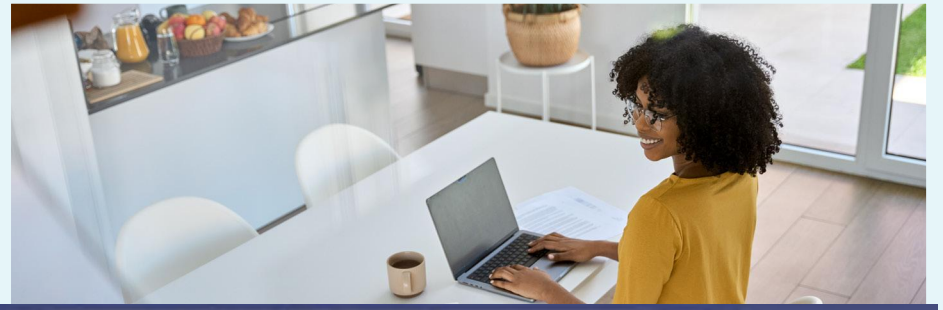
WFA enters the mainstream



New research commissioned by IWG found that more than half of workers say their employer already offers a WFA policy. In general, such policies give employees the freedom to work from any location for a set number of days per year without using annual leave. Well-known organisations currently operating WFA policies include Airbnb, Revolut and Spotify. The latter's well-established policy allows employees to work from different countries indefinitely, with the company offering support for flex space access in the absence of a nearby corporate office. "We are a business that's been digital from birth, so why shouldn't we give our people flexibility and freedom?" said then Spotify CHRO, Katarina Berg, in 2024. "Work is not a place you come to, it's something you do."

The impact of such policies is overwhelmingly positive. Almost all workers say that WFA has improved their work-life balance, while the majority say it has improved productivity. The availability of WFA options also shapes career decisions, with most saying the possibility of working from anywhere would make a new role more attractive, and almost two-thirds saying they would consider changing jobs for a better WFA policy. According to Spotify, its WFA policy has resulted in greater diversity in the candidate pipeline, faster hiring time and reduced attrition.



The Benefits of WFA

90% say WFA has improved their work-life balance

80% say it has improved productivity

80% say it would make a new role attractive

62% would consider changing jobs for a better WFA policy

The growth of the WFA phenomenon is also increasingly being recognised by the travel and hospitality industry. Travel companies such as TUI (which operates its own WFA policies) have begun targeting workcationers with special packages of bundled deals at premium hotels. These combine reliable Wi-Fi and dedicated workspace with flights, transfers and resort amenities. This summer, IWG partnered with Hotels.com, a subsidiary of Expedia Group, to provide US-based IWG members with complimentary Hotels.com Gold loyalty status for a limited time, unlocking richer rewards, better pricing and VIP perks designed for today's mobile workforce.

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Factors driving the trend

Remote working is increasingly reshaping how people travel. Almost half of workers plan to extend a holiday or mini-break by working remotely in 2026, and more than four-out-of-ten say they are more likely to do so than they were last year. The trend is already well underway, with 43% having worked remotely from a holiday destination without using annual leave.

The main reasons workers give for extending trips through remote working are connected to wellbeing and avoiding burnout. Next comes the opportunity to spend more time with family and friends and to make annual leave go further. Financial pressures are also influencing behaviour, with more than half saying the cost of living has made them more likely to use hybrid or WFA policies to extend holidays.

"Why I choose WFA…"

Leading reasons why workers want to extend trips through remote working:

Avoiding burnout and supporting wellbeing:

54%

Making annual leave go further:

52%

Spending more time with family and friends:

53%

Easing financial pressures:

51%



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What they want when they get there





When choosing where to work remotely, reliable Wi-Fi is the clear priority, ahead of high-quality accommodation, food and transport. More affordable travel and accommodation would also motivate almost half to extend a trip by working remotely, underlining the importance of destinations that can combine practical working needs with value for money.

However, the data also suggests that, while appetite for WFA travel is growing, employees still want reassurance that working remotely while travelling is accepted and supported by their employer. Clear guidance and confidence around expectations could help more workers make the leap, with more than four-out-of-ten saying they would be motivated by knowing this would not affect how their work is perceived and a similar number asking for clearer employer guidance.

Priorities for workers in WFA destinations

Reliable Wi-Fi:
38%

High-quality accommodation:
12%

Food:
53%

Transport:
51%

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The Best 'Work from Anywhere' Cities

The latest ranking of destinations that are best for mixing work and fun.



A wide variety of factors need to be considered when choosing a temporary base abroad. These range from the cost of living to the weather and the variety of things to do. And, of course, making sure there is a suitable place to work.

IWG compared 50 cities around the world, scoring each out of ten for 14 key criteria. Figures were then totalled to show the aggregate winners.

1. Safety
2. Sunshine hours per year
3. Accomodation costs
4. Cost of lunch
5. Cost of a monthly transport pass
6. Price of a cup of coffee
7. Broadband speed
8. Happiness (according to the Happy City Index)
9. Number of IWG locations
10. Cultural attractions
11. Sustainability
12. Availability of digital nomad visas
13. Proximity to nature
14. Quality of food, accommodation & transport

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THE TOP FIVE...



These are the cities that demonstrated the most **'work from anywhere'** attractions in IWG's survey.

Bangkok, Thailand

Strengths

The Thai capital scored best for its low-cost accommodation and food, as well as fast download speeds and an abundance of flexible workspaces.

IWG locations: 56

Attractions

Former editions of IWG's WFA index have been topped by Barcelona, Budapest and Tokyo, but in 2026 it is Bangkok that takes the crown. Low cost of living, abundant street food opportunities and a rich historical culture are just a few of the reasons this vibrant southeast Asian metropolis is a great choice to combine work and leisure. Add in its buzzing nightlife, huge shopping malls and close proximity to other southeast Asian countries, and the city has something for everyone.





How long can you stay?

A standard tourist visa allows stays of up to 60 days. Digital nomads can stay for up to 180 days at a time with a Destination Thailand Visa.

Flex space highlights

Located in Bangkok's vibrant Silom business district and adjacent to the Sathorn financial hub, **Regus Voco Surawong** makes for an ideal strategic base. The local area is also known for its creative arts scene. **Spaces Vanit Place Aree** is located in the hipster-friendly Aree neighbourhood, famous for its specialty coffee shops, Michelin-rated local eateries and burgeoning startup scene. High-end restaurants and design hotels are thick on the ground in fashionable Thong Lor, home to **HQ Blue Chips Building**, a state-of-the-art flex space in a striking office and retail block. Classic local street food is also available from morning to evening.

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Tokyo, Japan

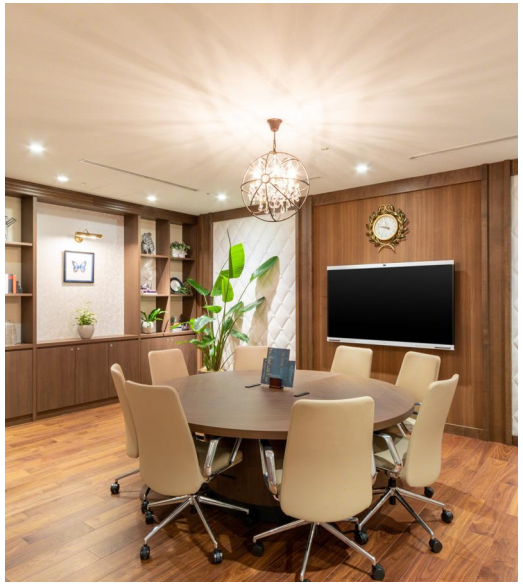
Strengths

Tokyo scored perfect tens for availability of flexible workspace and cultural life. Happiness and general quality also rate highly.

IWG locations: 98

Attractions

The sprawling Japanese capital offers a seemingly endless variety of explorable neighbourhoods, from the neon streets of Shinjuku to the retro charms of Yanaka. Tokyo is a paradise for foodies, serving up an unmatched blend of high-end dining and affordable casual eats. And the city specialises in unique, quirky attractions, from sumo wrestling in Ryogoku to creative street fashion in Harajuku. Springtime visitors get to experience the stunning cherry blossom season.





How long can you stay?

Citizens of most Western nations can stay for up to 90 days at a time. Japan also offers a Digital Nomad Visa allowing stays for a maximum of 180 consecutive days.

Flex space highlights

Roppongi is one of Tokyo's most dynamic districts, and is renowned for its vibrant business culture, with many international companies having a presence in the area. At its heart is **Spaces Roppongi**, offering nine floors of stylish workspace in the Grade-A R7 Building. A newcomer on the local flex space scene is **Signature Shinjuku i-Land Tower**. Part of a dynamic mixed-use complex, it is close to the world's busiest train station and offers exceptional access to greater Tokyo and beyond. **Openoffice Gotanda Sun Heights** can be found in the busy Nishigotanda district, not far from the trendy boutiques of Meguro and the high-speed travel hub of Shinagawa.

Barcelona, Spain

Strengths

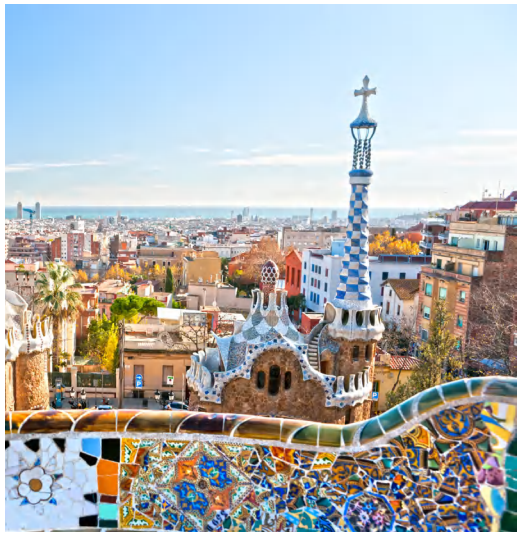
The Catalonian capital excels when it comes to flexible workspaces and general happiness. Local transport is affordable and download speeds are rapid.

IWG locations: 21

Attractions

Who wouldn't be happy in this stunning Catalan city by the sea? From the medieval streets of the Gothic quarter to modernist architectural masterpieces such as Gaudí's Sagrada Familia, Barcelona is a feast for the eyes. The culinary scene is vibrant, and the beach is always beckoning. Further afield, the many charms of Catalonia are within easy reach, from the ancient cities of Girona and Tarragona to the more contemporary attractions of Sitges.





How long can you stay?

Visitors from non-EU countries can stay visa-free for up to 90 days. Spain's Digital Nomad Visa allows an initial stay of one year.

Flex space highlights

Wojo Poblenou is situated in a neighbourhood of old brick warehouses and factories that now serve as hip tech offices, art spaces and trendy eateries. The Wojo brand was recently acquired by IWG from Accor, adding 186 locations to its extensive and rapidly growing network. One of IWG's latest openings in Barcelona is **Spaces Plaça de Catalunya**, situated in the heart of the city on its busiest square. **Spaces Barceloneta**, situated in the buzzy waterfront district from which it takes its name, offers another side of the metropolis. Its beach is the most famous in Barcelona, and the area is home to some of the city's best seafood restaurants.

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Porto, Portugal

Strengths

Flexible workspaces, fast Wi-Fi and natural attractions are a draw for visitors to Portugal's second-largest city. Local transport is very reasonably priced, too.

IWG locations: 5

Attractions

Famous for its Port wine, blue and white tiles and imposing arched bridge, Porto is a relatively small city that punches well above its weight. When it comes to eating, its coastal location ensures fresh seafood is in good supply, while its famous Francesinha sandwich has to be tried. Porto's proximity to the sweeping landscape of the Douro Valley offers spectacular hiking and touring opportunities, with many vineyards to visit en route.





How long can you stay?

Visitors from many countries outside the EU, including the UK, US and Canada, can stay for up to 90 days. Digital nomads start with a Temporary Stay Visa that lasts for a year and can then progress towards permanent residency.

Flex space highlights

The recently opened **Regus Boavista** is located in Porto's main business and financial hub, where historic monuments sit side by side with striking modern architecture. **Regus Batalha** can be found close to the iconic Praça da Batalha, a busy public square in Porto's historic centre. The nearby São Bento railway station offers a gateway to the Douro Valley. Just 30 minutes from Porto's centre by metro or bus is the coastal city of Matosinhos, which features a sandy beach popular for sunbathing and surfing. A fast-growing business hub known for its logistics and tech startups, it is home to the stylish and centrally located **Spaces Matosinhos**.

Vancouver, Canada

Strengths

Canada's third-largest city scores highest in IWG's top five for natural attractions and sustainability.

IWG locations: 17

Attractions

Rugged coasts, rainforests and dramatic mountain peaks are right on the doorstep of this Canadian west coast seaport. Nearby Vancouver Island also offers the opportunity for whale watching, bear spotting and sea kayaking. Man-made attractions back in the city's compact downtown area include galleries and museums, and a rich multicultural food scene. Gastown, Vancouver's oldest district, is famous for its Victorian brick buildings and cobblestone streets.





How long can you stay?

Recent policy changes mean most visitors can stay in Canada for up to a year. Extensions are possible.

Flex space highlights

HQ Howe Street is one of IWG's latest openings in Vancouver, offering a prime location in the city's bustling Downtown business district. As well as nearby access to major corporate offices, the area also offers a rich mix of cultural and retail opportunities. Nestled in the vibrant Fairview neighbourhood, **Spaces 525 West 8th Avenue** is surrounded by a thriving mix of healthcare, professional services and creative businesses. Trendy Yaletown, once a bustling warehouse district, is these days home to chic cocktail bars and award-winning restaurants. It is also a leading startup hub, and is served by **Regus Yaletown** at 1090 Homer Street.

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BEST FOR...

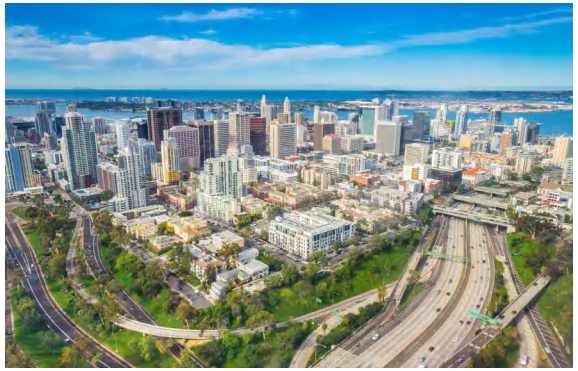


These are the cities that topped the list in each of the IWG research categories.

Best for safety

Dubai, known for its exceptionally low crime rate, came first in the safety stakes. Tied for second place were Singapore, Tallinn and Hong Kong.





Best for climate

There were multiple winners in this category, which is based on sunshine hours per year. Remember your sun cream if you are heading to San Diego, Valletta, Dubai, Athens, Cairo, Cape Town or Marrakesh.

Best for affordable accommodation

There was a wide geographical spread when it came to the cities with the cheapest average monthly rent: Medellin, Mexico City, Sofia, Manila and Cape Town led the field.



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Best for affordable food

Paradise for street food lovers, Bangkok beats all other cities when it comes to an affordable lunch. Rio de Janeiro, Kuala Lumpur, Manila and Cairo are also good for cheap eats.





Best for affordable public transport

The cost of a monthly travel pass is most affordable in Manila and Cairo, with both cities scoring a perfect ten for cheap rides. Marrakesh came next.

Best for a coffee

Where will you find the cheapest cappuccino? Take a bow, Jakarta, Cape Town and Montenegro's Podgorica. A shot of caffeine in Cairo is also very affordable.



Best for broadband speed

Routers are at their most efficient in Dubai and Montpellier. Singapore and Hong Kong are also notable for speedy downloads.





Best for happiness

According to the Happy City Index, smiles are wide in a host of cities in our list: Tokyo, Barcelona, Singapore, Mexico City, Milan, Amsterdam, Brussels, Reykjavik, Copenhagen, Auckland and London.

Best for flexible workspace availability

When it comes to an abundance of high-quality IWG flex space, the top five destinations are New York, London, Tokyo, Paris and Milan.



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Best for culture

Culture lovers should head for Tokyo, Paris and New York. All three cities scored full marks for their galleries and museums.





Best for sustainability

Northern Europe takes the honours for sustainability, with bike-friendly Amsterdam and Copenhagen heading the list. Berlin and London were close behind.

Best for digital nomad visas

Based on availability and price, Athens tops the pile when it comes to digital nomad visas (total cost: €225). Budapest, Valletta and Rio de Janeiro are similarly nomad-friendly.



Best for proximity to nature

When it comes to getting close to nature, nowhere beats Auckland, with its dramatic coastline, volcanic landscapes and lush rainforests. Vancouver and Montenegro came next.





Best for general quality

When it comes to the overall quality (rather than cost) of food, accommodation and transport, Tokyo is the clear winner. Singapore and Paris also scored highly.

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These five cities have plenty to offer but narrowly failed to make it into the top five WFA destinations.



Budapest

The Hungarian capital scores highly for accommodation and travel costs – and all-round happiness. Flexible workspace in the city is also in plentiful supply.

IWG locations: 23



Naples

A city that's rich in history, and with Pompeii nearby, Naples gets high marks in the culture stakes. The home of the Neapolitan pizza is also highly rated for its food.

IWG locations: 6



Medellin

Colombia's 'City of Eternal Spring' offers mild weather and a modest cost of living for visitors. The nearby lush green slopes of the Andes are another draw.

IWG locations: 14



Lisbon

The capital of Portugal is a recognised leader in urban green initiatives and scores highly for sustainability. The city also outscores the rest of the top ten for weather.

IWG locations: 19



Seoul

One of the happiest destinations in the top ten, Seoul also scores well for its food costs. Its strong cultural offering ranges from historic royal palaces to striking modern art.

IWG locations: 15

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Conclusion

The growing WFA trend exemplifies the new world of hybrid and flexible ways of working. 'The office' is no longer a single place we go to, but a network of locations – including far-flung destinations in every corner of the world.

"This is a trend that's here to stay, with so many companies now adopting flexible working and WFA policies," says Dixon. "And there are significant benefits for both organisations and their employees. The opportunity to work remotely in another country not only improves work-life balance and reduces burnout but also delivers significant productivity gains."

We support more than eight million workers through our network of 6,000+ flexible workspaces in 130 countries. Find out more about what we do at iwgplc.com.



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