



London Hilton, Park Lane
Thursday 5th June 2003

2003 GROUP TRAVEL AWARDS FULL RESULTS LIST

1) Best Attraction For Group Visits – Long Visit: (*more than two hour stay*)

Winner Eden Project, Cornwall
Runner-Up Alton Towers, Staffordshire
Finalists Beamish – The North of England Open Air Museum, Co Durham;
Hampton Court Palace, Surrey; Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Shropshire;
Leeds Castle, Kent; Warwick Castle

2) Best Attraction For Group Visits – Short Visit: (*less than two hour stay*)

Winner British Airways London Eye
Runner-Up Royal Yacht Britannia, Edinburgh
Finalists Houses of Parliament Summer Opening, London; Shakespeare's Globe, London;
Tower Bridge Experience, London; Vinopolis, London; Wigan Pier Experience

3) Best New Attraction For Group Visits (*opened during 2002*)

Winner The Deep, Hull
Runner-Up Imperial War Museum North, Manchester
Finalists British Empire and Commonwealth Museum, Bristol;
The Workhouse, Southwell, Nottinghamshire

4) Best Overseas Attraction For Group Visits

Winner Disneyland Paris
Runner-Up Keukenhof Gardens, Netherlands
Finalists Floriade 2002, Netherlands; La Coupole, France; Nausicaa, France;
Phantasialand, Germany

5) Best Guided Tour Experience

Winner BBC Television Centre Tours, London
Runner-Up Roman Baths and Pump Room, Bath
Finalists Hatfield House, Hertfordshire; Jorvik Viking Centre, York;
Legal London (City and Village Tours); London Ducktours;
The Tower of London

6) Most Group-Friendly UK Destination

Winner Eastbourne
Runner-Up York
Finalists Birmingham; Blackpool; Bristol; Southern Wales

7) Most Group-Friendly Overseas Destination

Winner Belgium
Runner-Up Ireland
Finalists Austria; Cyprus; Germany; Norway; The Netherlands

8) Best Group Catering Facilities

Winner Harry Ramsden's
Runner-Up Central Hall Westminster
Finalists Brewers Fayre; Leeds Castle, Kent; The Medieval Banquet, London;
Welcome Break

- 9) Best Hotel Chain or Group
 Winner Best Western
 Runner-Up Thistle Hotels
 Finalists Accor; Grand Leisure Hotels; Hilton; Holiday Inn; Swallow Hotels
- 10) Best Individual Hotel for Groups
 Winner Tower Thistle, London
 Runner-Up Grand Burstin, Folkestone
 Finalists The Auckland Hotel, Morecambe; Carlton Hotel, Torquay;
 Chesterfield Hotel, Chesterfield; Hartland Hotel, Bude; St Kilda Hotel, Llandudno;
- 11) Best All-Inclusive Group Holiday Venue
 Winner Thoresby Hall (Warner)
 Runner-Up TLH Leisure Resort, Torquay
 Finalists Butlins, Skegness; Lyme Bay Holiday Village, East Devon (Hollybush Hotels);
 Mill Rythe Holiday Village, Hayling Island (Renowned Holidays);
 Sand Bay Holiday Village, Weston-super-Mare (Hollybush Hotels)
- 12) Best University Accommodation For Groups
 Winner University of St. Andrews
 Runner-Up University of Durham
 Finalists University of Kent at Canterbury; University of Exeter
 London School of Economics and Political Science;
 Queen Mary, University of London
- 13) a) Best Large Coach Operator (*25 coaches or more*)
 Winner Bowen Group Travel, Birmingham
 Runner-Up The Kings Ferry, Gillingham
 Finalists Harry Shaw City Cruiser, Coventry; Heyfordian Travel, Biscester;
 Johnsons Coach Travel, Henley in Arden; Rambler Coaches, St Leonards-on-Sea;
 Redwing Coaches, London;
- b) Best Small Coach Operator (*less than 25 coaches*)
 Winner Nottingham City Coaches, Nottingham
 Runner-Up Scotland and Bates, Appledore, Kent
 Finalists New Enterprise Coaches, Tonbridge, Kent; Chapel End Coaches, Nuneaton;
 Solent Coaches, New Milton; Woods Coaches, Wigston
- 14) Most Group-Friendly UK Rail Operator
 Winner GNER
 Runner-Up Virgin Trains
 Finalists Central Trains; Connex South Eastern; First Great Western; South West Trains
- 15) Best Sea Crossing Operator
 Winner P&O Ferries Dover/Calais route
 Runner-Up Eurotunnel
 Finalists Brittany Ferries; Eurostar; SeaFrance; Stena Line
- 16) Best Airline For Groups
 Winner British Airways
 Runner-Up bmi
 Finalists Easyjet; Ryanair; Qantas; Virgin Atlantic
- 17) Best Inland Canal / Riverboat Operator
 Winner City Cruises, London
 Runner-Up French Brothers, Windsor
 Finalists Catamaran Cruises, London; Kennet Horse Boat Company, Berkshire;
 Mersey Ferries; Waverley Excursions, Glasgow

- 18) Best Off-shore Cruise Line Operator
 Winner P&O Cruises
 Runner-Up Fred.Olsen Cruise Lines
 Finalists Cunard; MSC Cruises; Norwegian Cruise Line; Swan Hellenic
 Commendation P&O Cruises
- 18) Best Information for Groups
 Winner The National Trust Travel Trade Directory
 Runners-Up English Heritage Group Visits Guide
 Finalists Lancashire Group Travel Guide; Northumbria Tourist Board Travel Trade Directory; Portsmouth: The Official Group Travel Guide; V&A Guided Tours For Groups pack; Yorkshire Group Operator Guide
 Commendation Portsmouth: The Official Group Travel Guide
- 19) Best Live Stage / Theatrical Production
 Winner Mamma Mia!
 Runner-Up The Lion King
 Finalists Bombay Dreams; Chicago; Chitty Chitty Bang Bang; My Fair Lady; We Will Rock You
- 20) Best Event for Groups
 Winner RHS Chelsea Flower Show
 Runner-Up Holiday on Ice
 Finalists A Festival of Christmas, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard; BBC Gardeners' World Live; Birmingham International Tattoo; Dickensian Christmas, Rochester; Sewing for Pleasure and Hobbies; Southport Air Show
- 21) Best Group Ticketing Agency
 Winner Applause Groups
 Runner-Up Group Line
 Finalists Encore Tickets; London Hotels and Travel Services; Really Useful Theatres Group Bookings; Ticketmaster
- 22) Best Shopping Venue For Groups
 Winner Bluewater, Kent
 Runner-Up Lakeside, Essex
 Finalists Clarks Village, Somerset; McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Swindon; Meadowhall, Sheffield; Royal Quays Outlet Centre; The Trafford Centre, Manchester; WestQuay Shopping Centre, Southampton
- 23) Best Group Tour Operator / Wholesaler
 Winner Travelsphere, Market Harborough
 Runner-Up Airedale Tours, West Yorkshire
 Finalists Harry Shaw City Cruiser Holidays, Coventry; JAG Travel, Cobham (Surrey); The Group Travel Company, Blackpool; Titan Travel, Redhill (Surrey)
- 24) Best Overall Group Supplier
 Winner British Airways London Eye

Outstanding Contribution to Group Travel by an Individual - Tony Padgett