



These are the world's most miserable countries

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THEY are home to some of the world's most spectacular sights and have provided travellers with many happy holiday moments, but it turns out the reality of life in some of the world's most popular destinations is far from rosy.

The 90 most miserable countries in the world have been named by the US think tank the [Cato Institute](#).

There are some rather surprising inclusions. Venezuela, home to the jawdropping Angel Falls, topped the depressing list with a score of 79.4, mainly due to its high rate of inflation.

Iran came in second place with a score of 61.6, followed by Serbia (44.8) Argentina (43.1) and Jamaica (42.3).

Even the host of the world's biggest party the Rio Carnival, Brazil, made the list at ninth place.

Australia didn't fare too badly on the list, ranking at 59th place with a score of 13.3, with interest rates the major cause of sadness. Countries such as the UK, Canada, Germany and Thailand rated happier than us.

The "misery index" was calculated by adding the unemployment rate to the lending and inflation rates, and subtracting the percentage change in Gross Domestic Product per capita.

They were also based on information from the Economist Intelligence Unit and calculations by Steve Hanke, a professor of Applied Economics at Johns Hopkins University.

Here are the top 20 most miserable countries in the world:

1. Venezuela
2. Iran
3. Serbia

4. Argentina
5. Jamaica
6. Egypt
7. Spain
8. South Africa
9. Brazil
10. Greece
11. Macedonia
12. Palestinian Territory
13. Turkey
14. Cyprus
15. Croatia
16. Dominican Republic
17. Georgia
18. Nicaragua
19. Honduras
20. Costa Rica

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