



# VisitEngland reveals Awards for Excellence 2023 winners

VisitEngland

Press releases

July 2024

June 2023

VisitEngland has announced the winners of its annual Awards for Excellence 2023, celebrating the tourism industry's brightest stars.

The 20 Gold Award winners were announced at an evening ceremony on 7 June hosted by Alex Polizzi at Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter, in categories ranging from 'Small Visitor Attraction of the Year' and 'B&B and Guest House of the Year' to 'Business Events Venue of the Year' and 'Experience of the Year.' The Gold, Silver and Bronze winners were selected from hundreds of tourism businesses across England including hotels, self-catering accommodation, B&Bs, glamping operators, attractions, restaurants, pubs and museums. The full awards ceremony is available to [watch on youtube](#).

The prestigious VisitEngland Awards for Excellence, running for more than 30 years and in 2023 sponsored by the Caravan and Motorhome Club, celebrate and champion innovation, quality and best practice across the industry recognising businesses and individuals who raise the bar of England's tourism offer.

## **VisitEngland Director Andrew Stokes said:**

"It is fantastic to come together as an industry to celebrate our world-class tourism businesses. Competition this year was fierce with customer service excellence evident across every category, thanks to the passion and dedication of individuals.

"From an outdoor theatre in Suffolk to a boutique B&B in Essex, from an arboretum museum in Staffordshire, a zoo farm in Bristol, to island boat tours in Northumberland, this year's awards also showcase the wonderful range of quality tourism products on offer across England.

“I congratulate all the winners and especially those who won Gold, an achievement cementing their place as the country’s crème de la crème, standard-bearers for England’s tourism industry.”

In addition to the 16 core categories award winners, four special awards were also presented this year including an ‘Outstanding Contribution to Tourism Award,’ a ‘Travel Content Award’, a ‘Tourism Superstar Award’ and a ‘TXGB Trailblazer Award’.

The Tourism Superstar Award went to **Geoff Colvin**. Geoff, a volunteer stationmaster at the Kent and East Sussex Railway, was the winner of the VisitEngland Tourism Superstar 2023 run in partnership with the Mirror, following a public vote and competition earlier this year.

The Outstanding Contribution to Tourism Award went to **‘England’s Coast’** in recognition of its valuable role in boosting domestic and inbound tourism to England.

The Travel Content Award, which recognises the media’s important contribution in championing domestic tourism, was won by **Alicia Miller of The Independent** with her story ‘How to do a classic Cotswolds weekend, car-free.’

The TXGB Trailblazer Award went to **Red Funnel**, Isle of Wight, in recognition of its efforts in driving inbound bookings through the business-to-business platform, also benefitting the domestic market.

Tourism is one of England’s largest and most valuable industries, supporting hundreds of thousands of businesses, employing about 2.6 million people and, in 2019, generating £76 billion in domestic visitor spending.

See below for the full list of VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2023 winners:

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### **Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Award:**

**GOLD** [Noah’s Ark Zoo Farm](#), Bristol

**SILVER** [Brickhouse Farm Holiday Cottages & Lakeside Hub](#), Lancashire

**BRONZE** [WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre](#), Gloucestershire

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### **B&B and Guest House of the Year:**

**GOLD** [Piglets Boutique B&B](#), Essex

**SILVER** [Cedar Manor](#), Cumbria

**BRONZE** [Sunnyside Guest House](#), Merseyside

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### **Business Events Venue of the Year:**

**GOLD** [National Memorial Arboretum](#), Staffordshire

**SILVER** [Imago Venues](#), Leicestershire

**BRONZE** [The ICC Birmingham](#), West Midlands

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## Camping, Glamping and Holiday Park of the Year:

GOLD [The Quiet Site](#), Cumbria

SILVER [Brook Meadow](#), Leicestershire

BRONZE [Hendra Holiday Park](#), Cornwall

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## Ethical, Responsible and Sustainable Tourism Award:

GOLD [Pure Outdoor](#), Derbyshire

SILVER [National Forest EBike Holidays](#), Leicestershire

BRONZE [The Cottages at Blackadon Farm](#), Devon

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## Experience of the Year:

GOLD [Grey Seal and Seabird Cruise](#), Serenity Farne Island Boat Tours, Northumberland

SILVER [Make Your Own Gin Experience](#), Shed 1 Gin Distillery, Cumbria

BRONZE [Peak District Walking Experience](#), myGuidedWalks, Derbyshire

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## Large Hotel of the Year:

GOLD [Titanic Hotel Liverpool](#), Merseyside

SILVER [Bowood Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort](#), Wiltshire

BRONZE [Rockliffe Hall Hotel, Golf & Spa Resort](#), County Durham

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## Large Visitor Attraction of the Year:

GOLD [Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter](#), Hertfordshire

SILVER [Blenheim Palace](#), Oxfordshire

BRONZE [International Bomber Command Centre](#), Lincolnshire

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## New Tourism Business of the Year:

GOLD [Thorington Theatre](#), Suffolk

SILVER [Bassenthwaite Lake Station](#), Cumbria

BRONZE [Great British Car Journey](#), Derbyshire

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### Pub of the Year:

GOLD [The Blind Bull](#), Derbyshire

SILVER [The Shoe](#), Hampshire

BRONZE [The Duncombe Arms](#), Staffordshire

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### Resilience and Innovation Award:

GOLD [St Luke's Bombed Out Church C.I.C.](#), Merseyside

SILVER [Langley Castle Hotel](#), Northumberland

BRONZE [Healing Manor Hotel](#), Lincolnshire

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### Self-Catering Accommodation of the Year:

GOLD [Kidlandlee Holiday Cottages](#), Northumberland

SILVER [The Dovecote Barns](#), North Yorkshire

BRONZE [Eaton Manor Country Estate](#), Shropshire

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### Small Hotel of the Year:

GOLD [Askham Hall](#), Cumbria

SILVER [THE PIG-at Combe](#), Devon

BRONZE [Wildhive Callow Hall](#), Derbyshire

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### Small Visitor Attraction of the Year:

GOLD [Watatunga Wildlife Reserve](#), Norfolk

SILVER [Muncaster Castle, Gardens and Hawk & Owl Centre](#), Cumbria

BRONZE [PK Porthcurno](#), Cornwall

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### Taste of England Award:

GOLD [Pensons Restaurant at the Netherwood Estate](#), Worcestershire

SILVER [The Unruly Pig](#), Suffolk

BRONZE [The Glasshouse Restaurant](#), Hampshire

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### **Unsung Hero Award:**

**GOLD** Michael Wilson, Official Guide to the Kent Estuary, Guide Over Sands Trust, Cumbria

**SILVER** Marie Colgrave, Welcome Building Supervisor, Whitchurch Silk Mill, Hampshire

**BRONZE** Carol Adams, Head of Horticulture & Biodiversity, Trentham, Staffordshire

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### **The TXGB Trailblazer Award:**

**GOLD** [Red Funnel](#), Isle of Wight

**SILVER** [New Adventures](#), Tyne & Wear & Northumberland

**BRONZE** [Cotswolds Tourism](#), Cotswolds

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### **Travel Content Award:**

**GOLD** Alicia Miller, The Independent - [How to do a classic Cotswolds weekend, car-free](#)

**SILVER** Ben Lerwill, National Geographic Traveller - [How art and ancient history collide on a hike through Deal, Dover and Folkestone](#)

**BRONZE** Paul Healy, Anywhere We Roam - [A wild getaway in Swaledale – the unspoilt valley in the Yorkshire Dales](#)

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### **Tourism Superstar:**

**Geoff Colvin**, Chief Stationmaster, Kent & East Sussex Railway

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### **Outstanding Contribution to Tourism Award:**

**England's Coast**