



London Hilton, Park Lane
Friday 16th June 2006

2006 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, County Durham
Runner-Up Eden Project, Cornwall
Finalists Alnwick Garden, Northumberland
Alton Towers, Staffordshire
Castle Howard, Yorkshire
Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Shropshire
Leeds Castle, Kent
Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

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

Winner London Eye
Runner-Up Hampton Court Palace, Surrey
Finalists Cabinet War Rooms, London
Clarence House, London
Seaton Tramway, Devon
Stapeley Water Gardens, Cheshire
The Hop Farm, Kent
Wedgwood Visitor Centre, Staffordshire

2) Best Overseas Attraction for Group Visits

Winner Disneyland Resort Paris, France
Runner-Up Keukenhof Gardens, Holland
Finalists Efteling, Holland
La Coupole, France
Legoland, Denmark
Peace Museum, Caen, France

3) Most Group-Friendly UK Destination

Winner Eastbourne
Runner-Up Blackpool
Finalists Chester
Isle of Wight
Portsmouth
Scarborough
Southport
York

4) Most Group-Friendly Overseas Destination

Winner Holland
Runner-Up Belgium
Finalists Austria
Cyprus
Ireland
Toronto, Canada

5a) Best Town or Shopping Centre for Groups

Winner The Trafford Centre, Manchester
Runner-Up Bullring, Birmingham
Finalists Bluewater, Kent
Lakeside Shopping Centre, Essex
Merry Hill, West Midlands
Metrocentre, Gateshead

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

Winner Oswaldtwistle Mills, Lancashire
Runner-Up McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Swindon
Finalists Boundary Mill, Lancashire
Clacton Factory Shopping Village, Essex
Kirkgate Market, Leeds
McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Ashford

6) Best Live Stage / Theatrical Performance

Winner Billy Elliott
Runner-Up Les Miserables
Finalists Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
Mamma Mia!
Mary Poppins
Phantom of the Opera
The Lion King
The Producers

7) Best Event for Groups

Winner Holiday on Ice
Runner-Up Blackpool Illuminations
Finalists Airbourne 2005, Eastbourne
BBC Gardeners' World Live
Birmingham Tattoo
Hampton Court Palace Flower Show
RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park
Shrewsbury Flower Show

8) Best Inland Canal / Riverboat Operator

Winner City Cruises, London
Runner-Up Pennine Boat Trips, Skipton
Finalists Catamaran Cruisers, London
French Brothers, Windsor
Great River Journeys, Maidenhead
Salter's Steamers, Oxford
Stuart Line Cruises, Devon

Where You Stay - Accommodation

9) Best Hotel Chain or Group

Winner Holiday Inn Hotels
Runner-Up Best Western
Finalists Britannia Hotels
Hilton
Marriott Resorts and Hotels
Thistle Hotels

10) Best Individual Hotel For Groups

Winner Broadway Hotel, Morecambe
Runner-Up Shanklin Hotel, Isle of Wight
Finalists The Auckland Hotel, Morecambe
Cavendish Hotel, Eastbourne
Chesterfield Hotel, Chesterfield
Gilsland Spa, Cumbria
Hartland Hotel, Bude
Portsmouth Marriott

11) Best All-Inclusive Group Holiday Venue

Winner Cricket St Thomas, Somerset (Warner Breaks)
Runner-Up Lyme Bay Holiday Village, Devon (Hollybush Hotels)
Finalists Butlins Bognor Regis
Harcourt Sands, Isle of Wight (Renowned)
Norton Grange Resort, Isle of Wight (Warner Breaks)
Potters Leisure Resort, Norfolk
Rockley Park, Dorset (Haven)
Sand Bay Holiday Village, Weston-super-Mare (Hollybush Hotels)

12) Best University Accommodation for Groups

Winner St Aidan's College, University of Durham
Runner-Up University of Portsmouth
Finalists King's College – University of London
Queen Mary, University of London
University of Bath
University of East Anglia
University of Kent at Canterbury
University of Reading

How You Get There - Transport

13a) Best Large Coach Operator

Winner Bowens
Runner-Up Chambers Coaches, Hertfordshire

13b) Best Small Coach Operator

Winner Ruffles of Castle Hedingham, Essex
Runner-Up Ron Lyles Coaches, West Yorkshire

Finalists Andrews of Tideswell, Derbyshire
Banstead Coaches, Surrey
Buzzlines, Kent
Eddie Brown Tours, Yorkshire
Hams Travel, East Sussex
Hardings Coaches, Surrey
Hearns Coaches, Middlesex
Johnsons Coach Travel, Solihull
Lucketts Travel, Hampshire
Red Arrow Coaches, Huddersfield
Redwing Coaches, London
WA Shearings, Wigan

14) Most Group-Friendly Rail Operator

Winner South West Trains
Runner-Up Eurostar
Finalists GNER
Midland Mainline
Virgin Trains
WAGN

15) Best Sea Crossing Operator for Groups

Winner P&O Ferries Dover/Calais
Runner-Up Eurotunnel
Finalists Brittany Ferries
Irish Ferries
SeaFrance
Stena Line Harwich/Hook of Holland

16) Best Airline for Groups

Winner Emirates
Runner-Up Virgin Atlantic
Finalists bmibaby
British Airways
easyJet
Qantas

Help and Assistance - Group Facilities and Information

17) Best Company or Venue Offering Guided Tours

Winner BBC Television Centre Tour
Runner-Up City and Village Tours
Finalists City Sightseeing
Hampton Court Palace, Surrey
Lancashire Welcome Days Out
London Ducktours

18) Best Provision of Disabled Facilities

Winner Potters Leisure Resort, Norfolk
Runner-Up Chester Zoo
Finalists Centre for Alternative Technology, Wales
Legoland, Windsor
Monkey World, Dorset
Trentham Gardens, Staffordshire

19) Best Group Catering Facilities

Winner Hard Rock Café
Runner-Up Central Hall Westminster, London
Finalists Café Rouge
Harry Ramsden's
Planet Hollywood
Wedgwood Visitor Centre, Staffordshire

20) Best Information for Groups

Winner The National Trust Groups Guide 2005
Runner-Up English Heritage Group Visits Guide 2005
Finalists East of England Group Travel and Educational Visits 2005
Group Talk – NEC
Lancashire & Blackpool Group Travel Guide 2005
Salisbury Travel Trade Supplement 2005
Southern Wales Tourism Travel Planner 2005
Tourism South East Group Travel Guide 2005/6

21) Best Group Ticketing Agency

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

22) Best Short-Haul Group Tour Operator

Winner Airedale Tours, West Yorkshire

Runner-Up Interchoice Holidays, Wolverhampton

Finalists CIE Tours International, Dublin
JAG Travel, Surrey
Leisure Breaks, Essex
Travel Editions, London
Travelscope, Gloucestershire
Travelsphere, Leicestershire

23) Best Long-Haul Group Tour Operator

Winner Travelscope, Gloucestershire

Runner-Up Travelsphere, Leicestershire

Finalists The Barrow Travel Group, Cumbria
Collette Worldwide Holidays, Middlesex
Greencastle Travel, Hereford
Success Tours, Wiltshire
Tailored Travel, Croydon
The River Cruise Line, Leicestershire

24) Best Overall Group Supplier

Winner The National Trust

Outstanding Contribution to Group Travel by an Individual

David Steele