



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER MAGAZINE SELECTS WINTER PARK AS A TOP HISTORIC DESTINATION IN THE WORLD

CITY OF WINTER PARK

401 Park Avenue South

Winter Park, Florida

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WINTER PARK, Fla., an internationally recognized ICMA Excellence Award winner (March 13, 2009) – National Geographic Traveler magazine has ranked Winter Park #38 in their list of the world's top historic destinations for their fifth annual "Places Rated" survey. Their annual survey ranks the world's top historic sites and how well they have weathered time and the pressures of mass tourism. The results which included cities across the world such as Sydney Harbor, Australia; York, England; Ghent, Belgium and Monticello, Va., were announced in the final 2008 issue of National Geographic Traveler.

This prestigious ranking in National Geographic Traveler refers to Winter Park as follows: *"This gracious town manages to retain its reputation as an oasis within the helter-skelter growth of Central Florida. Brick streets (which provide natural drainage into the aquifer) are still found throughout. Winter Park's small downtown has a commercial district with some interesting historic buildings and small businesses. It also has a nice historic residential area. There is a clear sense that this is very much a place where people live, work, go to school - not just a showpiece for tourists."*

The judging panel of 280 travel experts was asked to evaluate specific qualities that make a destination unique by measuring the "integrity of a place" and assessing its authenticity and stewardship. Judging guidelines included six criteria: environmental and ecological quality; social and cultural integrity; condition of historic buildings and archaeological sites; aesthetic appeal; quality of tourism management; and outlook for the future.

To review the entire Historic Destinations article, please visit www.nationalgeographic.com/traveler.

For additional information regarding the City of Winter Park, please visit the city's official Web site at www.cityofwinterpark.org.