

2026 EDITION

THE NOMAD LIFESTYLE INDEX

Where in the world a life actually works, once nature, tax, residence, safety and the quality of day-to-day living are each given the same say. 63 destinations, five equally weighted pillars, no thumb on the scale.

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WHAT THIS INDEX IS, AND WHAT IT IS NOT

The Nomad Lifestyle Index ranks 63 destinations on the five things that decide whether a life somewhere else is worth having: the natural environment you wake up in, what the tax system takes, whether you can lawfully stay, whether you are safe and free while you do, and how well the place actually functions day to day. Each of the five carries exactly the same weight.

All five pillars are scored 0 to 100 and weighted at 20% each, so a destination's overall score is the plain mean of its five pillar scores. That is the methodology in one sentence, and the simplicity is deliberate. A bespoke weighting invites the obvious objection that the weights were chosen to produce the answer the author wanted. Equal weights remove that argument entirely, and they leave the reader free to tilt the index towards whatever they personally care about most. This report shows what happens when they do.

The universe is the 63 destinations Nomad Capitalist's audience actually asks about: the Gulf and the Mediterranean, the European microstates, the Caribbean citizenship jurisdictions, Latin America, Southeast Asia and the established high-income economies people leave. It is not a list of every country in the world, and it is not meant to be. It is the shortlist, scored consistently.

60 of the 63 destinations are scored on all five pillars. Three are scored on four, because Nomad's own Passport Index has never been supplied for them, and the honest response to a missing pillar is to drop it and renormalise the remaining weights rather than fill it with a guess. Wherever a figure is imputed rather than measured, it is flagged as imputed, both in the workbook and in this report.

What the index does not measure is worth stating as plainly as what it does. It does not price anything: there is no property cost, no cost of a visa, no minimum investment. It does not measure whether you will personally like a place, and it cannot. It scores conditions, not preferences. Read it as a shortlist generator, not a verdict on where you should live.

63

DESTINATIONS RANKED

5

PILLARS, EACH WEIGHTED 20%

60SCORED ON ALL FIVE PILLARS, OF
63**0.74**POINTS COVERING THE WHOLE
TOP THREE

HOW TO READ A RANK IN THIS REPORT

Treat the top of this index as a group, not a queue. 0.74 points on a 0 to 100 scale separates first place from third, and the report says so on every page where it matters rather than crowning a winner the data does not support. Further down, gaps widen and ranks mean more. The one number that always means something is the pillar score, because it is the thing you can actually reweight for yourself.

01

THE VERDICT

0.74 points on a 0 to 100 scale cover the whole top three. Monaco 73.89, Andorra 73.68, the United Arab Emirates 73.15. This index reports that as a tie.

PHOTOGRAPH: SHUTTERSTOCK, IMAGE 1408796699

THREE DESTINATIONS, ONE SCORE

Monaco finishes first on 73.89, Andorra second on 73.68 and the United Arab Emirates third on 73.15. 0.74 points on a 0 to 100 scale covers all three. On a five-pillar mean built from sources with real measurement error, that is a tie.

0.74

POINTS COVERING FIRST TO THIRD PLACE

3.80

POINTS COVERING THE WHOLE TOP FIVE

6

DESTINATIONS REACHING A TOP THREE UNDER THE FIVE PRIORITY TILTS

0.9757

WORST-CASE RANK CORRELATION ACROSS THE TEN REWEIGHTINGS

THE VERDICT

Monaco, Andorra and the United Arab Emirates are *inseparable* at the top of the 2026 Index.

Monaco's first place rests on the only perfect pillar score in the index, Quality of Life (100.0). Andorra's second rests on the best Safety and Freedom score (96.0), the UAE's third on the best Tax score (96.0). Three strengths, less than a point between them. Malta is fourth on 72.11.

TILT ONE PILLAR TO 40% AND THE REST TO 15% EACH

IF YOU CARE MOST ABOUT	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
Nature & Climate	Malta	Andorra	United Arab Emirates
Tax	United Arab Emirates	Monaco	Andorra
Residence & Access	Malta	United Arab Emirates	Cyprus
Safety & Freedom	Andorra	Monaco	Portugal
Quality of Life & Infrastructure	Monaco	Andorra	United Arab Emirates

LEADERSHIP AT THE TOP IS PRIORITY-DEPENDENT

No destination reaches the top three under all five tilts. Andorra and the United Arab Emirates manage four of the five, and Monaco, which holds first place on equal weights, manages only three, making the nominal winner the most priority-dependent of the three. Malta reaches it under two, Cyprus under one and Portugal under one (when safety does). The order at the top is a fact about whose priorities you use.

WHAT IS GENUINELY ROBUST IS THE ORDERING OVERALL

Perturbing each pillar weight by five percentage points in either direction, ten runs in total, never drops the rank correlation with the baseline below 0.9757, and 8 to 10 of the top ten stay in the top ten. That describes the whole ranking, not the top three.

“Three quarters of a point separates Monaco, Andorra and the United Arab Emirates. That is a shortlist, not a podium. Monaco leads on quality of life, Andorra on safety and freedom, the UAE on tax, and which of those matters most is a question about your life rather than about the data.”

KHATIA GELBAKHIANI, HEAD OF PRODUCT, NOMAD CAPITALIST

SEVEN THINGS TO TAKE AWAY

The findings that matter most for a reader deciding where to look next, in the order they appear in the report.

- 1 The top three are a tie, and the report says so.**

0.74 points cover Monaco (73.89), Andorra (73.68) and the United Arab Emirates (73.15). Malta (72.11) sits 1.78 off the lead. Nothing in the underlying data is precise enough to separate them, so the honest headline is a group of contenders rather than a winner.
- 2 Which of the leaders comes first depends on whose priorities you use.**

Tilt one pillar to 40% and the other four to 15% each, and no destination reaches the top three under all five tilts. Andorra and the UAE manage four of the five. Monaco, which holds first place on equal weights, manages only three, which makes it the most priority-dependent of the three. Six destinations reach a top three at least once.
- 3 Five pillars, five different leaders. None leads two.**

Nature: Panama (73.6) · Tax: United Arab Emirates (96.0) · Residence: Malta (95.0) · Safety: Andorra (96.0) · Quality of life: Monaco (100.0). Four of the five leaders sit in the overall top five. No destination in this index is best at more than one thing, which is why the overall score reads as a group rather than a champion.
- 4 The ranking survives reweighting.**

Ten deterministic perturbations, each pillar moved five percentage points up and then five down, produce a worst-case Spearman rank correlation with the baseline of 0.9757 and retain between 8 and 10 of the top ten. The one pillar that moves the ranking most is Tax, which is where the widest spread of scores sits.
- 5 A pillar lead is not an overall verdict, and Panama proves it.**

Panama has the best Nature and Climate score in the index (73.6) and the third best Tax score (83.0), and finishes 11th overall, because its Quality of Life and Infrastructure score is 40.6 against a universe mean of 50.8. One outstanding pillar cannot carry four ordinary ones when every pillar counts the same.
- 6 The Caribbean citizenship jurisdictions score well on tax and badly on safety, and the index holds both facts.**

Saint Kitts and Nevis scores 91.0 on Tax, joint second in the index, and 26.3 on Quality of Life and Infrastructure, third from bottom. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has the weakest Safety and Freedom score in the index (13.2) and finishes last overall. Recorded homicide rates of 59.8 and 51.0 per 100,000 sit behind those scores. An accessible passport is not the same as a good place to live.
- 7 Coverage is stated, not smoothed.**

60 of 63 destinations are scored on all five pillars. Three (the Cayman Islands, Puerto Rico and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) have no Residence and Access pillar and are scored on the four they hold. Eight carry at least one mean-imputed Nature and Climate input, each flagged as imputed on the row it affects. Every one of those choices is visible in the tables rather than buried in a footnote.

*Monaco, Andorra and the United Arab Emirates are separated by **0.74 points** on a hundred-point scale. At the top of this index, first place is a **tie**.*

Monaco 73.89, Andorra 73.68, the United Arab Emirates 73.15. A gap that size is inside the margin of any index built from sources with real measurement error, so the order is reported and not leaned on.



FIVE PILLARS, EQUAL WEIGHTS

All five pillars carry 20%, so the overall score is the plain mean of the five pillar scores. That is Nomad Capitalist's own choice, proposed by Firas Ammar on 27 August 2026, and it replaced a bespoke 25/20/20/15/20 scheme.

20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
Nature & Climate	Tax	Residence & Access	Safety & Freedom	Quality of Life & Infrastructure

PILLAR	WEIGHT	A HIGH SCORE MEANS	SOURCE	COVERAGE
Nature & Climate	20%	Clean air, low long-run climate exposure, high solar availability, healthy ecosystems	IQAir 2025 World Air Quality Report; Germanwatch Climate Risk Index 2026; Solargis / Global Solar Atlas; Yale EPI 2026 Ecosystem Vitality	63/63
Tax	20%	A low blended effective rate on foreign income, a durable regime, no wealth or inheritance tax	Nomad Capitalist's own regime research; IBFD Tax Research Platform; each finance ministry's treaty count	63/63
Residence & Access	20%	A strong passport, several routes to legal residence, a short path to citizenship	Nomad Passport Index (Nomad's own proprietary index); Nomad Capitalist pathway and naturalisation research	60/63
Safety & Freedom	20%	Low conflict and crime, wide personal and economic freedom	Global Peace Index; Numbeo Safety Index; Human Freedom Index 2022; Nomad Freedom Score	63/63
Quality of Life & Infrastructure	20%	Long life expectancy, high measured quality of life, fast connectivity	Numbeo Cost of Living and Quality of Life; Ookla Speedtest; WHO life expectancy 2021	63/63

WHY EQUAL WEIGHTS The previous scheme gave Nature and Climate 25% and Safety and Freedom 15%. Firas's argument was that safety is not a second-order concern and should not sit below the other pillars. Moving five points levels all five. The side benefit is the stronger one: with equal weights there is no weighting to argue about, and the reader can tilt the index themselves.	HOW A PILLAR SCORE IS BUILT Each pillar is scored 0 to 100 from its own named sub-pillars, at the weights set out on the five pillar pages that follow. Tax uses absolute anchors rather than normalising against the other destinations, so a tax score stays comparable year to year and adding a destination does not move anyone else's.	MISSING PILLARS A missing value is never set to zero. Nature, Safety and Quality of Life may mean-impute a missing input at that column's own universe mean, flagged. Tax and Residence may not: a wholly missing pillar there is dropped and the remaining weights renormalise.
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WHAT EQUAL WEIGHTS DO NOT DO Equal weighting is a defensible default, not a claim that the five pillars matter equally to every reader. They almost certainly do not. That is why this report also tests what happens when one pillar is tilted to 40%, and reports the result rather than only the central ranking.

HOW TO READ A PILLAR SCORE

What a pillar score does and does not tell you, and the two normalisation decisions taken with Nomad on 4 September 2026 that changed how three of them are calculated.

READING A PILLAR SCORE

Every pillar runs 0 to 100, higher is better. Four of the five are relative to this 63-destination universe, so a score describes standing within the shortlist rather than an absolute rating. Tax is the exception and uses absolute anchors.

A high score is a statement about conditions, not about you. Andorra's Safety and Freedom score of 96.0 says its measured conflict, crime and freedom indicators are the best in this set. It does not say you will feel safe there, and no index can.

A low score is not a warning label. Greece's Nature and Climate score of 30.8 is driven substantially by its Germanwatch climate-risk ranking, a long-run measure of exposure to extreme weather. It is not a judgment on a Greek summer.

Pillar leads do not aggregate. No destination in this index leads more than one pillar, and the pillar leader is often not near the top overall. Read the pillar scores, decide which ones you actually care about, and read the ranking through that.

TWO CONVENTIONS AGREED ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

Percentile-rank normalisation replaced min-max in four places. Air Quality, Climate and Extreme Weather Risk and Sun and Solar Availability inside Nature and Climate, and the Passport Index sub-score inside Residence and Access. The reason was the same in both cases: a single extreme value was setting the scale for everyone else. The UAE's annual mean PM2.5 of 36.4 micrograms per cubic metre is far worse than the next worst reading (30.0, Indonesia), so under min-max it anchored the bottom of the scale and compressed the spacing of every destination above it. Under percentile rank a score says where a destination sits among its peers, which one outlier cannot distort.

The Passport Index case was worse than a compression problem. It is Nomad's own proprietary index on a roughly 52.5 to 109.0 scale, and it was being averaged directly against two 0 to 100 sub-scores. That overweighted a merely average passport and underweighted a genuinely exceptional one. The raw column is untouched; it is converted to its percentile rank before the average.

Blank Nature inputs are now imputed at the column mean and flagged. Any of the four Nature inputs that was blank for a destination is filled with that column's own mean across the 63 destinations, which took the pillar from 55 of 63 computing to 63 of 63. 8 destinations are affected: Andorra, Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Puerto Rico, Singapore. Each carries an explicit [IMPUTED] note naming the metric and the mean used. An imputed cell is never presented as a measurement.

02

THE FIVE PILLARS

Five pillars at 20% each, and five different leaders: Panama on nature, United Arab Emirates on tax, Malta on residence, Andorra on safety, Monaco on quality of life. No destination in this index leads more than one.

NATURE & CLIMATE

Air you can breathe, long-run exposure to extreme weather, how much sun the place actually gets, and whether its ecosystems are intact. Four sub-pillars, 20% of the overall score, 63 of 63 destinations scored.

SUB-PILLAR	WEIGHT	SOURCE AND DIRECTION
Air Quality	30%	IQAir 2025 World Air Quality Report, annual mean PM2.5 in micrograms per cubic metre. Lower is better, percentile-ranked.
Climate and Extreme Weather Risk	25%	Germanwatch Climate Risk Index, 2026 edition, long-term 1995 to 2024 ranking of 174 countries. A higher rank number means less affected, so higher is better. Percentile-ranked.
Sun and Solar Availability	25%	Solargis / Global Solar Atlas global horizontal irradiance, kWh per square metre per day. Higher is better, percentile-ranked.
Natural Environment	20%	Yale Environmental Performance Index 2026, Ecosystem Vitality component, used as published on its own 0 to 100 scale. Higher is better.
Beach Health (bonus)	Bonus	Ocean Health Index 2025 Global Assessment. Reported alongside the pillar and deliberately outside the weighting.

WHO LEADS

Panama leads on 73.6, on a PM2.5 reading of 4.8 and a climate-risk rank of 120 of 174. Australia (73.4) and Malta (72.6) follow, Australia on the strongest solar figure of the three (6.1 kWh per square metre per day) and Malta on the second-best climate-risk ranking in the universe. The universe mean is 49.6.

WHO LAGS

Indonesia is last on 27.1, with the second-worst air in the set (30.0 micrograms) and an Ecosystem Vitality score of 32.3. Philippines (27.6) and Greece (30.8) are next. The Philippines carries the worst long-run climate-risk ranking of any destination here, 7 of 174. Greece is the surprise of the pillar, at 30.8 on a climate-risk rank of 28.

36.4

WORST ANNUAL MEAN PM2.5 IN THE UNIVERSE, MICROGRAMS PER CUBIC METRE (UAE)

4.3

BEST, SAME MEASURE (ANDORRA)

8

DESTINATIONS WITH AT LEAST ONE MEAN-IMPUTED NATURE INPUT, ALL FLAGGED

LIMITS OF THIS PILLAR

The four sub-pillars measure a country, not a place. Air quality in a coastal town is not the national annual mean, and a national climate-risk ranking says nothing about which part of the country floods. Germanwatch's index does not cover microstates and small island territories at all, which is why Andorra, the Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Iceland, Monaco and Singapore carry an imputed climate-risk figure. The Beach Health bonus is reported for interest and deliberately excluded from the score, because a beach quality figure is an editorial layer rather than a scored condition.

TAX

Not the headline rate. A blended effective rate on foreign income averaged over ten years, how durable and how accessible the regime behind it actually is, whether wealth and inheritance are taxed, and how deep the treaty network runs. Four weighted inputs, 20% of the overall score, all 63 destinations scored.

SUB-PILLAR	WEIGHT	SOURCE AND DIRECTION
Effective rate	55%	70% of the foreign-source rate under the claimed regime, taken as a ten-year average, plus 30% of the top statutory local rate. Score = 100 minus twice the blended rate, floored at zero.
Regime quality	20%	Coverage times duration times access, each a stated multiplier, expressed out of 100. Where no special regime exists, the ordinary code is scored on its own statutory rate rather than zero.
Wealth and inheritance	15%	100 where neither tax exists, 50 where one exists or relief is generous, 0 where both exist or inheritance tax is heavy. IBFD Tax Research Platform.
Treaty network	10%	Double tax treaties in force, capped at 100. Each jurisdiction's own finance ministry.

WHO LEADS

The United Arab Emirates leads on 96.0, and does it without a special regime at all: a 9.0% rate alongside a conditional 0% rate blends to 2.7%, neither a wealth nor an inheritance tax exists, and 137 treaties are in force. Singapore (92.0) and Hong Kong (91.0) follow. Of the 63 destinations, 33 have no special regime and are scored on their ordinary code, which is the point of the fall-through rule: a clean territorial system is not a failed regime.

WHO LAGS

Netherlands is last on 11.0, on a blended rate of 49.5% with both a wealth and a heavy inheritance charge, and its 98-treaty network is the only input keeping the score off the floor. Spain (14.0) and Finland (15.0) are next. Monaco is the instructive case in the other direction: a perfect effective-rate score (100.0) but only 10 treaties in force, which is why it scores 84.0 rather than near 100.

32

DESTINATIONS WITH NEITHER A WEALTH NOR AN INHERITANCE TAX, OF 63

5

WITH BOTH, OR A HEAVY INHERITANCE CHARGE

58.6

UNIVERSE MEAN TAX SCORE, THE WIDEST SPREAD OF ANY PILLAR

LIMITS OF THIS PILLAR

The ten-year average is what makes this pillar honest about regimes that expire, and it is also what makes it a forecast: a four-year exemption followed by six years at the full rate is priced as such, on the assumption the rules hold. The access multiplier is a judgment call recorded as an explicit input cell rather than a hidden coefficient. Portugal's IFICI regime is scored at an access factor of 0.90, Nomad's own published figure, on the basis that a board seat at a qualifying entity opens it. A stricter reading of its profession list puts it at 0.60 and moves Portugal's tax score from 78.0 to 61, and Portugal itself from fifth to seventh. Both readings are set out on the Limitations page. Nothing here is personal tax advice.

RESIDENCE & ACCESS

Whether you can lawfully arrive, stay and eventually belong. Three sub-pillars weighted 40/40/20, 20% of the overall score, and the one pillar with a real coverage gap: 60 of 63 destinations scored.

SUB-PILLAR	WEIGHT	SOURCE AND DIRECTION
Passport Index	40%	Nomad Capitalist's own Passport Index score, carried over unchanged and converted to its percentile rank across the universe before averaging. Range across the 60 scored destinations: 52.5 to 109.0.
Residence Programs Availability	40%	Count of five non-overlapping pathways at 20 points each: digital nomad or remote worker, pensioner or rentista, golden visa or investment residence, company formation, passive income. Nomad Capitalist research.
Time to Naturalization	20%	Years of legal residence required before citizenship eligibility, banded (3 to 5 years = 100, 6 to 7 = 80, 8 to 10 = 60, 11 to 15 = 40, 16 or more = 20, no realistic pathway = 0), less an explicit restrictiveness adjustment. Weight brought down from an equal third on 4 September 2026, so a single long requirement no longer dominates the pillar.

WHO LEADS

Malta leads on 95.0: the strongest Passport Index figure in the universe (109.0), all five residence pathways available, and five years to naturalisation, against a 25-point restrictiveness deduction for language and history testing. Cyprus (90.0) is close behind on the same five-pathway maximum and seven years to citizenship. Greece is third on 83.6. 11 destinations offer all five pathways.

WHO LAGS

Botswana is last on 21.1, on a Passport Index figure of 63.0 and one pathway of five. Montenegro (31.2) and Saint Kitts and Nevis (31.8) are next, and both are instructive: a Caribbean citizenship programme buys a passport quickly but does not count as a residence pathway, so Saint Kitts and Nevis scores near the bottom of this pillar while scoring 91.0 on Tax. The UAE, third overall, scores 78.7 here on 30 years to naturalisation.

11

DESTINATIONS OFFERING ALL FIVE RESIDENCE PATHWAYS, OF 60 SCORED

14

OFFERING ONE PATHWAY OR NONE

3

DESTINATIONS WITH NO RESIDENCE PILLAR AT ALL, SCORED ON FOUR

LIMITS OF THIS PILLAR

The single biggest thing this pillar does not measure is price. v3 counts pathways rather than ranking them, so a free digital nomad visa and a two million dollar golden visa score identically, and no affordability signal survives anywhere in the index. That trade was made deliberately, in exchange for a metric Nomad's own research team can populate consistently, and it should be read as a known limit rather than an oversight. A blank pathway cell is also not a no: the count and the score stay blank until at least one cell is evidenced, which is why the Cayman Islands, Puerto Rico and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines drop the pillar rather than score low on it.

SAFETY & FREEDOM

Physical safety and personal liberty, treated as one condition because they fail together. Four metrics, 20% of the overall score, all 63 destinations scored on the mean of whichever of the four they hold. This pillar and Quality of Life are the two v3 left untouched.

SUB-PILLAR	WEIGHT	SOURCE AND DIRECTION
Global Peace Index rank	Equal	Institute for Economics and Peace. Lower rank is better, inverted before scoring. Coverage 43/63.
Numbeo Safety Index	Equal	Crowdsourced perceived safety and crime. Higher is better. Coverage 52/63.
Human Freedom Index 2022	Equal	Cato Institute and Fraser Institute, personal and economic freedom combined. Higher is better. Coverage 49/63.
Nomad Freedom Score	Equal	Nomad Capitalist's own freedom assessment. Higher is better. Coverage 61/63.

WHO LEADS

Andorra leads on 96.0, the highest score on any pillar other than Monaco's perfect Quality of Life figure, and it is what carries Andorra to second overall on a middling Residence score of 49.6. Switzerland (92.7) and Liechtenstein (92.1) follow, and the top of this pillar is almost entirely small, wealthy European jurisdictions. Portugal, fifth overall, is the largest country in the pillar's top five at 86.1.

WHO LAGS

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is last on 13.2 and last overall. Puerto Rico (18.1) and Nicaragua (18.3) are next. This is the pillar that separates the Caribbean citizenship jurisdictions from the rest of their profile: recorded homicide rates of 59.8 per 100,000 in Saint Kitts and Nevis and 51.0 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines sit alongside Tax scores of 91.0 and 46.0. The UAE's 58.8 is the weakest score of any top-five destination.

61.9

UNIVERSE MEAN, THE HIGHEST OF THE FIVE PILLARS

43

DESTINATIONS THE GLOBAL PEACE INDEX COVERS, OF 63

20

IT DOES NOT COVER, MOSTLY MICROSTATES AND TERRITORIES

LIMITS OF THIS PILLAR

Safety and freedom are not the same thing and this pillar averages them. A jurisdiction can be extremely safe and not especially free, and the score will not tell you which. Coverage is the real constraint: the Global Peace Index reaches only 43 of 63 destinations, so twenty are scored on the mean of the remaining metrics rather than all four. Homicide rates are held in the dataset but deliberately not blended into the score, because they are a different metric on a different scale from Numbeo's perceived-safety index and mixing the two without a proper conversion would produce a number that looks rigorous and is not.

QUALITY OF LIFE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Whether the place works. How long people live, how good daily life measures out, how fast the connectivity is and what it all costs. Five metrics, 20% of the overall score, all 63 destinations scored on the mean of whichever they hold.

Sub-pillar	Weight	Source and Direction
WHO life expectancy	Equal	World Health Organization, 2021. Higher is better. Coverage 62/63.
Numbeo Quality of Life Index	Equal	Composite of purchasing power, healthcare, pollution, commute and climate. Higher is better. Coverage 41/63.
Numbeo Cost of Living Index	Equal	Price level against a New York baseline. Lower is better, inverted before scoring. Coverage 52/63.
Fixed broadband speed	Equal	Ookla Speedtest median download. Higher is better. Coverage 49/63.
Mobile speed	Equal	Ookla Speedtest median download. Higher is better. Coverage 38/63.

WHO LEADS

Monaco leads on 100.0, the only perfect pillar score anywhere in the index and the single reason it holds first place overall on a Nature and Climate score of 44.6 and a Residence score of 51.1. Hong Kong (89.0) and Liechtenstein (86.1) follow. Andorra is fourth at 83.9, which is what makes the top two so hard to separate: both are microstates that score very well here and unremarkably on residence.

WHO LAGS

Vanuatu is last on 18.8, with Saint Kitts and Nevis (26.3) and Bahamas (26.6) next. All three are small island jurisdictions, and this is the pillar that most consistently penalises them: expensive, thinly covered by the source datasets, and without the healthcare and connectivity infrastructure of a larger economy. Panama's 40.6 is the clearest single reason a destination that leads Nature and Climate outright finishes 11th overall.

50.8

UNIVERSE MEAN, THE SECOND LOWEST OF THE FIVE PILLARS

41

DESTINATIONS NUMBEO'S QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX COVERS, OF 63

38

COVERED BY OOKLA'S MOBILE MEDIAN, THE THINNEST METRIC IN THE INDEX

LIMITS OF THIS PILLAR

This is the pillar with the weakest coverage, and that is worth stating plainly. Two of its five metrics reach fewer than 43 destinations, and the ones they miss are systematically the microstates and Caribbean territories this report is largely about. Numbeo is also crowdsourced, so its quality of life and cost of living indices reflect who fills in the survey. Cost of living is included as a price level and inverted, which means an expensive place is marked down even where the expense buys genuine quality. That is a defensible choice for a lifestyle index and it is a choice, not a measurement.

WHAT IS MEASURED, AND WHAT IS NOT

Two principles run through this index. Nothing is invented, and every departure from a clean measurement is labelled on the row it affects. This page collects those departures in one place.

60

DESTINATIONS SCORED ON ALL FIVE PILLARS, OF 63

3

SCORED ON FOUR, WITH RESIDENCE AND ACCESS DROPPED

8

CARRYING AT LEAST ONE MEAN-IMPUTED NATURE INPUT, EACH FLAGGED

63/63

NATURE AND CLIMATE COVERAGE AFTER THAT IMPUTATION

THE THREE DESTINATIONS WITH NO RESIDENCE AND ACCESS PILLAR

DESTINATION	RANK	PILLARS SCORED	SCORE BASIS
Cayman Islands	8	4 of 5	Mean of nature, tax, safety, quality of life
Puerto Rico	30	4 of 5	Mean of nature, tax, safety, quality of life
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	63	4 of 5	Mean of nature, tax, safety, quality of life

No Nomad Passport Index score has ever been supplied for these three territories, so the pillar is dropped and the remaining four weights renormalise to 25% each.

WHAT IS SOURCED

Tax is scored for all 63 destinations from Nomad's own regime research, IBFD's wealth and inheritance summaries and each finance ministry's treaty count. Residence is scored for 60 from Nomad's Passport Index and its own pathway research. Nature draws on IQAir, Germanwatch, Solargis and Yale. Safety and Quality of Life, untouched by v3, still come from the Global Peace Index, Numbeo, the Human Freedom Index, Ookla and the WHO.

WHAT IS IMPUTED, AND HOW IT IS FLAGGED

Only Nature and Climate inputs. A blank input is filled at that column's own mean across the 63 destinations and carries an explicit [IMPUTED] note naming the metric and the mean used. This took the pillar from 55 of 63 computing to 63. Tax and Residence are never imputed: no universe mean stands in honestly for a real tax or visa regime.

WHAT CHANGED ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

Air Quality, Climate Risk and Sun and Solar moved from min-max to percentile-rank normalisation, and so did the Passport Index sub-score inside Residence and Access. In both cases a single extreme value was setting the scale for everyone else.

THE COVERAGE BOUNDARY IS REAL, AND IT IS NOT A RESEARCH FAILURE

Several destinations this report exists to cover are genuinely absent from the global datasets the index rests on. The Global Peace Index reaches 43 of 63, Numbeo's Quality of Life Index 41, Ookla's mobile median 38, and Germanwatch's climate index omits microstates entirely. Monaco, Andorra, Liechtenstein, the Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean citizenship states recur in every one of those gaps. An index that quietly filled these cells would rank the least-documented destinations most confidently.

03

THE GLOBAL RANKING

63 destinations, five equal pillars, 60 of them scored on all five. Worst-case rank correlation under reweighting: 0.9757.

FULL RANKING, 1 TO 16

#	DESTINATION	OVERALL	NATURE	TAX	RESIDENCE	SAFETY	QUALITY OF LIFE	REGION
1	Monaco	73.89	44.6	84.0	51.1	89.7	100.0	Europe
2	Andorra	73.68	62.9	76.0	49.6	96.0	83.9	Europe
3	United Arab Emirates	73.15	59.7	96.0	78.7	58.8	72.6	Middle East, Africa & Indian Ocean
4	Malta	72.11	72.6	69.0	95.0	67.8	56.1	Europe
5	Portugal	70.09	47.8	78.0	78.9	86.1	59.6	Europe
6	Cyprus	68.42	62.9	75.0	90.0	62.1	52.1	Europe
7	Singapore	67.12	42.0	92.0	61.8	80.7	59.1	Asia-Pacific
8	Cayman Islands 4 PILLARS	66.50	67.2	90.0	n/a	73.5	35.3	Caribbean & Atlantic
9	New Zealand	66.43	64.6	50.0	78.9	80.4	58.3	Asia-Pacific
10	Switzerland	65.44	45.3	66.0	65.8	92.7	57.4	Europe
11	Panama	64.91	73.6	83.0	66.8	60.5	40.6	The Americas
12	Seychelles	64.46	68.3	88.0	44.2	70.9	50.9	Middle East, Africa & Indian Ocean
13	Ireland	63.97	56.1	57.0	73.6	81.2	51.9	Europe
14	Liechtenstein	63.33	40.7	52.0	45.8	92.1	86.1	Europe
15	Czech Republic	62.97	33.5	65.0	68.9	78.7	68.8	Europe
16	Hong Kong	62.21	36.2	91.0	34.3	60.5	89.0	Asia-Pacific

Overall score is the mean of the five pillar scores, all equally weighted at 20%. Pillar columns are sub-scores out of 100. A dash means the pillar is not scored for that destination and the remaining four weights renormalise to 100%; the row is marked. Region labels are editorial reading groupings, not a scored variable.

THE TOP THREE ARE A TIE, NOT A PODIUM

Monaco (73.89), Andorra (73.68) and the United Arab Emirates (73.15) are separated by **0.74 points** on a 100-point scale. Read them as level. Which one a reader should put first depends on which pillar matters most to them, and the Analysis pages set out exactly how that changes the order.

FULL RANKING, 17 TO 32

#	DESTINATION	OVERALL	NATURE	TAX	RESIDENCE	SAFETY	QUALITY OF LIFE	REGION
17	Mauritius	62.01	47.0	76.0	69.1	72.0	45.9	Middle East, Africa & Indian Ocean
18	Estonia	61.26	61.2	64.0	46.4	81.8	52.9	Europe
19	Luxembourg	60.98	57.2	22.0	73.6	84.1	68.0	Europe
20	Latvia	60.55	49.9	47.0	80.8	75.7	49.4	Europe
21	Malaysia	60.38	43.8	88.0	69.0	55.3	45.8	Asia-Pacific
22	Uruguay	60.07	49.3	74.0	65.8	60.9	50.4	The Americas
23	Costa Rica	59.52	63.8	82.0	59.9	50.5	41.4	The Americas
24	Greece	57.41	30.8	73.0	83.6	53.4	46.2	Europe
25	Iceland	55.76	62.2	17.0	46.6	86.8	66.2	Europe
26	Australia	55.28	73.4	24.0	53.3	72.0	53.8	Asia-Pacific
27	Saint Kitts and Nevis	54.57	55.3	91.0	31.8	68.4	26.3	Caribbean & Atlantic
28	Finland	54.39	63.1	15.0	49.8	87.2	56.9	Europe
29	Sweden	54.24	60.0	24.0	57.4	71.5	58.3	Europe
30	Puerto Rico 4 PILLARS	53.64	56.6	80.0	n/a	18.1	59.8	Caribbean & Atlantic
31	Denmark	53.61	53.4	15.0	50.8	87.9	61.0	Europe
32	Antigua and Barbuda	53.01	61.9	91.0	42.9	39.5	29.8	Caribbean & Atlantic

WHAT A MID-TABLE SCORE IS MADE OF

Almost every destination in this band leads on two pillars and trails on two. Estonia, Luxembourg and Latvia carry European institutional scores against middling Nature readings; Malaysia, Uruguay and Costa Rica reverse that. The mean pillar scores across all 63 destinations are Nature 49.6, Tax 58.6, Residence 53.9, Safety 61.9 and Quality of Life 50.8, so a score in the fifties is a balanced profile rather than a weak one.

FULL RANKING, 33 TO 48

#	DESTINATION	OVERALL	NATURE	TAX	RESIDENCE	SAFETY	QUALITY OF LIFE	REGION
33	Norway	52.93	59.3	32.0	41.6	78.3	53.4	Europe
34	Bahamas	52.84	56.7	90.0	40.0	50.9	26.6	Caribbean & Atlantic
35	Georgia	52.70	37.1	89.0	41.1	58.2	38.1	Europe
36	Cape Verde	52.16	49.3	42.0	50.7	57.9	60.9	Middle East, Africa & Indian Ocean
37	Austria	52.11	48.9	24.0	51.8	84.2	51.7	Europe
38	Taiwan	51.71	36.6	49.0	39.9	83.7	49.4	Asia-Pacific
39	Japan	51.23	42.5	26.0	40.7	84.8	62.2	Asia-Pacific
40	Lithuania	50.93	49.1	40.0	39.4	72.1	54.0	Europe
41	Croatia	50.76	33.7	36.0	62.4	69.2	52.5	Europe
42	Spain	50.68	47.6	14.0	65.2	65.1	61.5	Europe
43	Saint Lucia	50.20	54.4	80.0	33.0	47.4	36.2	Caribbean & Atlantic
44	Botswana	49.99	65.1	77.0	21.1	54.3	32.4	Middle East, Africa & Indian Ocean
45	Belize	49.89	39.6	83.0	48.1	37.5	41.2	The Americas
46	Montenegro	49.73	45.3	64.0	31.2	61.5	46.6	Europe
47	United Kingdom	49.20	42.3	35.0	49.7	68.5	50.6	Europe
48	Canada	48.40	52.5	24.0	39.5	70.1	55.9	The Americas

LARGE ECONOMIES SIT MID-TABLE BY DESIGN

The United Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands and Poland rank here because the index measures what a mobile individual experiences, not economic weight. Each carries a strong Safety and Quality of Life reading against one of the lowest Tax scores in the table: the Netherlands is last of 63 on Tax (11.0), with Spain (14.0) and Finland (15.0) just above it.

FULL RANKING, 49 TO 63

#	DESTINATION	OVERALL	NATURE	TAX	RESIDENCE	SAFETY	QUALITY OF LIFE	REGION
49	Nicaragua	48.33	44.2	73.0	56.2	18.3	49.9	The Americas
50	Netherlands	48.00	41.5	11.0	45.8	82.0	59.7	Europe
51	Thailand	47.91	34.4	61.0	60.6	37.7	45.9	Asia-Pacific
52	Poland	47.61	34.5	38.0	43.9	70.0	51.6	Europe
53	Honduras	47.42	52.5	82.0	49.2	20.1	33.3	The Americas
54	United States	46.33	47.8	23.0	54.0	49.5	57.4	The Americas
55	Grenada	44.21	50.1	81.0	34.5	26.3	29.1	Caribbean & Atlantic
56	Albania	44.01	36.0	52.0	42.8	49.6	39.7	Europe
57	Vanuatu	43.07	44.8	90.0	38.1	23.7	18.8	Asia-Pacific
58	Dominican Republic	42.89	40.9	44.0	46.8	42.2	40.6	Caribbean & Atlantic
59	Philippines	41.64	27.6	75.0	49.4	27.1	29.1	Asia-Pacific
60	Dominica	38.78	38.0	39.0	40.5	39.5	36.9	Caribbean & Atlantic
61	Mexico	38.62	43.6	36.0	54.6	23.8	35.1	The Americas
62	Indonesia	37.19	27.1	39.0	56.2	35.7	28.0	Asia-Pacific
63	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 4 PILLARS	34.62	37.8	46.0	n/a	13.2	41.5	Caribbean & Atlantic

THREE DESTINATIONS ARE SCORED ON FOUR PILLARS, AND IT IS ALWAYS SHOWN

The Nomad Passport Index, Nomad's own proprietary index and the first of the three Residence and Access sub-pillars, has never been supplied for Cayman Islands, Puerto Rico or Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Those three drop the Residence and Access pillar entirely and their remaining four weights renormalise to 25% each. They rank 8, 30, 63 respectively. Nothing is filled in to close the gap, and a four-pillar rank carries less information than a five-pillar one. 60 of 63 destinations are scored on all five.

Every row in this table is reproducible from data/processed/scored-index-v3-full.csv. The overall score is the unweighted mean of the pillar columns shown, which is what equal weighting means in practice.



*No destination leads more than one pillar. **Monaco** is first overall on the strength of the only perfect pillar score in the set.*

Panama leads Nature & Climate, the United Arab Emirates Tax, Malta Residence & Access, Andorra Safety & Freedom, Monaco Quality of Life & Infrastructure on 100.0. Five pillars, five different names at the top of them.

04

DESTINATION SPOTLIGHTS

Monaco's number one rests on a single perfect pillar: 100 out of 100 for Quality of Life and Infrastructure, the only perfect score anywhere in the index, against a Nature score of 44.6.

1

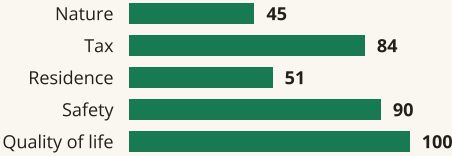
MONACO

Score **73.89** · pillars scored **5 of 5** · Europe

Monaco is first on a single perfect score. Its Quality of Life and Infrastructure reading of 100.0 is the highest in the index and the only 100 anywhere in the five pillars, and it carries a top-five Safety and Freedom score of 89.7. Everything else is ordinary by top-ten standards: Nature at 44.6, held down by a sun reading of 40.3 out of 100 and by two inputs that had to be imputed, and a Residence and Access score of 51.1 that reflects two of the five pathways, ten years to naturalisation and a renunciation requirement. Its Tax score of 84.0 comes from a genuine zero blended rate, discounted for a treaty network of only 10 agreements and for inheritance tax on transfers to distant beneficiaries.

NATURALISATION, AS RECORDED IN NOMAD'S OWN WORKBOOK

No language test, strong economy integration and presence rules, renounce previous citizenship requirement.



OVERALL SCORE	73.89	RANK OF 63	1
PM2.5, ANNUAL MEAN	11.4 µg/m³	SOLARGIS GHI, DAILY	4.17 kWh
CLIMATE RISK RANK (IMPUTED)	84.8 of 174	ECOSYSTEM VITALITY (IMPUTED)	48.2
BLENDED TAX RATE	0.0%	DOUBLE TAX TREATIES	10
RESIDENCE PATHWAYS	2 of 5	YEARS TO NATURALISATION	10

DATA NOTE

Two of four Nature inputs imputed at the universe mean and flagged

2

ANDORRA

Score **73.68** · pillars scored **5 of 5** · Europe

Andorra is the most evenly capable destination in the index and the only one to come within 0.74 points of first without a single perfect pillar. It leads Safety and Freedom outright at 96.0, holds the fourth-best Nature score at 62.9 on the cleanest air of any European destination here (4.3 micrograms of PM2.5), and takes 83.9 on Quality of Life. What holds it at second is Residence and Access, 49.6: four of five pathways, but twenty years of residence before naturalisation, a language and history test and no dual citizenship. Tax is 76.0 on a flat 10% blended rate with neither a wealth nor an inheritance tax.

NATURALISATION, AS RECORDED IN NOMAD'S OWN WORKBOOK

Language and history test, residence test, does not allow dual citizenship.



OVERALL SCORE	73.68	RANK OF 63	2
PM2.5, ANNUAL MEAN	4.3 µg/m³	SOLARGIS GHI, DAILY	4.32 kWh
CLIMATE RISK RANK (IMPUTED)	84.8 of 174	ECOSYSTEM VITALITY (IMPUTED)	48.2
BLENDED TAX RATE	10.0%	DOUBLE TAX TREATIES	13
RESIDENCE PATHWAYS	4 of 5	YEARS TO NATURALISATION	20

DATA NOTE

Two of four Nature inputs imputed at the universe mean and flagged

FIRST AND SECOND, AND ALMOST NOTHING BETWEEN THEM

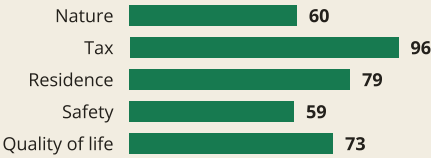
0.21 points separate Monaco from Andorra, and they get there by opposite routes. Monaco has one perfect pillar and no second strong one; Andorra has no pillar above 96.0 and none below 49.6. A reader who wants the best possible infrastructure should read the first profile; a reader who wants no weak link should read the second.

3 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Score **73.15** · pillars scored **5 of 5** · Middle East, Africa & Indian Ocean

The UAE leads the Tax pillar outright at 96.0, the widest single-pillar margin at the top of this index. The zero rate alone does not produce it: the score carries all five residence pathways, 137 double tax treaties (the most of any destination here) and no wealth or inheritance tax. Its Residence and Access score of 78.7 is third of 63. The honest counterweight is air: at 36.4 micrograms of PM2.5 the UAE is the worst reading in the universe and scores 0.0 out of 100 on Air Quality, which is why its Nature pillar sits at 59.7 despite the best sun availability of any top-ten destination (95.2 out of 100). Safety and Freedom, 58.8, is the lowest of the three leaders.

NATURALISATION, AS RECORDED IN NOMAD'S OWN WORKBOOK
Usually granted through nomination and integration into society.



OVERALL SCORE	73.15	RANK OF 63	3
PM2.5, ANNUAL MEAN	36.4 µg/m³	SOLARGIS GHI, DAILY	5.95 kWh
CLIMATE RISK RANK	173.0 of 174	ECOSYSTEM VITALITY	54.5
BLENDED TAX RATE	2.7%	DOUBLE TAX TREATIES	137
RESIDENCE PATHWAYS	5 of 5	YEARS TO NATURALISATION	30

DATA NOTE
All five pillars scored on real, sourced inputs

4 MALTA

Score **72.11** · pillars scored **5 of 5** · Europe

Malta leads Residence and Access at 95.0, the highest score on any pillar other than Monaco's Quality of Life. All five pathways are open, naturalisation is reachable in 5 years, and the Nomad Passport Index score of 109.0 is the strongest in the index. It is also second on Nature at 72.6, on a Climate Risk rank of 170.0 of 174 and a sun score of 79.0. What keeps it fourth rather than first is Quality of Life and Infrastructure at 56.1 and a Tax score of 69.0, where a 35% local rate pulls the blended figure to 11.9% even with the foreign-source regime applied.

NATURALISATION, AS RECORDED IN NOMAD'S OWN WORKBOOK
Basic Language and history text, allows dual citizenship, requires two locals as witnesses.



OVERALL SCORE	72.11	RANK OF 63	4
PM2.5, ANNUAL MEAN	8.9 µg/m³	SOLARGIS GHI, DAILY	5.06 kWh
CLIMATE RISK RANK	170.0 of 174	ECOSYSTEM VITALITY	54.7
BLENDED TAX RATE	11.9%	DOUBLE TAX TREATIES	77
RESIDENCE PATHWAYS	5 of 5	YEARS TO NATURALISATION	5

DATA NOTE
All five pillars scored on real, sourced inputs

THE TWO WIDEST SINGLE-PILLAR MARGINS IN THE INDEX

The UAE's Tax score of 96.0 and Malta's Residence and Access score of 95.0 are the highest readings on those pillars, and each is the reason its destination is in the top four. Both also carry a visible cost: the worst air quality in the universe for the UAE, and the second-lowest Quality of Life score in the top six for Malta.

5

PORTUGAL

Score 70.09 · pillars scored 5 of 5 · Europe

Portugal is the only destination in the top five whose strength is spread rather than concentrated: no pillar above 78.9 and none below 47.8. Its Safety and Freedom score of 86.1 is third of 63, its Residence and Access score of 78.9 rests on all five pathways and an A1 language test, and its Tax score of 78.0 comes from a zero foreign-source rate under the claimed regime against a 48% local rate. Nature, 47.8, is the weakest reading in the top five, on a Germanwatch Climate Risk rank of 27.0 of 174, one of the most exposed in this universe. The Tax score follows Nomad's published access factor of 0.90. At the stricter 0.60 reading, Portugal scores 61 on Tax and finishes seventh rather than fifth, which the Limitations page sets out.

NATURALISATION, AS RECORDED IN NOMAD'S OWN WORKBOOK

A1 language test, Allows dual citizenship, residence requirements apply.



OVERALL SCORE
70.09

PM2.5, ANNUAL MEAN
7.9 µg/m³

CLIMATE RISK RANK
27.0 of 174

BLENDED TAX RATE
6.0%

RESIDENCE PATHWAYS
5 of 5

RANK OF 63
5

SOLARGIS GHI, DAILY
4.67 kWh

ECOSYSTEM VITALITY
46.7

DOUBLE TAX TREATIES
78

YEARS TO NATURALISATION
10

DATA NOTE

All five pillars scored; tax access factor 0.90, per Nomad's published index

6

CYPRUS

Score 68.42 · pillars scored 5 of 5 · Europe

Cyprus is second on Residence and Access at 90.0: five pathways, 7 years to naturalisation and a passport score of 107.5. It pairs that with the second-best sun availability in the top ten (87.1 out of 100) and no wealth or inheritance tax. Its ceiling is set by Quality of Life and Infrastructure, 52.1, and by air quality: at 11.8 micrograms of PM2.5 it scores 33.9 out of 100 on that sub-pillar, which is what holds Nature to 62.9 despite the climate and solar readings.

NATURALISATION, AS RECORDED IN NOMAD'S OWN WORKBOOK

B1 language test, culture law test, allows dual citizenship, proof of financial stability.



OVERALL SCORE
68.42

PM2.5, ANNUAL MEAN
11.8 µg/m³

CLIMATE RISK RANK
143.0 of 174

BLENDED TAX RATE
12.6%

RESIDENCE PATHWAYS
5 of 5

RANK OF 63
6

SOLARGIS GHI, DAILY
5.28 kWh

ECOSYSTEM VITALITY
49.9

DOUBLE TAX TREATIES
65

YEARS TO NATURALISATION
7

DATA NOTE

All five pillars scored on real, sourced inputs

TWO EUROPEAN ROUTES IN, SCORED DIFFERENTLY

Portugal and Cyprus both hold all five residence pathways and score 78.9 and 90.0 on Residence and Access. Portugal is ahead overall on Safety and Freedom (86.1 against 62.1); Cyprus is ahead on Nature (62.9 against 47.8), largely on climate exposure.

7

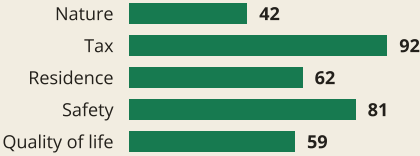
SINGAPORE

Score **67.12** · pillars scored **5 of 5** · Asia-Pacific

Singapore is the clearest example in the index of a destination that wins on the measurable and loses on the liveable-in-the-open. Tax is 92.0, second only to the UAE, on a 7.2% blended rate, 98 treaties and neither a wealth nor an inheritance tax. Safety and Freedom is 80.7. But Nature is 42.0, the weakest of any top-ten destination, on a Yale EPI Ecosystem Vitality score of 32.5 that is among the lowest here, and Residence and Access is 61.8, with only two of the five pathways open and no dual citizenship.

NATURALISATION, AS RECORDED IN NOMAD'S OWN WORKBOOK

Language requirements, Strong Economic integration, Does not allow dual citizenship.



OVERALL SCORE
67.12

PM2.5, ANNUAL MEAN
11.9 µg/m³

CLIMATE RISK RANK
(IMPUTED)
84.8 of 174

BLENDED TAX RATE
7.2%

RESIDENCE PATHWAYS
2 of 5

RANK OF 63
7

SOLARGIS GHI, DAILY
4.42 kWh

ECOSYSTEM VITALITY
32.5

DOUBLE TAX TREATIES
98

YEARS TO NATURALISATION
2

DATA NOTE

Climate Risk input imputed at the universe mean and flagged

11

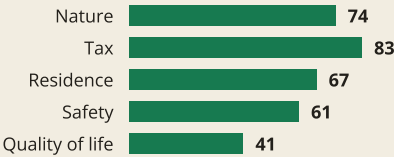
PANAMA

Score **64.91** · pillars scored **5 of 5** · The Americas

Panama leads Nature and Climate outright at 73.6 and sits 11th overall. That gap is the most useful thing in this index. Its Nature score is built on real readings: 4.8 micrograms of PM2.5 for an Air Quality score of 91.9, a Climate Risk rank of 120.0 of 174, and an Ocean Health Index beach score of 77.2. It also holds all five residence pathways and a Tax score of 83.0. What places it 11th is Quality of Life and Infrastructure at 40.6, third-lowest of the top twenty. A single-pillar leader is not an overall leader, and this index is built to show that rather than to hide it.

NATURALISATION, AS RECORDED IN NOMAD'S OWN WORKBOOK

Basic language and history test, Allows dual citizenship, on certain conditions but usually not allowed, residence requirements apply.



OVERALL SCORE
64.91

PM2.5, ANNUAL MEAN
4.8 µg/m³

CLIMATE RISK RANK
120.0 of 174

BLENDED TAX RATE
7.5%

RESIDENCE PATHWAYS
5 of 5

RANK OF 63
11

SOLARGIS GHI, DAILY
4.98 kWh

ECOSYSTEM VITALITY
51.6

DOUBLE TAX TREATIES
17

YEARS TO NATURALISATION
5

DATA NOTE

All five pillars scored on real, sourced inputs

OPPOSITE SHAPES, FOUR PLACES APART

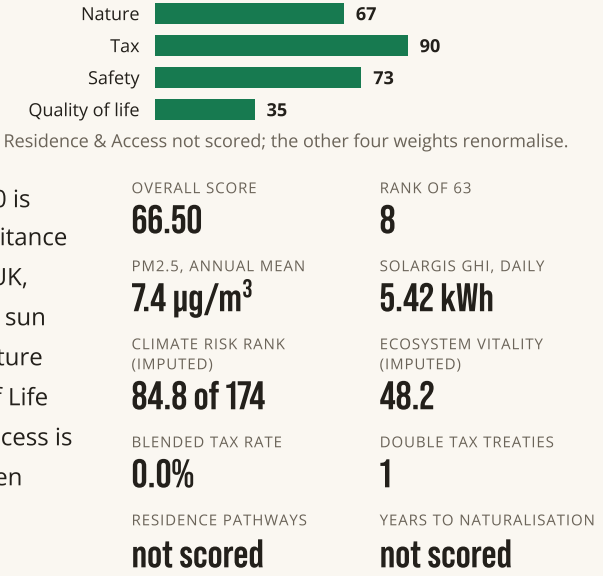
Singapore ranks 7th on tax and safety with the weakest Nature score in the top ten; Panama ranks 11th on the strongest Nature score in the index with the weakest infrastructure of the top twenty. Neither is a better destination than the other in any general sense, and the ranking gap between them is smaller than the gap between their profiles.

8

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Score 66.50 · pillars scored 4 of 5 · Caribbean & Atlantic

The Cayman Islands rank 8th on four pillars. Its Tax score of 90.0 is fourth of 63, on a true zero blended rate and no wealth or inheritance tax, discounted for holding just one double tax treaty, with the UK, rather than a comprehensive network. Nature is 67.2, on strong sun (91.9) and clean air (7.4 micrograms), though two of the four Nature inputs are imputed at the universe mean and flagged. Quality of Life and Infrastructure, 35.3, is the constraint, and Residence and Access is not scored at all because the Nomad Passport Index has not been supplied for the territory.



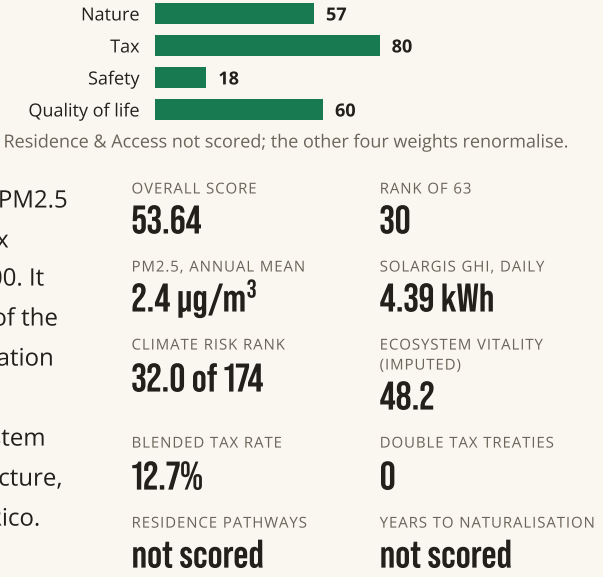
DATA NOTE
Residence and Access not scored; two Nature inputs imputed

30

PUERTO RICO

Score 53.64 · pillars scored 4 of 5 · Caribbean & Atlantic

Puerto Rico has the cleanest air in the index, 2.4 micrograms of PM2.5 for a perfect 100.0 on that sub-pillar, and one of the ten best Tax scores at 80.0 under a regime the workbook rates 90.0 out of 100. It ranks 30th because Safety and Freedom is 18.1, second-lowest of the 63, and because Residence and Access is not scored: US immigration law applies and no separate Passport Index score exists for the territory. Its Nature score of 56.6 also carries an imputed Ecosystem Vitality input. Read the rank as a verdict on tax, air and infrastructure, and not as a security judgment this index can make for Puerto Rico.



DATA NOTE
Residence and Access not scored; one Nature input imputed

TWO OF THE THREE FOUR-PILLAR ROWS

Both are scored on four pillars because the Nomad Passport Index has never been supplied for them, so their remaining four weights renormalise to 25% each. The third is Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which ranks last of 63. Supplying three Passport Index scores would remove the only asterisk in the ranking table.

05

ANALYSIS

*Push any one pillar to 40% and the top three changes. Across all five priorities, **no destination** makes the top three every time. The best any manages is 4 of 5.*

WHO IS NUMBER ONE DEPENDS ON YOU

On equal weights Monaco, Andorra and the United Arab Emirates are separated by 0.74 points. Rather than resolve that with a simulation, the index resolves it the way a reader would: push one pillar to 40% and the other four to 15% each, and see who the top three become.

PILLAR PUSHED TO THE FRONT	TOP THREE UNDER THAT PRIORITY
Nature & Climate at 40%	1. Malta · 2. Andorra · 3. United Arab Emirates
Tax at 40%	1. United Arab Emirates · 2. Monaco · 3. Andorra
Residence & Access at 40%	1. Malta · 2. United Arab Emirates · 3. Cyprus
Safety & Freedom at 40%	1. Andorra · 2. Monaco · 3. Portugal
Quality of Life & Infrastructure at 40%	1. Monaco · 2. Andorra · 3. United Arab Emirates

4 of 5

TILTS PUTTING ANDORRA IN THE TOP THREE, THE MOST OF ANY DESTINATION

0

DESTINATIONS IN THE TOP THREE UNDER ALL FIVE TILTS

6

DIFFERENT DESTINATIONS REACHING A TOP THREE ACROSS THE FIVE TILTS

No destination makes the top three under all five priorities. Andorra and the UAE manage four of five, Monaco three, Malta two, and Cyprus and Portugal one each. Cyprus appears only when Residence and Access dominates; Portugal only when Safety and Freedom does. Leadership at the top of this index is genuinely priority-dependent, and saying so is more useful to a reader choosing where to live than a claim of stability would be.

Monaco, which holds first place on equal weights, is the **most** priority-dependent of the three leaders. It leaves the top three when Nature and Climate leads and again when Residence and Access does, because its Nature score is 44.6 and its Residence score 51.1. Its first place rests on one perfect pillar, not on five strong ones.

DESTINATION	TILTS IN THE TOP THREE
Andorra	4 of 5
United Arab Emirates	4 of 5
Monaco	3 of 5
Malta	2 of 5
Cyprus	1 of 5
Portugal	1 of 5

Each tilt moves one pillar to 40% and the remaining four to 15% each, then recomputes all 63 scores. Deterministic: no random draws, no priors, and nothing here is a probability.

BEST BY PILLAR

Five league tables, one per pillar, each equally weighted at 20% in the overall score. The destination that leads a pillar is rarely near the top of any other, which is the whole reason for scoring five of them.

NATURE & CLIMATE

	DESTINATION	SCORE
1	Panama	73.6
2	Australia	73.4
3	Malta	72.6
4	Seychelles	68.3
5	Cayman Islands	67.2

Weakest three: Indonesia (27.1), Philippines (27.6), Greece (30.8).

TAX

	DESTINATION	SCORE
1	United Arab Emirates	96.0
2	Singapore	92.0
3	Hong Kong	91.0
4	Saint Kitts and Nevis	91.0
5	Antigua and Barbuda	91.0

Weakest three: Netherlands (11.0), Spain (14.0), Finland (15.0).

RESIDENCE & ACCESS

	DESTINATION	SCORE
1	Malta	95.0
2	Cyprus	90.0
3	Greece	83.6
4	Latvia	80.8
5	Portugal	78.9

Weakest three: Botswana (21.1), Montenegro (31.2), Saint Kitts and Nevis (31.8). Scored for 60 of 63.

SAFETY & FREEDOM

	DESTINATION	SCORE
1	Andorra	96.0
2	Switzerland	92.7
3	Liechtenstein	92.1
4	Monaco	89.7
5	Denmark	87.9

Weakest three: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (13.2), Puerto Rico (18.1), Nicaragua (18.3).

QUALITY OF LIFE & INFRASTRUCTURE

	DESTINATION	SCORE
1	Monaco	100.0
2	Hong Kong	89.0
3	Liechtenstein	86.1
4	Andorra	83.9
5	United Arab Emirates	72.6

Weakest three: Vanuatu (18.8), Saint Kitts and Nevis (26.3), Bahamas (26.6).

ZERO BLENDED TAX RATE

6 destinations carry an exact 0% blended rate on the workbook's own tax input: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Monaco, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Vanuatu. None of them leads the Tax pillar. The UAE does, on 96.0, because the pillar also scores regime quality, wealth and inheritance tax, and treaty network.

WHY THE TAX COLUMN IS ABSOLUTE AND THE OTHER FOUR ARE NOT

The Tax pillar is anchored rather than normalised: it comes from stated formulas over stated inputs, so it stays comparable year to year and adding a destination does not move anyone else's tax score. The other four are relative to this 63-destination universe, so the Nature mean of 49.6 means average among these 63, not in the world.

“Panama scores highest on nature and finishes eleventh overall. The UAE leads on tax and finishes third. That gap is the whole point of scoring five pillars instead of one. You are not choosing a country, you are choosing which compromise you can live with.”

KHATIA GELBAKHIANI, HEAD OF PRODUCT, NOMAD CAPITALIST

NO DESTINATION WINS TWICE

Five pillars, five different leaders, and not one of them leads two. Four of the five leaders are in the overall top five. The fifth is eleventh, and that is the more instructive case.

PILLAR	LEADS IT	PILLAR SCORE	OVERALL RANK	OVERALL SCORE	RUNNER-UP
Nature & Climate	Panama	73.6	11	64.91	Australia (73.4)
Tax	United Arab Emirates	96.0	3	73.15	Singapore (92.0)
Residence & Access	Malta	95.0	4	72.11	Cyprus (90.0)
Safety & Freedom	Andorra	96.0	2	73.68	Switzerland (92.7)
Quality of Life & Infrastructure	Monaco	100.0	1	73.89	Hong Kong (89.0)

Monaco's number one rests on one pillar. Its Quality of Life and Infrastructure score of 100.0 is the only perfect score anywhere in the index, and it is worth 20% of the overall figure on its own. Take that pillar away and Monaco has no other reading above 89.7.

Panama leads Nature and Climate at 73.6 and ranks 11th overall. It is the clearest demonstration in the index that a pillar leader is not an overall leader. A reader who cares only about air, climate exposure, sun and ecosystem health should be looking at Panama first and reading the ranking second.

THE ONE DESTINATION THAT COMES CLOSEST TO TWO

Andorra leads Safety and Freedom at 96.0 and is fourth on Nature at 62.9, behind Panama, Australia (73.4) and Malta (72.6). No other destination is top five on two pillars and top three overall. That breadth, not a peak, is what puts it 0.21 points off first.

WHERE THE SPREAD IS WIDEST

Tax runs from 96.0 down to 11.0 and Quality of Life from 100.0 to 18.8. Those two pillars do most of the work of separating destinations. Residence and Access is the narrowest, with a universe mean of 53.9.

WHAT THE PILLARS TRADE OFF

An index of five equally weighted pillars implies five separate things are being measured. That is testable, and on this data it is only mostly true.

PILLAR PAIR	CORRELATION	SCORED	READING
Tax and Safety	-0.30	63	Pulls against each other
Tax and Quality of life	-0.22	63	Pulls against each other
Tax and Residence	+0.03	60	Independent
Nature and Quality of life	+0.05	63	Independent
Nature and Tax	+0.08	63	Independent
Nature and Residence	+0.13	60	Independent
Residence and Safety	+0.18	60	Independent
Residence and Quality of life	+0.24	60	Mildly related
Nature and Safety	+0.25	63	Mildly related
Safety and Quality of life	+0.62	63	Largely the same dimension

Pearson correlation across the destinations holding both pillars. Correlation describes the universe as a whole and says nothing about any single destination.

LOW TAX COMES AT A PRICE

Tax pulls against both of the pillars a reader might assume it came bundled with: -0.30 against Safety and Freedom and -0.22 against Quality of Life and Infrastructure. Of the 19 destinations scoring 80 or better on Tax, the average Quality of Life score is 46.0 against a universe average of 50.8.

BOTH AT ONCE, AND ONLY JUST

Exactly **2** of the 63 destinations clear 80 on Tax and on Quality of Life together: **Monaco and Hong Kong**. Everywhere else, one is bought with the other.

TWO PILLARS, ONE DIMENSION

Safety and Quality of life correlate at +0.62, the strongest pair in the index. They are not measuring the same inputs, but they are largely measuring the same underlying thing: how well a state works for the person living in it.

WHAT THAT COSTS THE READER

Under equal weights those two pillars carry 40% of the overall score between them while behaving partly as one. A destination that is well run is rewarded twice, and a poorly run one penalised twice. This is a real limitation of equal weighting and it is not corrected anywhere in the scoring.

THE CASE FOR KEEPING NATURE IN THE INDEX

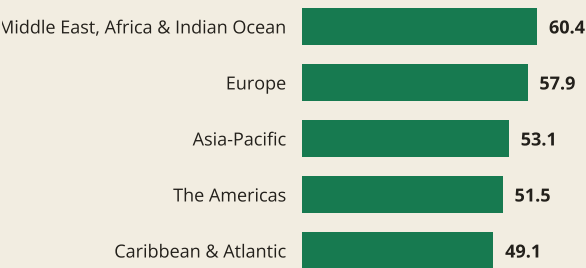
The two least related pillars are Tax and Residence, at +0.03. More useful than any single pair, Nature & Climate is the most independent pillar overall: its strongest relationship with anything else is 0.25 and its average is 0.13. That is the argument for its inclusion, because it is the one dimension the other four cannot stand in for. It is also why Panama can lead it outright and finish 11th overall.

FIVE REGIONS, ONE PATTERN

Regional labels are editorial groupings for reading convenience, not a scored variable. The mean score and median rank show how each bloc performs as a whole; the top-three column shows who carries it.

REGION	DESTINATIONS	MEAN SCORE	MEDIAN RANK	TOP THREE
Middle East, Africa & Indian Ocean	5	60.4	17.0	#3 United Arab Emirates · #12 Seychelles · #17 Mauritius
Europe	28	57.9	26.5	#1 Monaco · #2 Andorra · #4 Malta
Asia-Pacific	11	53.1	38.0	#7 Singapore · #9 New Zealand · #16 Hong Kong
The Americas	9	51.5	48.0	#11 Panama · #22 Uruguay · #23 Costa Rica
Caribbean & Atlantic	10	49.1	38.5	#8 Cayman Islands · #27 Saint Kitts and Nevis · #30 Puerto Rico

MEAN OVERALL SCORE BY REGION



Europe is the largest bloc at 28 destinations and the deepest, with a median rank of 26.5 and the top two places. Its regional Safety mean of 76.2 is the highest of the five and its Tax mean of 47.6 the second lowest.

Middle East, Africa and the Indian Ocean has the highest mean score of any bloc, but on only 5 destinations. That is a small-sample artefact of the universe rather than a regional finding, and it should be reported as one.

The Caribbean and Atlantic bloc is the sharpest illustration of what this index rewards and does not. Its Tax mean of 73.2 is the highest of the five regions, and its Quality of Life mean of 36.2 the lowest. Three of its ten members are the three destinations with no Residence and Access score at all.

ASIA-PACIFIC

11 destinations, a mean of 53.1, and only Singapore (7th) and New Zealand (9th) in the top ten. The bloc's Nature mean of 43.0 is the lowest of the five, driven by air quality: Indonesia (30.0 micrograms) and the Philippines (19.0) are the two worst PM2.5 readings in the universe after the UAE.

Region assignments are listed in report/build/data.py. Georgia is grouped with Europe and Cape Verde with Africa and the Indian Ocean; both could be placed differently and this page would change. No pillar score depends on the grouping.

TWO CUTS A READER **ACTUALLY** USES

The overall ranking answers one question. These two answer the questions Nomad's readers ask instead: where is the tax genuinely nil, and where can I both get in and live well once I am there.

A ZERO BLENDED RATE IS NOT THE SAME AS A TOP TAX SCORE

#	DESTINATION	TAX PILLAR	TREATIES	QUALITY OF LIFE	OVERALL
1	Monaco	84.0	10	100.0	73.89
8	Cayman Islands	90.0	1	35.3	66.50
27	Saint Kitts and Nevis	91.0	6	26.3	54.57
32	Antigua and Barbuda	91.0	12	29.8	53.01
34	Bahamas	90.0	0	26.6	52.84
57	Vanuatu	90.0	0	18.8	43.07

The six destinations whose blended rate, 70% of the foreign-source rate under the claimed regime plus 30% of the top local rate, is an exact zero. Tax pillar scores still differ because regime quality, wealth and inheritance tax and treaty network carry 45% of the pillar between them.

STRONG ROUTE IN, STRONG LIFE ONCE THERE

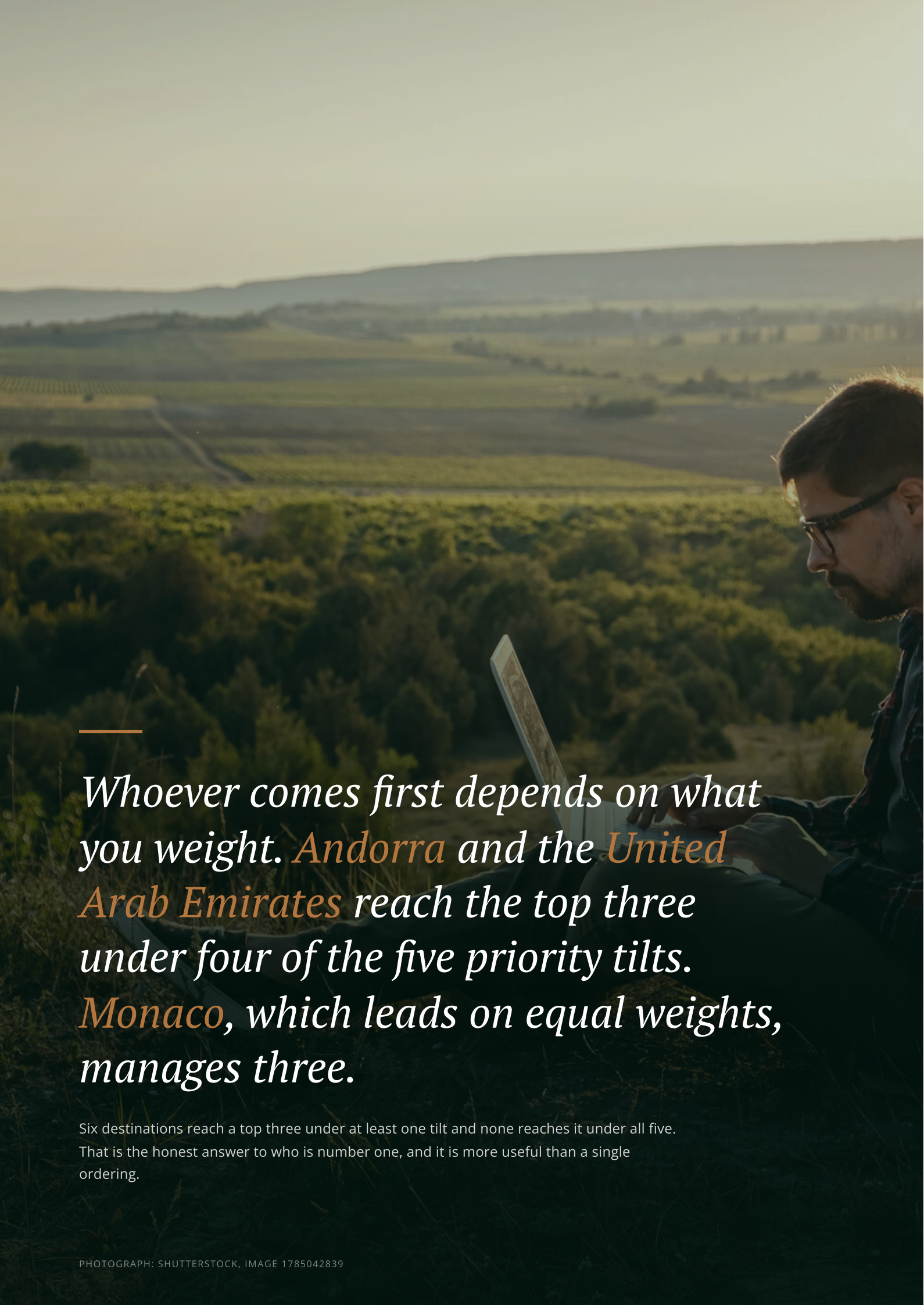
#	DESTINATION	RESIDENCE & ACCESS	QUALITY OF LIFE	PATHWAYS OPEN	YEARS TO NATURALISATION
3	United Arab Emirates	78.7	72.6	5 of 5	30
4	Malta	95.0	56.1	5 of 5	5
5	Portugal	78.9	59.6	5 of 5	10
9	New Zealand	78.9	58.3	3 of 5	5

READING THE SECOND CUT

Filtered to a Residence and Access score of 75 or better and a Quality of Life and Infrastructure score of 55 or better. Only 4 of 60 fully scored destinations clear both bars. Malta clears them by the widest margin on access and the narrowest on quality of life; the UAE is the only one of the four to clear both comfortably.

WHAT NEITHER CUT MEASURES

Cost. v3 scores no affordability signal anywhere: the accessibility ladder that priced a golden visa against a free digital nomad visa was dropped from the Residence pillar in the 27 August revision, and no investment threshold is scored. A five-pathway count treats a free remote-worker visa and a seven-figure investment route as equal. 11 destinations hold all five pathways on that basis.



*Whoever comes first depends on what you weight. **Andorra** and the **United Arab Emirates** reach the top three under four of the five priority tilts. **Monaco**, which leads on equal weights, manages three.*

Six destinations reach a top three under at least one tilt and none reaches it under all five. That is the honest answer to who is number one, and it is more useful than a single ordering.

06

ROBUSTNESS CHECKS AND APPENDIX

Ten weight perturbations, worst-case rank correlation 0.9757. The ordering of all 63 destinations is stable. Which of the three leaders is first is not, and the pages that follow show why.

IS THE RANKING WEIGHT-FRAGILE?

Each pillar weight was moved up and then down by five percentage points, the other four rebalanced across the remainder, and all 63 destinations rescored. Ten perturbations in all, and every one of them recomputed rather than estimated.

0.9757

WORST-CASE SPEARMAN RANK CORRELATION WITH THE BASELINE

8 of 10

WORST-CASE RETENTION OF THE BASELINE TOP TEN

10

PERTURBATIONS RUN, PLUS AND MINUS 5PP ON EACH OF THE FIVE PILLARS

PILLAR REWEIGHTED	CHANGE	SPEARMAN VS BASELINE	TOP-10 RETENTION
Nature & Climate	+5pp	0.9967	9 of 10
Nature & Climate	-5pp	0.9952	10 of 10
Tax	+5pp	0.9757	8 of 10
Tax	-5pp	0.9808	10 of 10
Residence & Access	+5pp	0.994	10 of 10
Residence & Access	-5pp	0.9966	9 of 10
Safety & Freedom	+5pp	0.9894	10 of 10
Safety & Freedom	-5pp	0.9853	9 of 10
Quality of Life & Infrastructure	+5pp	0.9939	9 of 10
Quality of Life & Infrastructure	-5pp	0.9923	9 of 10

The ordering is stable. The lowest rank correlation with the baseline across any of the ten perturbations is 0.9757, on a five-point increase in the Tax weight, and between 8 and 10 of the baseline top ten survive every perturbation. A five-point move in one weight does not rewrite this table.

WHAT THIS PROVES, AND WHAT IT DOES NOT

This is a statement about the **ordering of all 63 destinations overall**. It is not a statement about the top three. A Spearman of 0.9757 across 63 places is entirely compatible with first, second and third swapping between themselves, and they do. The next page shows exactly how. Do not read weight stability as a claim that Monaco is first under any weighting.

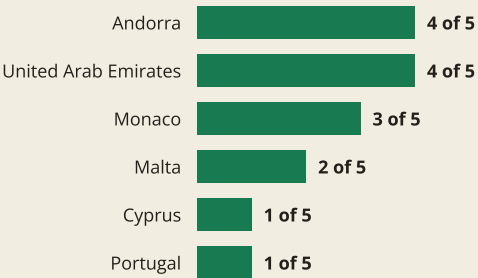
Source: data/processed/v3-weight-sensitivity.csv, generated by scripts/v3_scenarios.py against the v3 equal-weight baseline. Spearman is the rank correlation between the perturbed ranking and the baseline across all 63 destinations. Perturbations are deterministic; nothing on this page is sampled or simulated.

PRIORITY TILTS, AND WHY THERE IS NO SIMULATION

Five tilts. In each one a single pillar carries 40% and the other four 15% each. Every destination is rescored and the top three reported. This is the second robustness check in full.

PILLAR AT 40%	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
Nature & Climate	Malta	Andorra	United Arab Emirates
Tax	United Arab Emirates	Monaco	Andorra
Residence & Access	Malta	United Arab Emirates	Cyprus
Safety & Freedom	Andorra	Monaco	Portugal
Quality of Life & Infrastructure	Monaco	Andorra	United Arab Emirates

APPEARANCES IN A TOP THREE



Six destinations reach a top three across the five tilts. None reaches all five.

The finding is the instability, not the stability.

Andorra and the UAE appear in four tilts, Monaco in three, Malta in two, Cyprus and Portugal in one each. Cyprus enters only when Residence and Access leads, Portugal only when Safety and Freedom does. So the answer to who is first is that it depends on the reader's priority, and on equal weights the three leaders sit within 0.74 points of each other, which is consistent with that.

Reported this way a reader can find their own row. Someone moving for air and climate gets a different top three from someone moving for a tax residence.

WHY NO SIMULATION IS REPORTED

No probability is reported anywhere in this index, because there is no random variable to attach one to.

A weighted simulation over the pillar weights was built and then removed. Its headline percentages were a property of the concentration parameter chosen for the draw rather than of the data. A frequency across trials reads to a reader as a probability, and pillar weights are a normative choice about what matters in a life rather than a random variable, so there is no probability to quote. And simulating alternative weightings reopens the exact argument that equal weighting exists to close.

Source: data/processed/v3-scenarios.json, generated by scripts/v3_scenarios.py. Both checks on these two pages are deterministic recomputations of the published method.

METHODOLOGY IN FULL

PILLAR	WEIGHT	SUB-PILLARS AND INTERNAL WEIGHTS	SOURCES
Nature & Climate	20%	Air Quality 30%, Climate Risk 25%, Sun & Solar 25%, Ecosystem Vitality 20%; Beach Health an unweighted bonus	IQAir; Germanwatch; Solargis; Yale EPI; Ocean Health Index
Tax	20%	Effective rate 55%, regime quality 20%, wealth & inheritance 15%, treaty network 10%	Nomad's own workbook, with IBFD and revenue-authority pages behind each cell
Residence & Access	20%	Percentile-ranked Passport Index 40%, Residence Programs Availability 40%, Time to Naturalization 20% (with a restrictiveness deduction)	Nomad Passport Index and Nomad's own pathway research
Safety & Freedom	20%	Global Peace Index rank, Numbeo safety, Human Freedom Index, Nomad Freedom Score	Institute for Economics and Peace; Numbeo; Cato and Fraser; Nomad Freedom Index
Quality of Life & Infrastructure	20%	Cost of living, quality of life, mobile and fixed broadband speed, life expectancy	Numbeo; Ookla Speedtest; WHO

Universe and weighting. 63 destinations, unchanged since the methodology lock, 60 of them scored on all five pillars. All five pillars carry 20%, so the overall score is the unweighted mean of the five pillar scores. This is Nomad's own proposal of 27 August 2026, replacing a bespoke 25 / 20 / 20 / 15 / 20 scheme. Equal weighting is easier to defend than a chosen weighting and removes the objection that the weights were picked to produce the answer.

Normalisation. Metrics are scaled to 0 to 100 across this 63-destination universe, inverted where a lower raw value is better. Following the 4 September 2026 revision, Air Quality, Climate Risk, Sun and Solar, and the Nomad Passport Index sub-pillar inside Residence and Access use **percentile-rank** normalisation rather than min-max. The reason was concrete: the UAE's PM2.5 of 36.4 micrograms is far worse than the next worst reading, Indonesia at 30.0, so under min-max the UAE anchored the bottom of the scale and compressed everyone above it, leaving Indonesia on 18.8 out of 100 when it belongs near the bottom. Under percentile rank Indonesia scores 1.6. The Tax pillar is not normalised at all: it is anchored to stated formulas.

Residence and Access, in full. The pillar is **not** an equal-thirds mean. As of 4 September 2026 it is 40% percentile-ranked Nomad Passport Index, 40% Residence Programs Availability and 20% Time to Naturalization. The naturalisation weight was brought down because a single long requirement was dominating the pillar: Andorra's twenty-year requirement scores 0 and was pulling its whole pillar down by a third under equal thirds. That was fixed by reweighting, not by rescoring the input. The Passport Index is converted to a percentile rank across the 63 destinations before it enters the average, because it is Nomad's own proprietary index on roughly a 52 to 109 scale, which cannot be averaged directly against two 0 to 100 scores. Ties are handled by the midrank convention, so tied destinations all take the average of the ranks they span, and there are real ties: Australia, Monaco and Poland all sit at 104.5. Malta, the pillar leader, works out as $0.4(100) + 0.4(100) + 0.2(75) = 95.0$, its published pillar score, and all 60 scored destinations reconcile exactly.

Imputation, and its flag. A blank Nature and Climate input is filled at that column's own 63-destination mean and flagged as imputed in the workbook's own notes. 8 destinations carry at least one imputed Nature input: Andorra, Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Puerto Rico and Singapore. That convention, agreed with Nomad on 4 September 2026, took Nature from 55 of 63 destinations computing to 63 of 63, and an imputed value is never presented as a measurement.

Missing pillars. Nature and Climate, Safety and Freedom, and Quality of Life and Infrastructure may be mean-imputed and flagged, because those three are broad enough that assuming roughly average is defensible. **Tax and Residence and Access are never imputed**, because no universe mean is a sound proxy for a country's actual tax regime or visa system; the pillar is dropped instead and the remaining four weights renormalise to 25% each. That is the rule behind the three four-pillar rows: Cayman Islands, Puerto Rico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Within-pillar gaps and robustness. A destination missing one metric inside a pillar is scored on the mean of the metrics it does have, never zero-filled and never penalised for the gap, with coverage recorded alongside the score. Two deterministic robustness checks are reported: ten weight perturbations of five percentage points, and five priority tilts placing one pillar at 40% against 15% on the other four. No simulation and no confidence interval appears anywhere in this index.

NAMED SOURCES

Every external dataset used, with the vintage actually scored. Where a source does not cover a destination, that is recorded as a coverage boundary and not filled from a different source without a flag.

INPUT	SOURCE AND VINTAGE	HOW IT IS USED
Air Quality	IQAir World Air Quality Report 2025	Annual average PM2.5, in micrograms per cubic metre, lower is better. Ground-monitor data. Monaco is filled from the World Bank satellite-derived series (EN.ATM.PM25.MC.M3, 2023) and flagged, because IQAir reports no stations for it.
Climate Risk	Germanwatch Climate Risk Index, 2026 edition	Long-term ranking, 1995 to 2024, of 174 countries. A 2025 standalone edition does not exist, so the 2026 edition is the nearest available. Rank 1 is most affected, so a higher rank number scores better.
Sun & Solar	Solargis / Global Solar Atlas	Long-term annual global horizontal irradiation at each destination's country centroid, converted to a daily average in kWh per square metre.
Cross-check on solar	Copernicus ERA5 reanalysis, 2025	Surface solar radiation downwards, all twelve months of 2025 averaged at the nearest 0.25-degree grid point. Held as an optional cross-check on the Solargis figure, not scored.
Ecosystem Vitality	Yale Environmental Performance Index 2026	Ecosystem Vitality component, used as published on its own 0 to 100 scale with no rescaling. 177 countries.
Beach Health	Ocean Health Index 2025 Global Assessment	Reported as an unweighted bonus alongside the Nature pillar and not scored into it. Landlocked destinations are recorded as not scored rather than zero.
Residence & Access	Nomad Passport Index	Nomad Capitalist's own proprietary index, carried over unchanged and converted to a percentile rank with midrank tie handling before it takes its 40% of the pillar. Not supplied for Cayman Islands, Puerto Rico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
Safety & Freedom	Global Peace Index; Numbeo; Human Freedom Index 2022; Nomad Freedom Index	Four metrics. Coverage across the 63 is gpi rank 43, numbeo safety index 52, hfi score 2022 49, nomad freedom score 61, so most destinations are scored on the mean of the metrics they carry.
Quality of Life	Numbeo cost of living and quality of life; Ookla Speedtest Global Index; WHO	Five metrics. Coverage is numbeo col index 52, numbeo qol index 41, speedtest mobile mbps 38, speedtest fixed mbps 49, who life expectancy 2021 62.
Tax	Nomad's own workbook, with IBFD and revenue-authority pages behind it	Foreign-source and local statutory rates, regime coverage, duration and access, wealth and inheritance status, and treaty counts. Treaty counts sourced to official pages where available and to secondary aggregators otherwise; those cells are marked for spot-check in the workbook.

ONE SOURCE THAT IS NOT USED, AND WILL NOT BE

No data from any competing residency or citizenship advisory firm appears anywhere in this index. The residency and citizenship threshold dataset was re-sourced to primary government pages on 6 August 2026. Under v3 that dataset is not scored at all, but it remains in the repository primary-sourced.

Nomad's own two indices, the Passport Index and the Freedom Index, are used as supplied. Where a source's own vintage differs from its label, the label here follows the file that was actually read.

LIMITATIONS, STATED

An index is only as good as the boundaries it admits to. These are the ones that matter here, and each is fixable or disclosable rather than hidden.

1 Three destinations have no Residence and Access score.

Cayman Islands, Puerto Rico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have never been supplied with a Nomad Passport Index score, so the pillar is dropped and their other four weights renormalise to 25% each. They rank 8, 30, 63. Those three ranks carry less information than the other 60, and supplying three Passport Index figures would close the gap entirely.

2 Portugal is scored on Nomad's published access factor, and the stricter reading is priced here.

Nomad's access ladder scores a narrow profession list at 0.60 and a fee below EUR 150,000 at 0.90. Portugal's IFICI regime is profession-restricted, which points to 0.60, and Nomad's published index applies 0.90 on the basis that a board seat at a qualifying entity opens it. This report follows the published figure, because the access factor is a stated input of Nomad's own methodology rather than a reading this report is free to revise. Take the stricter view and Portugal's Tax score falls from 78.0 to 61, its overall score from 70.09 to 66.75, and its position from fifth to seventh, behind Cyprus and Singapore. No other destination moves.

3 Several microstates and Caribbean territories are structurally absent from global datasets.

Germanwatch's Climate Risk Index does not include Monaco, Andorra, Liechtenstein or the Cayman Islands; Yale's EPI does not include them either. That is a coverage boundary in the sources, not a research failure, and it is why 8 destinations carry an imputed Nature input. The same gap recurs in Numbeo, the Global Peace Index and the Human Freedom Index, where the Safety pillar's best-covered metric reaches only 61 of 63.

4 v3 measures no affordability signal at all.

The residence pathway count treats a free digital nomad visa and a seven-figure golden visa as equal, and no investment threshold is scored anywhere. Nomad accepted that trade on 27 August 2026 in exchange for a metric its own team can populate consistently. It is a real loss of resolution and the next edition should price the routes it counts.

5 Two Nature sub-pillars are relative and three are absolute.

Air Quality, Climate Risk and Sun and Solar are percentile-ranked across these 63 destinations, so those scores describe standing within this universe rather than an absolute climate rating. Ecosystem Vitality is used as published. Adding or removing a destination moves the first three and not the last.

6 The Climate Risk direction is an assumption, and should be confirmed.

The workbook reads the Germanwatch rank so that a higher rank number, meaning less affected, scores better. That is the sensible reading and it has not been confirmed in writing by Nomad.

7 Treaty counts and some naturalisation notes rest on secondary sources.

Several treaty counts in the Tax pillar trace to aggregator pages rather than the revenue authority's own list, and are marked for spot-check in the workbook. The naturalisation restrictiveness notes are free text entered by Nomad's team and are condensed rather than quoted in this report.

8 Region labels are editorial.

The five regional groupings are a reading convenience. Georgia is grouped with Europe and Cape Verde with Africa and the Indian Ocean; either could be placed differently. No score depends on the grouping.

GLOSSARY

TERM	MEANING
Equal weighting	All five pillar weights set to the same value, so the overall score is the plain mean of the five pillar scores.
Min-max normalisation	Rescaling a metric so the worst value in the universe scores 0 and the best scores 100, with everything else in proportion to the raw gap.
Percentile rank	Rescaling a metric by position rather than by distance, so one extreme value cannot compress the rest of the scale. Used for Air Quality, Climate Risk, Sun and Solar, and the Passport sub-pillar.
Midrank	The convention for ties in a rank: every tied destination takes the average of the ranks the tie spans. Used on the Nomad Passport Index, where several groups of destinations share a score.
Anchored score	A score computed from stated formulas over stated inputs rather than relative to the other destinations. The Tax pillar is anchored.
Mean imputation	Filling a blank input at that column's own universe mean, always flagged as imputed and never presented as a measurement.
Renormalised weights	When a pillar is dropped for a destination, the remaining four weights are scaled up to total 100%, here 25% each.
Blended rate	70% of the foreign-source tax rate under the claimed regime, taken as a ten-year average, plus 30% of the top local statutory income rate.
Regime quality	Coverage times duration times access for a special tax regime, out of 100. Where none exists, the ordinary code is scored on its own rate rather than as a failed regime.
Access factor	An opt-in multiplier between 0 and 1 recording how hard a tax regime is to qualify for. Where it is entered, the score follows the access-weighted path rather than the primary blended one.
Residence pathway	One of five non-overlapping routes: digital nomad or remote worker, pensioner or rentista, golden visa or investment residence, company formation, and passive income.

TERM	MEANING
Time to naturalisation	Years of legal residence required before citizenship eligibility, banded, with a deduction for restrictive requirements such as language testing or renunciation.
Nomad Passport Index	Nomad Capitalist's own proprietary passport index, carried into the Residence and Access pillar unchanged.
Priority tilt	A recomputation of every score with one pillar set to 40% and the other four to 15% each.
Spearman rank correlation	A measure from -1 to 1 of how similarly two rankings order the same destinations. 1.0 means identical order.
Top-10 retention	How many of the baseline top ten remain in the top ten after a weight perturbation.
PM2.5	Fine particulate matter under 2.5 microns, in micrograms per cubic metre as an annual mean. Lower is better.
Climate Risk Index	Germanwatch's ranking of countries by observed losses from extreme weather. Rank 1 is the most affected.
Ecosystem Vitality	The Yale Environmental Performance Index component covering biodiversity, habitat, air and water quality and ecosystem services.
Human Freedom Index	The Cato and Fraser joint index of personal and economic freedom, one of four metrics inside Safety and Freedom.
Four-pillar destination	A destination scored on four pillars because Residence and Access could not be scored. Always marked in the tables.