



London Hilton, Park Lane
Friday 4th June 2004

2004 GROUP TRAVEL AWARDS FULL RESULTS LIST

Places You Visit - Attractions and Destinations

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

Winner Beamish – The North of England Open Air Museum, Co Durham
Runner-Up Eden Project, Cornwall
Finalists Alton Towers, Staffordshire; Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Lancashire;
Cadbury World, Birmingham; Paignton Zoo, Devon; RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey

1b) Best Attraction For Group Visits – Short Visit: *(less than two hour stay)*

Winner British Airways London Eye
Runner-Up Hever Castle, Kent
Finalists The Beatles Story, Liverpool; Leeds Castle, Kent; Museum of London;
The Painted Hall, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich

2) Best New Attraction For Group Visits *(opened during 2003)*

Winner Ceramica, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent
Runner-Up Thorpe Prebend House, Ripon
Finalists National Maritime Museum Cornwall; Museum in Docklands, London

3) Best Overseas Attraction For Group Visits

Winner Disneyland Paris
Runner-Up Keukenhof Gardens, Netherlands
Finalists Efteling, Netherlands; Parc Asterix, France; Phantasialand, Germany

4) Most Group-Friendly UK Destination

Winner Blackpool
Runner-Up Eastbourne
Finalists Bath; Chester; Liverpool; Weston-super-Mare; York

5) Most Group-Friendly Overseas Destination

Winner Ireland
Runner-Up Belgium
Finalists Austria; Malta; The Netherlands

6) Best Shopping Venue For Groups

Winner Bluewater, Kent
Runner-Up McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Cheshire Oaks
Finalists Clarks Village, Somerset; Lakeside Shopping Centre, Essex; Oswaldtwistle Mills,
Lancashire; The Trafford Centre, Manchester

7) Best Live Stage / Theatrical Performance

Winner Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
Runner-Up Mamma Mia!
Finalists Anything Goes; Les Miserables; The Lion King; We Will Rock You

8) Best Event for Groups

Winner Holiday on Ice
Runner-Up RHS Chelsea Flower Show
Finalists BBC Gardeners' World Live; BBC Good Food Show; Birmingham International Tattoo;
Spalding Flower Parade

9) Best Inland Canal / Riverboat Operator

Winner French Brothers, Windsor
Runner-Up City Cruises, London
Finalists Broads Tours, Wroxham; Grebe Canal Cruises, Pitstone, Buckinghamshire;
Kennet Horse Boat Company, Newbury Park, Berkshire; Pennine Boat Trips, Skipton

Where You Stay - Accommodation

10) Best Hotel Chain or Group

Winner Thistle Hotels
Runner-Up Accor
Finalists Best Western; Choice Hotels Europe; Hilton; Moat House Hotels; Swallow Hotels

11) Best Individual Hotel for Groups

Winner Hartland Hotel, Bude
Runner-Up Swallow Nelson Hotel, Norwich
Finalists Edgcumbe Hotel, Newquay; Monkbar Hotel, York; Queens Hotel, Llandudno;
St Kilda Hotel, Llandudno

12) Best All-Inclusive Group Holiday Venue

Winner Cricket St Thomas Hotel, Chard, Somerset (Warner)
Runner-Up Sand Bay Holiday Village, Weston-super-mare (Hollybush Hotels)
Finalists Butlins Bognor Regis; Grand Burstin Hotel, Folkestone;
Mill Rythe, Hayling Island (Renowned Holiday Villages)

13) Best University Accommodation For Groups

Winner University of Portsmouth
Runner-Up St Aidan's College, University of Durham
Finalists University of East London; University of Kent at Canterbury;
University of St Andrews, Scotland

How You Get There - Transport

14a) Best Large Coach Operator (*25 coaches or more*)

Winner Bowen Travel, Birmingham
Runner-Up Happy Days Coaches, Stafford
Finalists Bakers Dolphin, Weston-super-Mare; Fraser Eagle, Accrington;
Jeffs Coaches, Brackley, Northamptonshire; The Kings Ferry, Gillingham

14b) Best Small Coach Operator (*less than 25 coaches*)

Winner Nottingham City Coaches, Nottingham
Runner-Up Ruffles of Castle Hedingham, Essex
Finalists New Enterprise Coaches, Tonbridge, Kent; Diamond Holidays, Swansea;
Hardings Coaches, Betchworth, Surrey; Ron Lyles and Son Coaches, Mirfield, W Yorks

15) Most Group-Friendly UK Rail Operator

Winner GNER
Runner-Up Virgin Trains
Finalists First Great Western; South West Trains

16) Best Sea Crossing Operator

Winner P&O Ferries Dover/Calais route
Runner-Up Eurotunnel
Finalists Brittany Ferries; Eurostar; SeaFrance; Stena Line

17) Best Airline For Groups
Winner Virgin Atlantic Airways
Runner-Up British Airways
Finalists BMI Baby; Easyjet; Monarch Airlines

18) Best Off-shore Cruise Line Operator
Winner P&O Cruises
Runner-Up Fred.Olsen Cruise Lines
Finalists Cunard; MSC Cruises; SAGA Holidays

Help and Assistance - Group Facilities and Information

19) Best Guided Tour Experience
Winner Legal London (City and Village Tours);
Runner-Up Essential York (YorkWalks)
Finalists Hampton Court, Surrey; Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham ; Lady Godiva, Coventry;
London Frog Tours; Warwick Castle

20) Best Provision of Group Facilities
Winner Eden Project, Cornwall
Runner-Up Bristol
Finalists Althorp, Northamptonshire; Black Country Living Museum, West Midlands;
Legoland Windsor; Rochester, Kent

21) Best Group Catering Facilities
Winner Harry Ramsden's
Runner-Up Central Hall Westminster
Finalists Elizabethan Banquets, Old Palace, Hatfield; The Medieval Banquet, London;
Moto; Woburn Safari Park

22) Best Information for Groups
Winner The National Trust Travel Trade Directory
Runners-Up Travel Trade and Educational Visits Directory (East of England Tourist Board)
Finalists English Heritage Group Visits Guide; Northumbria Group Travel and Educational
Visits Guide; Portsmouth:The Official Group Travel Guide 2003

23) Best Group Ticketing Agency
Winner Group Line
Runner-Up NEC Group Box Office
Finalists Applause; Encore Tickets; See (formerly Really Useful Theatres Group Bookings);
Ticketmaster

24) Best Group Tour Operator / Wholesaler
Winner Airedale Tours, West Yorkshire
Runner-Up Interchoice Holidays, Wolverhampton
Finalists Bowen Travel, Birmingham; Greencastle Travel, Hereford; Leger Holidays, Rotherham;
Simply Groups, Ilkley, West Yorkshire; Success Tours, Trowbridge;
Travelsphere Holidays, Market Harborough

25) Best Overall Group Supplier
Winner Disneyland Resort Paris

Outstanding Contribution to Group Travel by an Individual - Helen Danks