

## Lonely Planet's top 10 cities for 2011

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Who doesn't love a city? Lonely Planet has scoured the globe for this year's hottest cities. Our top picks show that a city doesn't need to be a heaving metropolis to get on the list. Then again, sometimes it helps. One of our favorites is the world's largest city that cannot be reached by road. And there are even a couple of European cities that remain criminally underrated.

Here they are, **Lonely Planet's top 10 cities for 2011**, ranked in order:

- 1. New York**
- 2. Tangier**
- 3. Tel Aviv**
- 4. Wellington**
- 5. Valencia**
- 6. Iquitos**
- 7. Ghent**

Here's a secret within a secret: Ghent might just be the best European city you've never thought of visiting, in a country that continues to be criminally overlooked. Ghent hides away in the middle of Belgium's big three – Brussels, Bruges and Antwerp. Most Belgium-bound visitors rushing between these see nothing more than the stately fortifications of Ghent's St Pieter's Station. Those who do hop off the train and stroll along the Lee River to the historic centre will have their eyes out on stalks. Here hides one of Europe's finest panoramas of water, spires and centuries-old grand houses. But this is no place to simply kick back: Ghent has one of Europe's most dynamic festival scenes, which vies for visitors' attention. This year the entire centre will emerge from a major program of rebuilding designed to show off the huge pedestrianised squares.

- 8. Delhi**
- 9. Newcastle**
- 10. Chiang Mai**