



# Media Release

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## Queenslanders going for gold at Australian Tourism Awards

13 March 2024

- The nation's best of the best in the tourism industry will gather on Friday 15 March in Darwin for the 2023 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards.
- The Qantas Australian Tourism Awards are the biggest annual celebration of tourism business excellence in Australia.
- Having won gold on a state level at the 2023 Queensland Tourism Awards, 21 Queensland tourism operators are finalists across 26 national award categories.

Australia's best of the best in tourism will gather this Friday 15 March at the Darwin Convention Centre for the 2023 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards.

The Qantas Australian Tourism Awards are the biggest annual celebration of tourism excellence in Australia.

Having won gold on a state level at the 2023 Queensland Tourism Awards, held last November at the Cairns Convention Centre, a total of 21 Queensland tourism operators are finalists across 26 national award categories.

At last year's national tourism awards, Queensland operators celebrated a remarkable result by claiming podium finishes in 16 of the 25 award categories. With seven gold, three silver, and six bronze being awarded to exceptional sunshine state operators.

Having won gold at last year's national awards, BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort, Fun Over 50 Holidays, Bundaberg Rum Distillery Visitor Experience and Cape York Peninsula Lodge are all up for the top gong again.

At the 2023 Australian Tourism Awards, Queenslanders will be hoping to, once again, sweep gold and win big on the national stage.

The Qantas Australian Tourism Awards celebrates innovation and exceptional standards in tourism; and is made possible through the generosity of sponsors, in particular Qantas and Tourism Australia.

For more information on the Australian Tourism Awards, visit [www.qualitytourismaustralia.com/australian-tourism-awards/](http://www.qualitytourismaustralia.com/australian-tourism-awards/)



### Quotes attributable to Queensland Tourism Industry Council CEO Brett Fraser:

“I applaud all of the 2023 Australian Tourism Awards finalists and offer a special congratulations to the nominated Queensland tourism operators, who are doing us proud.

“Queensland is home to some of the best destinations, events and experiences in the country and now is our chance to make it official on the national stage.

“Last year’s awards were a tremendous success for our state and we’re hoping to see a repeat of those remarkable wins.

“No state or territory is successful in wowing visitors or becoming a world-class destination without the hard work of its tourism operators. We owe all our tourism triumphs to those businesses that go the extra mile and work tirelessly to deliver outstanding visitor experiences.

“On behalf of our industry, I offer congratulations and wish the very best to all the Queensland finalists.”

### QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIAN TOURISM AWARDS FINALISTS

The following is the complete list of categories and Queensland finalists at the 2023 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards.

- Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary – *(Major Tourist Attractions)*
- Bundaberg Rum Distillery Visitor Experience – *(Tourist Attractions)*
- Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers – *(Major Festivals and Events)*
- Mount Isa Mines Indigenous Rodeo Championships – *(Festivals and Events)*
- Fun Over 50 Holidays: Immersive Tours and Adventures – *(The Steve Irwin Award for Ecotourism. And The Cultural Tourism award)*
- Cape York Peninsula Lodge – *(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism. And 4-4.5 Star Deluxe Accommodation)*
- Whitsunday Coast Airport – *(Tourism Retail and Hire Services)*
- Ipswich Visitor Information Centre – *(Visitor Information Services)*
- Sofitel Brisbane Central – *(Business Event Venues)*
- Ocean Rafting – *(Major Tour and Transport Operators. And Adventure Tourism)*
- Creative Tours – *(Tour and Transport Operators. And Excellence in Food Tourism)*
- Rockhampton Regional Council: Explore Rockhampton campaign – *(Destination Marketing)*



- Sea World Cruises – *(Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services)*
- Tamborine Mountain Distillery – *(Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries)*
- BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort – *(Caravan and Holiday Parks And Excellence in Accessible Tourism)*
- Narrows Escape Rainforest Retreat – *(Hosted Accommodation)*
- Mitchell Grass Retreat – *(Unique Accommodation)*
- Pinnacles Resort Airlie Beach – *(Self Contained Accommodation)*
- Magnums Accommodation Airlie Beach – *(3-3.5 Star Standard Accommodation)*
- The Reef House Boutique Hotel and Spa – *(5 Star Luxury Accommodation)*
- Kokomo Cruises – *(New Tourism Business)*

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#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

Cat Riddle

Communications Manager

[Cat.Riddle@qtic.com.au](mailto:Cat.Riddle@qtic.com.au)

0479 048 686



**QUEENSLAND  
TOURISM INDUSTRY  
COUNCIL**

**Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC)** is the peak industry body for tourism in Queensland representing more than 3,000 members. QTIC is a private sector, 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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