

# Australia's top TRIPADVISOR reviewer Linda Bentley names her top 10 travel destinations

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Australia's top TripAdvisor reviewer Linda Bentley at Victoria Peak, Hong Kong.

With a travel CV that covers 946 cities in 29 countries, Linda Bentley's world counts when it comes to travel tips.

The Mosman travel blogger, who has clocked up 2.2 million kilometres of travel spanning 39 per cent of the world, has been crowned Australia's top TripAdvisor reviewer.

With an impressive [648 reviews](#) and 1600 photos uploaded on the travel website, she is also ranked in the top one per cent in the world on TripAdvisor.

"I've spent more on travel than people have spent on their home," she said. "It's not a sacrifice, it's a priority."

We asked Linda to name her top ten travel destinations.

## 1. Stockholm, Sweden



Stockholm, Sweden. Picture: Thinkstock

A visually stunning harbour city, sprawling across 14 islands at the mouth of Lake Mälaren, Stockholm is somewhere I would happily live again.

The Swedes enjoy a high quality of life and they are lovely, social people with the majority of city dwellers speak excellent English.

I love to walk around the beautiful old town Gamla Stan. Everywhere you look is a stunning vista and it's quiet, once you leave the busy tourist street.

Amazingly, for all its history – it shares its island with the gorgeous, royal palace – it's a popular place to live, which keeps the town alive. No crumbling ruins here just stunning architecture and pretty squares.

## 2. Paris, France



Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France, lit up at night.

What more can be said about Paris? Having visited nearly ten times there is always something new to see and marvel at.

It's a never-ending buffet of gorgeous buildings, plentiful history, cultural experiences and, of course, amazing food.

My favourite spot in Paris is the Île Saint-Louis, one of two islands in the Seine – Notre Dame Cathedral is on the other one.

There's a creperie there that's my first and last stop every visit.

## 3. Venice, Italy



Beautiful canals in Venice. Picture: Thinkstock

Like Paris, Venice speaks for itself.

Although swarmed by tourists from February to September, you can still get lost in the quiet back canals and feel like you've stepped back in time.

Its crumbling grace is unique and heart-warming.

A living city that looks like a museum. I love to take walking tours to discover more about this floating dream.

## 4. London, England



The view from Victoria Tower, the lesser known of the two towers of the Houses of Parliament, towards Big Ben, the River Thames and the London Eye.

I love London. I wish it wasn't so crowded – it's becoming rare to hear English spoken on the streets – but it's been an international city for centuries so that's nothing new.

As with all metropolises the beauty is in the buildings, parks and waterways.

Go ahead and do the tourist thing, find out all you can about this monumentally historic city then find one of the many green spaces and absorb it all.

## 5. Barcelona, Spain



Fountains in Ciutadella, Barcelona, Spain

Funky, fast, historic, slow and everything in between.

This is one of the best 'young' cities in Europe. The sharp, cutting edge resides comfortably amongst the soft, aged buildings.

The tree-lined promenade, known as La Rambla, is the main shopping, strolling and eating street. It's the heart of Barcelona and lots of fun.

Shop for butter soft leather goods, visit the spot that marks Christopher Columbus' first stop after discovering the new world and end the night with tapas at one of the many cafés and bars.

## 6. New York City, USA



TripAdvisor reviewer Linda Bentley in Brooklyn, New York.

A different city every time I visit. There's so much changing and constantly flowing that you can never have the same trip twice.

I love lower west Manhattan: Greenwich Village, SoHo, Chelsea and West Village.

This is where I walk and discover evidence of Dutch and early American history lingering in the brick paved streets and gracious, historic buildings.

You can keep Times Square – this is my New York.

## 7. Positano, Italy



The township of Positano. Picture: Toby Zerna

Sublimely beautiful, totally Italian and magnificent in the sun.

Clinging to its hillside, this lovely seaside town delivers Amalfi Coast hospitality every time.

Walking the tight lanes and trying not to get lost, buying handmade leather sandals, stopping to look at art or painted plates, choosing a different restaurant every night or frequenting the same one and establishing a rapport with the staff.

All part of the allure of Positano.

## 8. Copenhagen, Denmark



Copenhagen Harbour in Denmark.

This place makes you care about what you are wearing, what you are eating and where you are going. It's fashionable to its bones yet easy with it.

The Danes are forces to be reckoned with: design, food, fashion...it's all here and they excel at them.

Like Stockholm, it's a beautiful old city with history, architecture and cobbled streets sharing the city with cutting-edge eco-buildings.

## 9. Berlin, Germany



The Berlin Wall in Germany.

A fascinating city where the new and next is constantly being created and discovered at a dizzying pace.

All this change is nothing new to a city that's been destroyed and rebuilt so many times since the 13th century that anything goes here.

The buildings are a mix of Prussian, Bauhaus, post-KGB and 'starchitect' designed edifices.

## 10. Tokyo, Japan



Tokyo by night.

Visiting Tokyo is like walking onto the set of a sci-fi movie: flashing neon, towering buildings and the overwhelming crush of rushing humanity.

Then there are the Anime & Harjuku crowds who parade in the parks on Sunday.

In between these is a rich and powerful history hidden amongst this 21st century noise.

I recommend an early morning city, a stroll through one of the Japanese gardens and a tour of the Imperial Palace to get a different perspective on this fascinating town.

## About Linda



Linda Bentley in the Scottish Highlands

Linda Bentley's wrote her first review for TripAdvisor site when she visited a boutique hotel in Venice that was everything it promised to be.

Since then she has posted reviews about other far-flung destinations but most of her energy has been focused on the US.

A graphic designer and travel photographer, she writes a travel blog called [thepackedbag.com](http://thepackedbag.com) and has written a book about her journey through the US called *The 50/50 Challenge: One Aussie Girl, 50 United States, 50 Weeks and One Packed Bag*.

She is currently preparing for an epic trip across Canada next year.