The Northern Territory is one of the best tourist destinations in the world, according to a new list released by the National Geographic Traveler magazine today.

Minister for Tourism Matt Conlan said the NT was named among 20 destinations in the magazine’s annual 2014 ‘Best of the World’ list of the top places to visit next year.

“This is fantastic news for the Territory,” Mr Conlan said.

“I’ve always said the Northern Territory is home to world-class attractions and experiences and now this list confirms that.

“It means now the whole world knows the Territory is the place to visit if you want an unforgettable holiday like no other.”

The NT was the only Australian destination to be named in the list.

The destinations on the ‘Best of the World’ list, including the Territory, are featured in the December 2013/January 2014 issue of the National Geographic Traveler magazine available from December 3rd and online at travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/best-trips-2014/.

The magazine claims to be the most widely read travel magazine in the world with 7.6 million readers.

“The exposure the NT will get from making this list will be enormous with the magazine published in 12 languages and in 21 different countries,” Mr Conlan said.

“We’ve been encouraging everyone to Do the NT through our new brand marketing and ad campaigns and this promotion will help drive home that message leading to more tourists visiting the Territory in 2014.”

According to the magazine, the ‘Best of the World’ list reflects what’s authentic, culturally rich, sustainable and superlative in the world of travel today.

“Our annual Best of the World list doesn’t reflect hot spots drawn from celebrity sightings or travel statistics,” said Keith Bellows, editor in chief of National Geographic Traveler magazine.

“It reflects the expertise and experience of National Geographic Travel’s huge network of global travel experts. If you want to explore places worth visiting now, this is a great place to start.”

The magazine describes the Territory as home to: “Colours that sing: rust red earth, deep blue skies, and the golden eyes of watchful crocodiles in the flower-tangled waterways of Kakadu National Park. But it’s the people here who make the place come alive.”
The magazine’s feature on the NT also includes travel tips on when to go, how to get around, where to stay, where to eat and drink, what to buy, cultural tips, helpful links and fun facts.

The destinations featured in the 2014 Best of the World list are (in alphabetical order):

- Alentejo, Portugal
- Arbil, Iraq
- Bolaven Plateau, Laos
- Cacao Trail, Ecuador
- Cape Verde
- Cathar Country, France
- Córdoba, Argentina
- Derawan Islands, Indonesia (readers’ choice)
- Guyana
- John Muir Trail, Scotland
- Liechtenstein
- Nahanni National Park, Canada
- New Orleans, Louisiana
- Northern Territory, Australia
- Nyungwe National Park, Rwanda
- Puglia, Italy
- Ranthambore National Park, India
- Riga, Latvia
- Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado
- Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Sochi, Russia

National Geographic Traveler magazine’s global community of writers, editors and explorers selected 20 of the destinations, and for the first time a readers’ choice submission was also included.

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