

Spain, France, & Brazil Voted World's Most Social Countries

• In the cities category, Paris, Cancun, and Madrid took home the gold, with other tourist favorites like Barcelona, London, Rio de Janeiro and New York also in the Top 10.

• The travel website minube collaborated with dozens of tourism offices around the world to encourage citizens to vote for their favorite destinations over their social networks.

• One of the most interesting cases was that of Greece which, after years of economic crisis, rallied its citizens to arrive in 6th place, even ahead of the United States.

March 2014 - What are the world's most social countries? Which cities have the proudest residents? They say "there's no place like home," but this sentiment was put to the test by the online travel site minube (<u>www.minube.net</u>) by asking the world's travelers a simple question: what are the world's most social destinations? What are those must-see places that offer travelers something above and beyond and whose citizens make visitors feel right at home? To support a city or country, all travelers had to do was share their favorite destinations through their social networks using the hashtag #SDAwards or directly on one of the minube's websites in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Italian, and German.

After more than a month of voting, the tallies are in: Spain, France, and Brazil are the top three winners, with Italy, India, Mexico, Greece, the United States, Denmark and Malta rounding out the top 10. Beyond the top 10, we also saw impressive displays from Jordan, Australia, Portugal, Indonesia, Thailand, Ethiopia, and Japan.

Cities and countries duke it out for their place on the tourism map.

In the cities category, Paris, the city of Love and Light, was the clear winner with Cancun and Madrid following closely behind. Rounding out the top ten were Rome, Zaragoza, Barcelona, London, New York, Rio de Janeiro, and San Francisco. The most surprising aspect of this the contest was the sheer amount of voter turnout which helped smaller destinations with passionate voters like Greece, Malta, and the Spanish city of Zaragoza surge ahead of global powerhouses like London, the United States. Rounding out the top ten were Rome, Zaragoza, Barcelona, Barcelona, London, New York, Rio de Janeiro, and San Francisco.

This quest to find the world's most social destinations was launched by minube in order to find the countries with the most active online citizens as well as provide a platform to celebrate each city and country's unique tourism values. During the first round of this annual contest, over 15,700 votes for countries and 69,800 votes for cities were tallied.

The complete contest results can be seen at: www.minube.net/sdawards