



Black Bean Edition
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Nimbin ranked as top hippie destination in Australia

TopTenz, a Virginia-based website that compiles top 10 lists of the best things and places across the world, has listed the top ten hippie destinations in the world and Nimbin is the only place in Australia on the list, coming in at Number 8.

Regarding the 'hippie' tag, *TopTenz* says "The sixties may be long gone but the hippies haven't. With alternative lifestyles which embraced peace, love and a whole lot of tripping out, the hippies had a profound influence on culture as we see it today. They still congregate in a few corners of the world, practising the ideals which they believe in."

According to the list, posted on the website in November, Kathmandu was the number one destination, followed by Vancouver, Canada; Chefchaouen, Morocco; Panajachel, Guatemala; Goa, India; Arembepe, Brazil; Christiania, Denmark; Nimbin, Australia; El Bolson, Argentina; and Ibiza, Spain.

Kathmandu, according to *TopTenz*, attracts hippies from around the world, due to the seemingly arduous travel to get here and the relatively negligible cost of living. "Freak Street still remains a magnet for hippies, alluring many travellers," it said, claiming that hashish can be found in "copious amounts" in Kathmandu.

Local authorities were not



happy about their listing, according to the *Kathmandu Post*: "The inclusion of Kathmandu as the world's top hippie travel destination came as a surprise to the Nepal Tourism Board and travel operators, drawing harsh condemnation from them."

Not so for Nimbin Visitor Information Centre Co-ordinator Andrew Walker, who said, "It's good publicity for the village," which, on vehicle movement calculations, is estimated to attract between 140,000 and 160,000 visitors per year.

The 2008 Australian Regional Tourism Research study on Nimbin, conducted by Southern Cross University, reported visitors' reason for visit – 41.3% Reputation/image, 33.6% Alternative Culture; and activities undertaken – 50.4% Museums and Galleries, 42.2% Alternative Culture.

88.6% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with their visit to Nimbin.

TopTenz described its Number 8 pick in these terms: "A tiny village located in the state of New South Wales, Nimbin saw a counterculture revolution in the 1970's which has survived till date. Of significant cultural importance to Aborigines, you can experience the first rays of sunlight on Mt. Warning and incidentally, on Australia.

"The town itself was the site of the Aquarius festival in 1973 and it seems that many of the visitors relish the amnesia which exists. The citizens of this tiny enclave established a Hemp Embassy whose aim is to disseminate information regarding the use of marijuana as well as provide essential paraphernalia for the same. It's even got a Hemp Bar...."

For more, see www.toptenz.net



Medicinal. Anthony Bower (centre) dispenses cannabis extract to Nimbin resident Smolder.

Medical cannabis dispensary opens in Nimbin on World AIDS Day

If you have a letter from your doctor confirming your condition as one that is known to benefit from cannabis you may be able to visit Australia's first Medical Cannabis Dispensary in Nimbin.

Director of Mullaway's Medical Cannabis Pty Ltd, Anthony Bower says he has waited long enough.

"We are sick of being ignored," said Mr Bower who has been breeding, growing and researching cannabis strains for their medicinal properties for over thirty years.

"The Premiers Department is taking too long, and I have friends who are dying or suffering terrible pain and I know I can help them. It is against my culture to withhold help from someone who asks, if I have the knowledge and the means to assist and reduce their pain and suffering."

"I have been in communication with the Premier and the Health Department for a year now and they are just stalling. Premier Nathan Rees sent his best wishes in his letter last week and I appreciate his support."

A Medical Cannabis Dispensary, which provides therapeutic doses of cannabis, of a known potency and character, to patients who present a recommendation from their doctor, is an entirely unremarkable sight in many western world communities.

In 14 of the US States, the dispensing of medical cannabis is legal, with another 13 indicating an intention to follow very soon. In Los Angeles there are currently more than 1100 dispensaries operating, or three times

as many cannabis dispensaries as there are McDonald's restaurants.

In several Canadian provinces medical cannabis dispensaries have been operating for more than a decade.

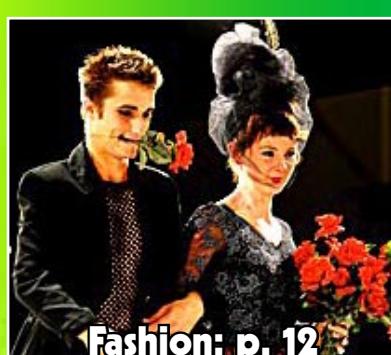
Nimbin's Medical Cannabis Dispensary began operating on World AIDS Day, 1st December, with free medicine dispensed to genuine cardholders from other countries and Australians with a letter from their doctor.

Throughout the world, medical cannabis is used to treat: nausea, vomiting, premenstrual syndrome, unintentional weight loss and lack of appetite, spasticity, neurogenic pain and movement disorders, asthma, glaucoma, inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's disease / ulcerative colitis), migraine, fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries, Tourette's syndrome, obsessive-compulsive disorders, alcohol abuse, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, collagen-induced arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, atherosclerosis, autism, bipolar disorder, childhood mental disorders, colorectal cancer, depression, diabetic retinopathy, dystonia, epilepsy, digestive diseases, gliomas, hepatitis C, Huntington's disease, hypertension, urinary incontinence, leukaemia, skin tumours, morning sickness, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), Parkinson's disease, pruritus, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), sickle-cell disease, and sleep apnoea.

Discuss this with your doctor.



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