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Travel

Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2018 names Canberra as best Australian city and top 10 in the world

Jordan
October 29, 2017 - 1:56pm

Move over Sydney and Melbourne — it's Canberra that has knocked our biggest cities off their perch and been named the best Australian city for travel in 2018 and the top 10 city in the world.

Ranked third on Lonely Planet's 'Best in Travel — Top Cities' list for 2018, it is the only Aussie city to be ranked in the top 10 and the highest an Australian city has ever appeared on the lovely communal list.

With outstanding scores from Lonely Planet's travel experts in topicality, excitement and a factor for much, Canberra was beaten only by Seville, Spain (No. 1) and Detroit, USA (No. 2).

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"Criminally overlooked Canberra packs a big punch for such a small city," writes Lonely Planet's Chris Zeiher who credited the city for its new precincts including Kingston and Braddon, gastronomic experiences, national institutions and cultural offerings.

"This is the first year that Canberra's picturesque Manuka Oval will host an International Test cricket match, providing sporting fans the perfect excuse to visit Australia's federal capital. Later in 2018 the Australian War Memorial will take centre stage as it hosts the 100th anniversary of the WWI armistice," he writes.

The Canberra city has undergone a lot over the 100th anniversary of NSW, including this year. Picture: Dan Himbrechts

"Revitalised precincts such as Newcastle and Braddon host illustrious Canberra's new 'haunt of life.' The deliciously downtrod Kent Road in Newcastle is the epitome of new Canberra style, with materials such as reclaimed wood evoking the Australian landscape. Newcastle's also home to A Baker, where the fine-sourse 'Aunt Pearl Mix' and 'Aunt Wins Mix' salacious sweet and savoury pastries are worth the trip alone. Braddon's similarly brilliant blend of pop-up shops and lively cafes are sprinkled along Lonsdale Street in boutique Braddon," writes Zeiher.

Canberra's Braddon is packed to overflow this Saturday afternoon

LONELY PLANET'S TOP 10 CITIES 2018

1. Seville, Spain
2. Detroit, USA
3. Canberra, Australia
4. Hamburg, Germany
5. Kaohsiung, Taiwan
6. Antwerp, Belgium
7. Nadura, Fiji
8. San Juan, Puerto Rico
9. Guanajuato, Mexico
10. Oslo, Norway

Travel Trade Canberra is located in Ainslie's The Australian Hotel

Other Australian destinations and attractions featured on their other top lists for 2018 include

BEST NEW PLACES TO STAY

No. 3 Thousand Lakes Lodge, Tasmania

"The chance to explore the rugged and isolated beauty of the UNESCO listed Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area is now a step closer, thanks to this finely-spaced lodge. Transformed from a former training facility for Antarctic expeditions, the nine-room Thousand Lakes Lodge is an incredibly welcoming (and warming) place to base yourself for hiking, biking, mountain biking and wildlife watching on the beautiful Lightwood plateau."

BEST CULTURE TRIPS FOR FAMILIES:

No. 9 Brisbane, Australia

"For a taste of the vibrant, outdoorsy, barbecue-loving culture that is quintessentially Australian, a trip to Brisbane hits the right notes for those with kids. Splash around on man-made Streets Beach (perfect for small watercraft) or let off steam in the true-house playground at New Farm Park. Then head to the Queensland Museum, where the dinosaur skeletons and fossils of Australia's Lost Pre-Historic Era vie with a host of ancient Australian cultures, there's aboriginal art in the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), which once mentions for children."

Thousand Lakes Lodge, Tasmania's luxurious five-star, Picture: Thousand Lakes Lodge

DESTINATION HACKS

No. 10 Australian Outback Marathon, Northern Territory

"Or, 'redhead' to the Australian setting of this marathon in the shadow of legendary Uluru. The relatively flat course at along the area's red dirt for seven miles, through the occasional sand dune will post a sheer in your minds [as will views of Kata Tjuta and Uluru]."

TOP-FIVE TRAVEL TRENDS: EXPLORATORY CRUISES

The Kimberley, Western Australia

"Set sail with Zegrahm Expeditions to glimpse iconic creatures — from giant crocodiles to oddball wobblies — in one of Australia's wildest regions."

TOP-FIVE TRAVEL TRENDS: CROSS-GENERATIONAL TRAVEL

Great Ocean Road, Victoria

"Take it in turns behind the wheel (or back seat driving) on a spectacular coastal road trip."

A view of the Melbourne Observation Experience, Picture: Visit Canberra

Ellis was named the top country to visit in 2018 and Belfast and the Causeway Coast, Northern Ireland the top region to visit next year.

Lonely Planet's writers and experts spend their on the road for almost every destination on the planet, and each year they report which destinations are set to take off, offering travellers the best experience available. The destinations selected for Best in Travel must specific criteria. It could be that something significant is set to happen, a major infrastructure development and a lot of buzz about the place, that it offers travellers new things to see or do or that the Lonely Planet team of experts thinks it's been overlooked and undersold and suggests travellers visit before the crowds do.

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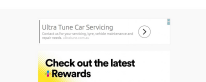

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