



London Hilton, Park Lane  
Friday 10th June 2005

## 2005 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           Eden Project, Cornwall  
Runner-Up       Beamish - The North of England Open Air Museum, County Durham  
Finalists         Alnwick Castle and Gardens, Northumberland  
                      Black Country Living Museum, West Midlands  
                      Eden Camp, North Yorkshire

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

Winner           British Airways London Eye  
Runner-Up       Houses of Parliament, London  
Finalists         Clarence House, London  
                      Milestones Living Museum, Hampshire  
                      Tate Modern, London  
                      Vinopolis City of Wine, London

#### 2) Best Overseas Attraction For Group Visits

Winner           Disneyland Resort Paris, France  
Runner-Up       La Coupole, France  
Finalists         Disneyland Resort, USA  
                      Efteling, Netherlands  
                      Minimundus, Austria  
                      Parc Asterix, France  
                      Stella Artois Brewery, Belgium

#### 3) Most Group-Friendly UK Destination

Winner           York  
Runner-Up       Blackpool  
Finalists         Bristol  
                      Eastbourne  
                      Isle of Wight  
                      Southport

#### 4) Most Group-Friendly Overseas Destination

Winner           Ireland  
Runner-Up       Malta  
Finalists         Austria  
                      Belgium  
                      Netherlands

#### 5a) Best Town or Shopping Centre for Groups

Winner           The Trafford Centre, Manchester  
Runner-Up       Lakeside, Essex  
Finalists         Bluewater, Kent  
                      Merry Hill, West Midlands  
                      WestQuay, Southampton

**5b) Best Market, Mill Shop or Factory Outlet for Groups**

Winner Oswaldtwistle Mills, Lancashire  
Runner-Up Clarks Village, Somerset  
Finalists Boundary Mill, Lancashire  
Kirkgate Market, Leeds  
McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Cheshire Oaks  
Skipton Market, North Yorkshire

**6) Best Live Stage / Theatrical Performance**

Winner The Lion King  
Runner-Up Les Miserables  
Finalists Chitty Chitty Bang Bang  
Mamma Mia!  
The Producers  
The Woman in White

**7) Best Event for Groups**

Winner Southport Air Show and Military Display  
Runner-Up Edinburgh Military Tattoo  
Finalists BBC Gardeners' World Live  
Birmingham International Tattoo  
Flying Legends Air Show, Duxford  
Holiday on Ice

**8) Best Inland Canal / Riverboat Operator**

Winner City Cruises, London  
Runner-Up Pennine Boat Trips, Skipton  
Finalists Catamaran Cruisers, London  
French Brothers, Windsor  
mps Lady Anne, Netherlands  
Salter's Steamers, Oxford

**Where You Stay - Accommodation**

**9) Best Hotel Chain or Group**

Winner Best Western  
Runner-Up Thistle Hotels  
Finalists De Vere Hotels  
Hilton  
Holiday Inn  
Ramada Jarvis Hotels

**10) Best Individual Hotel For Groups**

Winner The Auckland Hotel, Morecambe  
Runner-Up Chesterfield Hotel, Chesterfield  
Finalists Broadway Hotel, Morecambe  
Cammarth Hotel, Cornwall  
Grims Dyke Hotel, London  
Marriott Sprowston Manor Hotel, Norwich  
Tower Thistle Hotel, London

**11) Best All-Inclusive Group Holiday Venue**

Winner Lyme Bay Holiday Village, Devon (Hollybush Hotels)  
Runner-Up Thoresby Hall, Nottinghamshire (Warner Breaks)  
Finalists Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales (Warner Breaks)  
Butlins Bognor Regis  
Mill Rythe, Hayling Island (Renowned Holiday Villages)  
Sand Bay Holiday Village, Weston-super-Mare (Hollybush Hotels)

12) Best University Accommodation for Groups  
Winner University of Portsmouth  
Runner-Up The University of Reading  
Finalists London School of Economics and Political Science  
University of Durham  
University of St Andrews, Scotland  
University of York

## How You Get There - Transport

13a) Best Large Coach Operator  
Winner Bowen Travel, Birmingham  
Runner-Up The Kings Ferry, Gillingham  
Finalists Fraser Eagle, Accrington, Lancashire  
Hams Travel, Flimwell, East Sussex  
Happy Days Coaches, Stafford  
New Enterprise Coaches, Tonbridge, Kent

13b) Best Small Coach Operator  
Winner Ruffles of Castle Hedingham, Essex  
Runner-Up Ron Lyles and Son Coaches, Mirfield, West Yorkshire  
Finalists Bullock Coaches, Stockport  
Buzzlines, Hythe, Kent  
Hardings Coaches, Betchworth, Surrey  
Scotland and Bates, Appledore, Kent

14) Most Group-Friendly Rail Operator  
Winner GNER  
Runner-Up South West Trains  
Finalists Eurostar  
Virgin Trains

15) Best Sea Crossing Operator For Groups  
Winner P&O Ferries Dover/Calais  
Runner-Up SeaFrance  
Finalists Brittany Ferries  
Eurotunnel  
Irish Ferries  
Stena Line

16) Best Off-Shore Cruise Line Operator  
Winner Fred.Olsen Cruise Lines  
Runner-Up P&O Cruises  
Finalists Carnival Cruises  
Cunard  
SAGA Holidays

## Help and Assistance - Group Facilities and Information

17) Best Company or Venue Offering Guided Tours  
Winner City and Village Tours  
Runner-Up BBC Television Centre Tour  
Finalists Black Country Living Museum  
Guide Friday  
Harewood House  
Theatre Royal, Drury Lane

18) Best Provision of Group Facilities

Winner Hopwood Services, M40  
Runner-Up Chester  
Finalists Althorp, Northamptonshire  
Alton Towers, Staffordshire  
Sandringham Estate, Norfolk

19) Best Group Catering Facilities

Winner Leeds Castle, Kent  
Runner-Up Central Hall Westminster, London  
Finalists Hard Rock Cafe  
Harry Ramsden's  
Planet Hollywood  
Welcome Break

20) Best Information for Groups

Winner English Heritage Group Visits Guide  
Runner-Up The National Trust Travel Trade Directory  
Finalists Group Talk (NEC)  
Portsmouth: The Official Group Travel Guide 2004  
Shakespeare Country Travel Trade Guide 2004

21) Best Group Ticketing Agency

Winner Group Line  
Runner-Up Applause  
Finalists Encore Tickets  
NEC Group Box Office  
See  
Ticketmaster

22) Best Short-Haul Group Tour Operator

Winner Airedale Tours, West Yorkshire  
Runner-Up Interchoice Holidays, Wolverhampton  
Finalists JAG Travel, Cobham  
Simply Groups, Ilkley  
Success Tours, Trowbridge  
Travelsphere Holidays, Market Harborough  
River Cruise Line, Market Harborough

23) Best Long-Haul Group Tour Operator

Winner Travelsphere Holidays, Market Harborough  
Runner-Up Collette Worldwide Holidays, Uxbridge  
Finalists Airedale Tours, West Yorkshire  
Bob Cole Group Travel, Rochester  
Greencastle Travel, Hereford  
Travelscope, Stonehouse  
Virgin Holidays

24) Best Overall Group Supplier

Winner City and Village Tours

Outstanding Contribution to Group Travel by an Individual

Bob Pilbeam