

Gold sweep for Queensland at Australian Tourism Awards

17 March 2023

- The nation's best of the best in the tourism industry gathered on Friday 17 March in Sydney for the 2022 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards.
- The Qantas Australian Tourism Awards are the biggest annual celebration of tourism business excellence in Australia.
- Out of the 25 award categories, Queensland businesses have taken out seven gold, three silver, and six bronze.
- Having won gold on a state level at the 2022 Queensland Tourism Awards, Queensland's 25 finalists competed for the top gong at the national awards.

Queensland businesses have won big at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards in Sydney, taking out gold, silver or bronze in 16 of the 25 categories.

Overall, Queensland celebrated a remarkable night by accepting 16 accolades at this year's national awards with seven gold, three silver, and six bronze being awarded to exceptional sunshine state operators.

A total of 75 awards were presented across 25 categories with a gold, silver and bronze winner announced for each category. The awards were supported by major sponsor, Qantas, with Tourism Australia and Destination NSW supporting sponsors.

Wildcat Mackay was crowned best new tourism business while the Sunshine Coast's Bli Bli House was named best hosted accommodation.

Brisbane's Fun Over 50 Holidays took out the top gong for tour and transport operator with Cape York Peninsula Lodge crowned the best 4-4.5 star deluxe accommodation in Australia.

The acclaimed BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort was awarded gold for caravan and holiday parks.

The highly coveted tourist attraction award was presented to Queensland icon, Bundaberg Rum Distillery Visitor Experience while Outback Queensland Masters took the title for best festivals and events.

Nine other Queensland tourism operators from the Gold Coast to the Tropical North took to the podium with silver or bronze, including Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary who were crowned Australia's third best major tourist attraction.

Media Release



The Qantas Australian Tourism Awards celebrates innovation and exceptional standards in tourism; and is made possible through the generosity of sponsors, in particular Qantas, Tourism Australia, and the NSW Government through Destination NSW. A warm thanks to The Caravan Industry Association of Australia, Signature Media, Ultimate Winery Experiences, and Novotel: Darling Harbour for their support throughout the awards.

For more information on the Australian Tourism Awards, visit www.qualitytourismaustralia.com/australian-tourism-awards/

Quotes attributable to Queensland Tourism Industry Council CEO Brett Fraser:

“After a stellar year in which Queensland was Australia’s number one domestic visitor destination, it’s phenomenal to see so many of our operators recognised on the national stage.

“We’ve always known Queensland is home to some of the best events, accommodation providers and experiences in Australia, and now it’s official. For Queensland to be awarded gold, silver or bronze in 16 of the 25 categories is exceptional.

“I invite all Queenslanders to spend their next weekend getaway or holiday exploring their own backyard and discovering these award-winning tourism experiences.

“While all the winners and finalists can be congratulated, we’re especially proud of Queensland’s remarkable success at this years’ national awards.”

Quotes attributable to Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchliffe:

“Queensland has literally scooped the pool at the Australian Tourism Awards in Sydney tonight.

“This is Queensland’s best result at the national tourism awards since 2018 and again confirms Queensland as Australia’s leading visitor destination.

“Congratulations to all Queensland Awards winners and finalists on an absolutely magnificent result.

“I want to thank Queensland tourism operators and their communities for their hard work and commitment to building back better and delivering truly outstanding Queensland visitor experiences.

“The resilience, commitment to success and creativity of Queensland tourism businesses really is second to none.

“It’s terrific to see tourism and event operators the Palaszczuk Government has supported through funding initiatives receiving the national recognition for excellence we know they deserve.

Media Release



“The Queensland tourism industry’s incredible awards success sets a benchmark for other states to follow on our runway to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.”

Quotes attributable Tourism and Events Queensland CEO Patricia O’Callaghan

“Queensland’s tourism skyline is full of stars.

“To be taking home the lion’s share of awards at a national level is an outstanding achievement and shows just how dedicated our tourism businesses are right across the state to offer the very best to visitors from around the globe.

“With the country’s best attractions, tours, events and places to stay, a Queensland holiday should be top of every Aussie’s must-do list.

“On behalf of our industry, I offer sincere congratulations to all of the Queensland finalists and award winners tonight. Your passionate and incredible work do our industry proud.”

QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIAN TOURISM AWARDS WINNERS

The following is the complete list of categories and Queensland winners at the 2022 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards. Images and interviews with award recipients can be arranged on request.

GOLD Wildcat Mackay – New Tourism Business

GOLD Fun Over 50 Holidays – Tour & Transport Operators

GOLD BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort – Caravan & Holiday Parks

GOLD Bli Bli House – Hosted Accommodation

GOLD Cape York Peninsula Lodge – 4-4.5 Star Deluxe Accommodation

GOLD Outback Queensland Masters – Festivals & Events

GOLD Bundaberg Rum Distillery Visitor Experience – Tourist Attractions

SILVER Spirits of the Red Sand – Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Tourism Experience

SILVER Ocean Rafting – Adventure Tourism

SILVER Quilpie Visitor Information Centre, Museum & Gallery – Visitor Information Services

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BRONZE Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary – Major Tourist Attractions

BRONZE Sea World Cruises – Major Tour & Transport Operators

BRONZE Mitchell Grass Retreat – Unique Accommodation

BRONZE Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort – Ecotourism

BRONZE Tourism Tropical North Queensland – Tourism Marketing & Campaigns

BRONZE Magnums Unique Accommodation Airlie Beach – 3-3.5 Star Accommodation

– ENDS –

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Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) is the peak industry body for tourism in Queensland representing more than 800 members. QTIC is a not-for-profit, membership-based organisation which, since 2001, has worked to influence and shape the state's tourism business environment that directly contributes \$27.2 billion to the Queensland's economy and employs more than 237,000 Queenslanders.

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