

Auckland tops Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index

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1	Vienna		99.1
2	Melbourne		98.4
3	Osaka		97.7
4	Calgary		97.5
5	Sydney		97.4
6	Vancouver		97.3
7	Toronto		97.2
8	Tokyo		97.2
9	Copenhagen		96.8
10	Adelaide		96.6

COVID-19 has shaken up the Economist Intelligence Unit's annual ranking of most liveable cities, propelling Auckland to first place, replacing Vienna, which crashed out of the top 10 as the island nations of New Zealand, Australia and Japan fared best.

The Austrian capital had led the list since 2018 and for years ran neck and neck with Melbourne at the top of the survey of 140 urban centres.

Key Highlights

- New Zealand's elimination of COVID-19 within its borders through lockdown measures helped by its geographic isolation, however, gave its cities a big boost.
- The EIU generally does not make the full ranking public. The last time Auckland was in the top 10 was in 2017, when it came eighth, a position Melbourne shared with Geneva this year. Vienna fell to 12th.
- Illustrating New Zealand's advantage this year, Wellington also entered the top 10. It came fourth behind Osaka, which rose two spots to second place, and Adelaide, which leapfrogged its compatriots Sydney and Melbourne to third place from 10th.
- The latest ranking is from 2019 as last year's was cancelled.
- The European Union struggled to get its vaccination campaign off the ground and many member states including Austria imposed more lockdowns than they had hoped

to, hurting their cities' scores in the measure of 'culture and environment'.

- The four other categories assessed are stability, healthcare, education and infrastructure.

SOURCE: *The Hindu, BBC News*