

**City Costs Barometer: Cost Comparisons at a glance**

* **Accommodation:** This year’s report found that accommodation prices have fallen in almost three-quarters of the cities surveyed, with costs varying from £67 to £270 for a two-night weekend stay for two at the end of March. For the third year running the cheapest accommodation is in Riga (£67), while two nights in Amsterdam (£270) costs four times as much and Dublin is nearly as expensive at £257. Other cities offering cheap accommodation include Istanbul (£70), Dubrovnik (£76), Vilnius (£77), Moscow (£77) and Porto (£77).
* **Meal costs:** For the second consecutive year the Post Office found that evening meals are cheapest in Athens, where the cost of three courses with a bottle of house wine is on par with last year at £36.65. Istanbul is almost as cheap at £36.66, while a meal in Warsaw costs just over £38. However, visitors to Stockholm could pay £130, while eating out in Oslo costs even more at around £141 for two.
* **Drinks:** Bratislava and Prague are cheapest of the 48 cities for drinks at less than £7 for a coffee, Coca-Cola, beer and glass of wine**.** By contrast, the same four items are priced at over £24 Reykjavik and almost £27 in Oslo, because of the high cost of alcoholic drinks in both cities.
* **Getting around:** Return transfers between airports/train stations and city centres costs less than £2 in Bucharest (£1.37), Bratislava (£1.57), Vilnius (£1.75) and Warsaw (£1.86) but as much as £26.43 in Reykjavik and £37.57 in Bruges. Transfers are free for hotel guests in Geneva – as is a 48-hour travel card. Two-day travel cards can significantly cut the cost of getting around a city. Those in Ljubljana (£1.75), Bucharest (£3.13) and Belgrade (£3.70) are a fraction of the price in Reykjavik (£29.52) or Edinburgh (£38). Belgrade (£3.70) and Bucharest (£4.89) offer best value for a sightseeing bus tour but this will cost visitors far more in London (£33.30) or Oslo (£40.07).
* **Culture Costs**: Visits to their leading museum, gallery and heritage attraction cost under £10 in Belgrade (£5.18), Vilnius (£5.24) and Dublin (£9.61). At the other end of the spectrum, culture vultures will have to pay over £40 to visit the top three attractions in traditional favourites Amsterdam (£49.81), Rome (£42.82) and Vienna (£40.37).
* **Cost of living:** After excluding the cost of accommodation, Post Office Travel Money found that the total cost of the other items surveyed had fallen in 15 cities. The biggest fall of 14.6 per cent was in Strasbourg, while local prices were also down 9.5 per cent in Berlin, 10.1 per cent in Paris, 9.8 per cent in Rome and 10.4 per cent in Venice.

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