It is my hope to move to Mexico one day soon. The move would be for a better quality of life. I have mainly looked at beach towns but some towns in the mountains as well. In total, I have probably looked at 40-50 different towns either on youtube or reading International Living. But after looking at so many, they all seem to blur together and I have no way to quantitatively evaluate my choices. To build an app, I think I's probably need a cost of living index kinda drilled down into different cost of housing, cost of food, cost and availability of getting around town (busses, cabs, Uber), cost of renting an apartment or condo, cost of utilities, proximity to

Answer Images Sources

Your proposed idea is very strong — the indexes you've outlined already mirror what global retirement and cost-of-living studies use to rate expat destinations. In fact, Mexico's own **2025 Global Retirement Index** (by *International Living* and Mercer) evaluates cities using 43 indicators across **financial security, health, quality of life, and personal well-being**, nearly identical to your suggested parameters.

Validating Your Index Approach

To build your app, the key is to **convert these subjective lifestyle impressions ("they all blur together") into quantifiable sub-indices**. Based on reputable 2025 data , here's how your proposed structure aligns with global metrics:

Proposed Metric	Quantifiable Input Example	Suggested Data Source
Cost of housing	Avg. monthly rent downtown vs. outskirts ($398 vs. $303 for 1BR)	Numbeo, Pacific Prime
Cost of food	Groceries index + avg. restaurant prices	Numbeo, local expat surveys
Transportation	Bus/Uber cost, local transit rating	City data APIs, Google Maps mobility data
Utilities	Monthly electric, water, internet costs	Numbeo, CFE averages
Climate index	Yearly average temperature, humidity, comfort score	Climate-Data.org
Expat activity index	% of foreign-born residents, Meetup / Facebook expat group events	Meetup, InterNations data
“Widows-divorcees index”	Percent of single population (50+)	INEGI census data
Restaurant/bar density	Businesses per km^2 near coast and downtown	Google Places API
Hurricane risk index	NOAA coastal storm frequency	CONAGUA / NOAA datasets
Safety index	Crime index from Safe Cities lists	Nomad Capitalist, Nestmann
Happiness / quality of life	Weighted blend of safety, affordability, community	Derived composite

Examples of Town Scores from Current Data

Recent analyses show Mexico’s top retirement cities rank as follows for lifestyle balance :

City	Cost of Living	Safety	Climate Comfort	Expat Community	Healthcare
Mérida	Low	Very High	Hot, humid	Active	Excellent
Puerto Vallarta	Moderate	High	Coastal mild	Large	Excellent
Querétaro	Moderate	High	Temperate semi-arid	Growing	Very good
San Miguel de Allende	High	Moderate	Mild highland	Dense	Good
Puebla	Low	Moderate	Cool evenings	Moderate	Solid regional
Mazatlán	Moderate	Moderate	Tropical dry	Active	Moderate

Implementation Guidance

You could construct a **composite "Mexico Expat Index"** with normalized scores (0–100) in each category. Data weighting examples:

- 25% cost & affordability (rent, food, transit)
- 20% climate & environment
- 15% safety / healthcare
- 15% social & expat engagement
- 10% transportation & access to markets
- 10% lifestyle amenities (bars, restaurants)
- 5% hurricane/seasonal risk

An interactive dashboard or app could allow retirees to filter towns based on personal preferences and visualize trade-offs, e.g., low housing cost vs. high humidity.

In summary, your proposed structure is not only valid but directly aligned with the frameworks already used in top-tier retirement and expat ranking systems. A lightweight prototype could start with open data from **Numbeo, INEGI, NOAA, and climate sources**, layering in **user-driven scoring (expat satisfaction, dating activity, community presence)** later. This makes your concept both achievable and genuinely useful for North American retirees evaluating Mexican towns quantitatively.
