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## **Darwin named in Lonely Planet's Top Ten World Cities in 2012**

The internationally renowned travel guide book, Lonely Planet, has today named Darwin as one of the top 10 cities in the world to visit in 2012.

Darwin is the only Australian city to make the prestigious list.

The Lonely Planet's annual *Best in Travel 2012* publication was announced at Sydney's Darling Harbour by Tourism Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy and its Darwin representative, Miriam Raphael.

According to Lonely Planet, Darwin offers a "pumping nocturnal scene, magical markets and restaurants, and world-class wilderness areas just down the road, today **Darwin** is the triumph of Australia's Top End. It's now a hip city to visit..."

Tourism Minister Malarndirri McCarthy said the accolade confirms that Darwin is the best city in the country.

"Darwin is the only Australian destination to be handpicked by Lonely Planet and this is a fantastic compliment to our beautiful city and all the beautiful people who call Darwin home," said Minister McCarthy.

"And to add icing on the cake, Darwin is also the only city that US President Barack Obama has *chosen* to visit during his trip to Australia in coming weeks – it doesn't get any better than that.

"Darwin is a modern, multicultural city with beautiful people, fabulous restaurants, Aboriginal art, beachside markets, inner city nightlife, and a gateway to world famous national parks and cultural heritage sites.

"To capitalise on this fantastic compliment the Territory Government has invested just over \$100,000 in a global public relations campaign including a marketing partnership with Lonely Planet UK, and China's popular travel magazine and website Top Travel."

Darwin's Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer said that the recognition by Lonely Planet truly places Darwin on the global radar.

"Darwin can now add the prestigious title of a top ten city in international tourism to its already sterling reputation as the most sustainable liveable city in Australia." said Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer.

Minister McCarthy was also joined at the launch by restaurateur Jimmy Shu from the Hanuman, musician Jess Ribeiro, and Sylvia Wolf from Tourism Top End.

Other cities to make the list are London, Muscat, Bengaluru (Bangalore), Cádiz, Stockholm, Guimarães, Santiago, Hong Kong and Orlando.

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