

WORKSHEET

Choosing a *Base*

Where you live for the next few months decides your costs, your overlap hours, your visa clock and how much work actually gets done. Score it instead of guessing it.

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Why the wrong base costs more than money

A cheap city with a nine-hour gap to your clients is a night shift. A beautiful city with bad internet is a month of apologising in meetings. A city on a 30-day visa is a month of admin. The cost of living is the criterion everyone scores and the least important of the eight, because it is the one you can see from home.

This worksheet asks you to weight all eight for your own situation, then score candidate cities against them. The Cost of Living Atlas and the Nomad Country Fact Sheets in this library supply most of the numbers; EnRoute's coworking directory supplies the desk prices below.

THE DIRECTORY

335 verified coworking spaces in 176 cities, with prices, internet speeds, hours and amenities, at enroutejobs.com/coworking.

01

The eight criteria

Weight them first. Then score each city 1 to 5 on each. Weight × score, summed, is the number.

CRITERION	WHAT TO CHECK	MY WEIGHT (1–5)
Overlap with my work	Hours of overlap with the team or clients at a sane local hour. The Timezone Overlap Planner has the grid.	
Visa clock	How long I can legally stay, whether it burns Schengen days, whether a nomad visa exists and I qualify.	
Internet and power	City guide rating; coworking speeds; whether outages are a thing. A backup (mobile data) that works.	
Monthly cost at my tier	Rent for the flat I actually want, a desk, food. The Atlas figure rebuilt for my habits.	
Safety	City guide score; what people who live there say; my own risk profile.	
Season	Best months for the city. Wet season, heat, grey winter. Whether I arrive in the good half.	
People	A coworking scene, a community for my work or hobby, a language I can get by in.	
Getting there and away	Flights to where I need to be next; cost and time to the next base.	

WEIGHTS ARE PERSONAL

Someone with US clients and a European passport weights overlap and visa low and season high. Someone on a contractor income with a non-EU passport weights the visa clock at five. There is no right weighting, only an honest one.

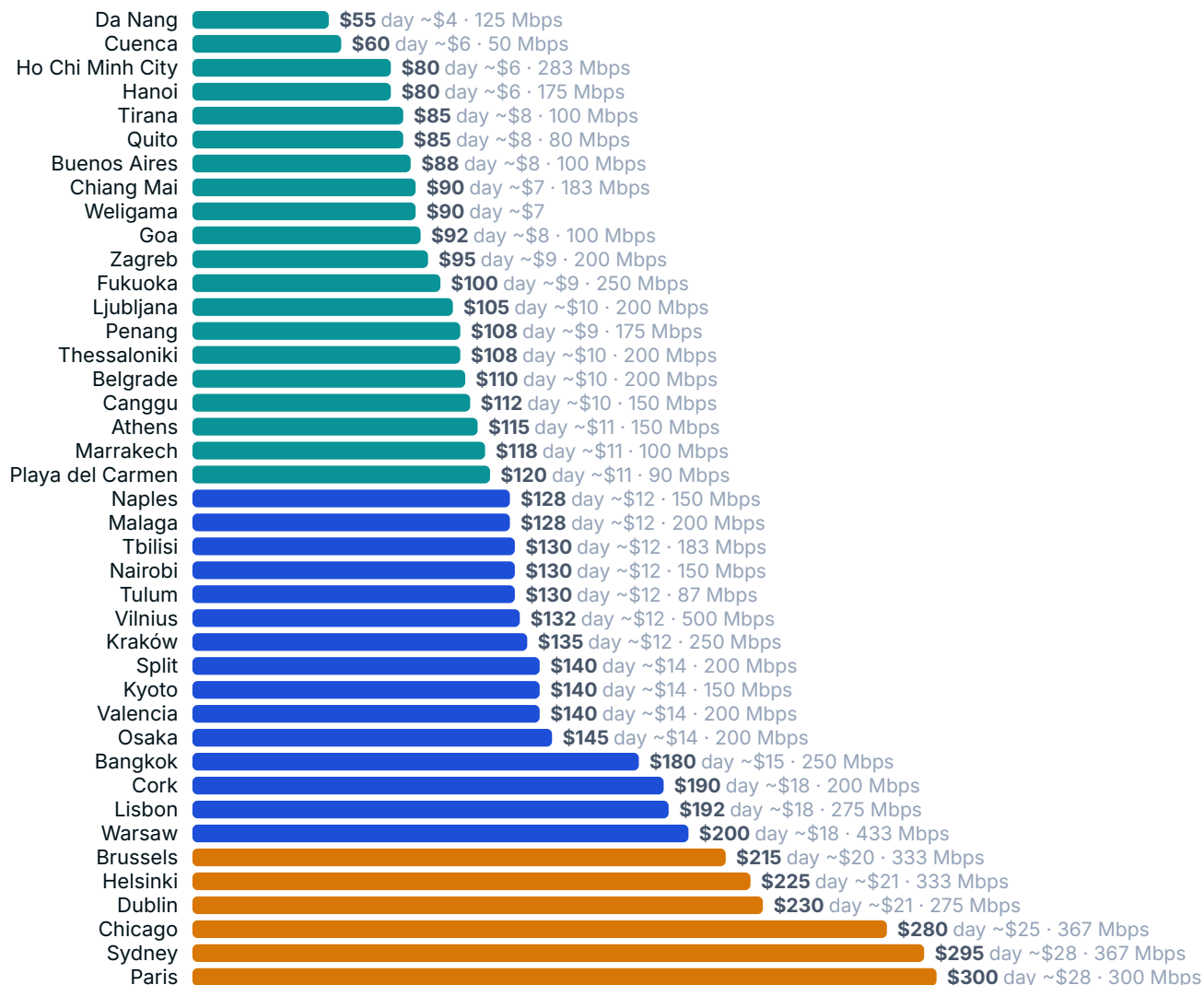
02

What a desk costs

Median hot-desk prices in the cities with the most spaces in EnRoute's directory.

Monthly hot desk, median, USD

From the coworking directory. Day pass median in the note; internet is the average measured speed across the city's spaces.



EnRoute Jobs coworking directory, 2026-09-12

A desk in Southeast Asia, the Caucasus or the Balkans runs \$50 to \$130 a month; in Western Europe, Australia and the US, \$200 to \$300. Measured internet speeds in the cheap cities are not the problem they were a decade ago: the directory's spaces in Ho Chi Minh City, Warsaw and Vilnius average faster connections than those in Paris.

CITY	SPACES	DAY	MONTH	FROM	MBPS	CITY NOMAD TIER	DESK AS % OF MONTH
Da Nang Vietnam	2	\$4	\$55	\$50	125	\$1,400	4%
Cuenca Ecuador	2	\$6	\$60	\$55	50	\$1,400	4%
Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam	3	\$6	\$80	\$65	283	\$1,600	5%
Hanoi Vietnam	2	\$6	\$80	\$70	175	\$1,500	5%
Tirana Albania	7	\$8	\$85	\$70	100	—	—
Quito Ecuador	2	\$8	\$85	\$80	80	—	—

CITY	SPACES	DAY	MONTH	FROM	MBPS	CITY NOMAD TIER	DESK AS % OF MONTH
Buenos Aires Argentina	2	\$8	\$88	\$85	100	\$1,600	6%
Chiang Mai Thailand	3	\$7	\$90	\$85	183	\$1,400	6%
Weligama Sri Lanka	2	\$7	\$90	\$90	—	\$1,400	6%
Goa India	2	\$8	\$92	\$85	100	\$1,500	6%
Zagreb Croatia	2	\$9	\$95	\$60	200	—	—
Fukuoka Japan	2	\$9	\$100	\$90	250	\$2,500	4%
Ljubljana Slovenia	2	\$10	\$105	\$50	200	\$2,600	4%
Penang Malaysia	2	\$9	\$108	\$95	175	\$1,800	6%
Thessaloniki Greece	2	\$10	\$108	\$105	200	—	—
Belgrade Serbia	2	\$10	\$110	\$90	200	\$1,900	6%
Canggu Indonesia	4	\$10	\$112	\$95	150	—	—
Athens Greece	2	\$11	\$115	\$105	150	\$2,800	4%
Marrakech Morocco	2	\$11	\$118	\$105	100	—	—
Playa del Carmen Mexico	2	\$11	\$120	\$110	90	\$2,300	5%
Naples Italy	2	\$12	\$128	\$125	150	—	—
Malaga Spain	2	\$12	\$128	\$125	200	—	—
Tbilisi Georgia	3	\$12	\$130	\$110	183	\$1,300	10%
Nairobi Kenya	3	\$12	\$130	\$120	150	—	—
Tulum Mexico	3	\$12	\$130	\$115	87	—	—
Vilnius Lithuania	2	\$12	\$132	\$105	500	\$2,350	6%
Kraków Poland	2	\$12	\$135	\$110	250	\$2,400	6%
Split Croatia	2	\$14	\$140	\$125	200	\$2,900	5%
Kyoto Japan	2	\$14	\$140	\$130	150	\$2,800	5%
Valencia Spain	2	\$14	\$140	\$125	200	—	—
Osaka Japan	2	\$14	\$145	\$130	200	\$2,700	5%
Bangkok Thailand	3	\$15	\$180	\$150	250	\$1,900	9%
Cork Ireland	3	\$18	\$190	\$170	200	—	—
Lisbon Portugal	4	\$18	\$192	\$160	275	\$3,000	6%
Warsaw Poland	3	\$18	\$200	\$165	433	\$2,600	8%
Brussels Belgium	3	\$20	\$215	\$195	333	—	—
Helsinki Finland	6	\$21	\$225	\$195	333	—	—
Dublin Ireland	4	\$21	\$230	\$195	275	\$4,200	5%
Chicago United States	3	\$25	\$280	\$245	367	—	—
Sydney Australia	3	\$28	\$295	\$265	367	\$4,500	7%
Paris France	3	\$28	\$300	\$300	300	\$4,000	8%

03

The two-week trial

Book two weeks before you book two months.

1

Book a place in the neighbourhood you would actually live in.

Not the tourist centre. Two weeks, cancellable.

2

Work a real week from it.

Take the meetings at the hours they fall. Test the internet at the hour your calls happen, not at noon.

3

Buy a day pass at two coworking spaces.

Sit in each for a full day. Notice who is there and whether you would come back.

4

Price the real flat.

View two long-term rentals. Learn the deposit, the contract length, and whether foreigners need a guarantor.

5

Do the admin walk.

SIM, bank ATM fees, pharmacy, the nearest clinic, the transport card. How long did each take?

6

Score it.

Fill in the comparison sheet on the next page from lived numbers, not the guidebook.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Internet held up through a video call at my working hours | ☐ The visa position is clear and I know my exit date |
| ☐ I found a desk I would pay for monthly | ☐ I know how I would get to a hospital |
| ☐ The flat I would want exists at the price I budgeted | ☐ The season is right for the months I would be here |
| ☐ I met at least three people I would see again | |

04

Three-city comparison

Weight from section 1. Score 1 to 5 from the trial or the guides. Multiply, add.

CRITERION	WEIGHT	CITY A	W×S	CITY B	W×S	CITY C	W×S	NOTES
Overlap								
Visa clock								
Internet and power								
Monthly cost								
Safety								
Season								
People								
Getting there and away								

Total

City A _____ City B _____ City C _____

Monthly cost, my tier (A / B / C) _____

Days I can legally stay (A / B / C) _____

Overlap hours with my work (A / B / C) _____

DECISION, AND THE ONE THING THAT WOULD CHANGE IT

05

The move-on checklist

A base is temporary by design. Leave it cleanly.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Next base chosen and scored, with the visa checked | ☐ Bank account: closed or left with a zero balance and no fees |
| ☐ Flat notice given per the contract; deposit return arranged with dated photos | ☐ Tax: days in country counted and written down |
| ☐ Coworking membership cancelled or paused | ☐ Mail, deliveries, subscriptions redirected |
| ☐ Local SIM: kept for codes, or number ported, or cancelled | ☐ Goodbyes said; contacts kept; reviews written for the places that deserved them |

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MORE FROM THE LIBRARY

- The Cost of Living Atlas
- The Nomad Country Fact Sheets 2026
- The Timezone Overlap Planner
- The Digital Nomad Visa Comparison Chart
- The Relocation Budget and Timeline

All at enroutejobs.com/publications

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