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Media release

Top tourism businesses named as Awards finalists

Established tourism operators will go head to head with newer businesses in this year's New Zealand Tourism Awards.

The finalists for the most prestigious awards in New Zealand's \$39.1 billion tourism industry have been announced today. 37 finalists from around New Zealand are in the running for 16 awards. The winner of each business category is then in contention for the Air New Zealand Supreme Tourism Award that comes with a prize valued at over \$20,000. The NZME People's Choice Award is up for voting from the public for all finalists that have a customer-facing business.

The 2019 Awards have been updated to align with [the New Zealand Tourism Sustainability Commitment](#), recognising environmentally sustainable and financially successful tourism businesses that embrace kaitiakitanga. Three new awards – for Community Engagement, Employer of Choice Award, and Economic Success – have attracted strong interest from entrants.

"More than 100 tourism businesses and individuals have entered the awards, which celebrate the industry's success, and recognise the efforts of operators to provide economic, environmental and social benefits to New Zealanders and Aotearoa," Tourism Industry Aotearoa Chief Executive Chris Roberts says.

"I'd like to congratulate everyone who took the time to enter the Awards, even if they didn't make it to finalist status. The Awards are a valuable opportunity to benchmark your business against your peers and demonstrate that you are striving to be the best."

Three leading tourism professionals will also be recognised with individual awards. As well as the Emerging Tourism Leader Award and Tourism Industry Champion Award, the Sir Jack Newman Award will be announced. Annually since 1963 this award has recognised an individual's outstanding contribution to tourism in New Zealand.

All the winners will be revealed at a black-tie dinner in Christchurch on Thursday 24 October.

About the New Zealand Tourism Awards

The New Zealand Tourism Awards 2019 are run by TIA, with Award Partners Air New Zealand and the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment. The Awards are also supported by Auckland Airport, Angus & Associates, Department of Conservation, Enviro-Mark Solutions, The Great Journeys of New Zealand, operated and owned by Kiwirail, He Kai Kei Aku Ringa, Horwath HTL, Marsh, NZME, PATA New Zealand Trust, Tourism Talent, Tourism Ticker, Westpac, New Zealand Māori Tourism, ChristchurchNZ, Hamish Fletcher

TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

Inspire House, 125 Featherston St, Wellington 6011, New Zealand
P +64 4 499 0104 www.tia.org.nz E info@tia.org.nz



Lawyers, Pacific Tourways, Christchurch Casino, Monteith's, Tourism Industry New Zealand Trust and Vbase as an Event partner.

For more information on the New Zealand Tourism Awards, visit www.nztourismawards.org.nz

2019 New Zealand Tourism Awards finalists

Auckland Airport Tourism Sustainability Business Excellence Award – more than \$6m annual turnover

- [Air New Zealand](#)
- [INFLITE](#), Auckland
- [Southern Discoveries](#), Queenstown and Fiordland

Tourism Ticker Tourism Sustainability Business Excellence Award – less than \$6m annual turnover

- [Forgotten World Adventures](#), Taumarunui
- [Kaitiaki Adventures](#), Rotorua
- [Redwoods Treewalk & Nightlights](#), Rotorua

He Kai Kei Aku Ringa Māori Tourism Award

- [Kaitiaki Adventures](#), Rotorua
- [MDA Experiences](#), Rotorua
- [Wharewaka o Pōneke Enterprises Ltd](#), Wellington

Westpac Economic Success Award

- [GCH Aviation Ltd](#), Christchurch
- [Redwoods Treewalk & Nightlights](#), Rotorua
- [Skyline Queenstown](#)

The Great Journeys of New Zealand Industry Enabler Award

- [Auckland Airport](#)
- Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (ATEED) & Tomahawk – [Go With Tourism](#)
- Department of Conservation – [2018-19 'Kiwi Way' summer visitor campaign](#)

Community Engagement Award

- [Coastal Pacific, A Great Journey of New Zealand](#)
- [Stray & Kohutapu Lodge](#), Murupara
- [Skyline Queenstown](#)

Angus & Associates Visitor Experience Award

- [Auckland War Memorial Museum](#)
- [GO Rentals](#), Auckland
- [Mad Campers Ltd](#), Auckland
- [Owen River Lodge](#), Murchison

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Tourism Talent Employer of Choice Award

- [AJ Hackett Bungy NZ](#)
- [GCH Aviation Ltd](#), Christchurch
- [SkyCity Entertainment Group](#)
- [Sudima Hotels](#)

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment Industry Connections Award

- [CamperMate](#)
- [Development West Coast – Tourism](#)
- [Hamilton & Waikato Tourism](#)

Enviro-Mark Solutions Environmental Award

- [Auckland Zoo – Te Whare Kararehe o Tamaki Makaurau](#)
- [Kiwi Experience](#)
- [Sudima Hotels](#)
- [YHA New Zealand](#)

Department of Conservation - Conservation Award

- [Auckland Whale & Dolphin Safari](#)
- [Auckland Zoo – Te Whare Kararehe o Tamaki Makaurau](#)
- [Black Cat Cruises](#), Akaroa
- [Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony](#)

PATA New Zealand Trust Emerging Tourism Leader Award

- [Jason Dawson](#), Hamilton & Waikato Tourism
- [Adrian Thompson](#), GO Rentals, Auckland
- [Trent Yeo](#), Ziptrek Ecotours, Queenstown

Marsh Tourism Industry Champion Award

- [John Barrett](#), Kapiti Island Nature Tours
- [Fergus Brown](#), Holiday Parks New Zealand
- [Lisa Li](#), China Travel Service (NZ) Ltd, Auckland

For more information, please contact:

Ann-Marie Johnson

Communications Manager

027 600 4565

ann-marie.johnson@tia.org.nz

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KEY FACTS

- Tourism in New Zealand is a \$107 million per day industry. Tourism delivers around \$44 million in foreign exchange to the New Zealand economy each day of the year. Domestic tourism contributes another \$63 million in economic activity every day.
- Tourism is New Zealand's biggest export earner, contributing \$16.2 billion or 20.6% of New Zealand's foreign exchange earnings (year ended March 2018).
- 13.5% of the total number of people employed in New Zealand work directly or indirectly in tourism. That means 365,316 people are working in the visitor economy.
- The **Tourism 2025 & Beyond** sustainable growth framework/Kaupapa Whakapakari Tāpoi has a vision of growing a sustainable tourism industry that benefits New Zealanders.

Visit www.tia.org.nz for more information

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