

NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 7 February 2024



Finalists announced for South West Tourism Excellence Awards

Tourism businesses from across Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Bath, Bristol, Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall have been named as Finalists in this year's South West Tourism Excellence Awards.

The news follows an awards process which started in April 2023, with nearly 500 entries submitted, a rigorous judging process and many winning in their county schemes in Devon, Cornwall, Bristol, Bath and Somerset, and Dorset. The top performers have now been named for the regional final to be held in the Great Hall of Exeter University on 14 March.

All the finalists will have to wait until 14th March to learn whether they have won Gold, Silver or Bronze. Many will also be nominated to represent the South West in the national VisitEngland awards later in the year.

The Awards, which have themselves retained their 'Outstanding' accolade in the Awards Trust Mark scheme, are recognised for their rigour with independent judges spending months poring over entry submissions, websites, social media and review sites, as well as carrying out business visits. Reports and recommendations were then submitted to an independent panel who made the final decisions.

Lawrence Palk, Director of B2B Sales from headline sponsors [Wildanet](#), says: *“Wildanet are delighted to be supporting The South West Tourism Excellence Awards this year. The South West is a world-class tourism destination with so much to offer, regularly attracting millions of visitors each year. The Tourism Awards are a fantastic stage on which to showcase and celebrate those incredible businesses that are flying the flag for the region. Many congratulations to all the finalists, and on behalf of everyone here at Wildanet, we wish you all the very best of luck and look forward to a wonderful night of celebration on 14 March.”*

Chair of judges Dr Natalie Semley, Lecturer in Sustainable Tourism Management at Cornwall Business School, commented: *“This year we have witnessed an outstanding level of excellence; across the region and all entries. The shortlisted finalists really stand out from the crowd, and they are commended for their level of dedication, commitment, and passion towards delivering a more sustainable, accessible, and inclusive tourism industry here in the Southwest.”*

Robin Barker, Director of Services for Tourism Ltd, who manage the Awards, added: *“It is an honour to be associated with the excellence witnessed across these outstanding businesses, many of whom have not just survived tough times but have innovated, invested and delivered outstanding service to the region’s visitors. Well done to them all.”*

The full list of Finalists and Commended entrants can be found below with further information at www.southwesttourismawards.org.uk

Instagram: [instagram.com/swtourismawards](https://www.instagram.com/swtourismawards)

Facebook: [facebook.com/swtourismawards](https://www.facebook.com/swtourismawards)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/southwesttourismawards](https://www.linkedin.com/company/southwesttourismawards)

The Awards hashtag is #SWTAwards

2023/24 South West Tourism Excellence Awards, sponsored by [Wildanet](#)
Finalists and Commended (in alphabetic order)

ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE TOURISM AWARD, sponsored by [Living Options](#)

Finalists

- [Dorset Museum](#), Dorset
- [Mountain Lodge](#), Somerset

- [Trevassack Holidays](#), Cornwall
- [WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre](#), Glos

Commended

- [National Trust – Corfe, Purbeck Estate](#), Dorset

B&B AND GUESTHOUSE OF THE YEAR, sponsored by [Quality in Tourism](#)

Finalists

- [Alexander Lodge](#), Dorset
- [Bossington Hall](#), Somerset
- [Riverside B&B](#), Devon
- [Waterfront House](#), Devon

BUSINESS EVENTS VENUE OF THE YEAR

Finalists

- [Dorset Museum](#), Dorset
- [Lighthouse Poole](#), Dorset
- [Marsham Court Hotel](#), Dorset
- [The Tank Museum](#), Dorset

Commended

- [Dartmoor Zoo](#), Devon

CAFÉ/TEAROOM OF THE YEAR

Finalists

- [Alder Vineyard](#), Devon
- [The Middlewick Farm Shop and Café](#), Somerset
- [Upwey Wishing Well Tearooms](#), Dorset

CAMPING AND CARAVANNING PARK OF THE YEAR, sponsored by [Anytime Booking](#)

Finalists

- [Lynmouth Holiday Retreat](#), Devon
- [Mendip Basecamp](#), Bristol
- [Norden Farm Campsite](#), Dorset
- [South Lytchett Manor Caravan and Camping Park](#), Dorset
- [Wareham Forest Tourist Park](#), Dorset

CASUAL DINING AWARD

Finalists

- [Cary Arms & Spa](#), Devon
- [Pig and Olive](#), Devon
- [The Cove Café Bar](#), Devon

DOG FRIENDLY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Finalists

- [Kilminorth](#), Cornwall
- [Millbrook Cottage & Estate](#), Devon
- [The Middlewick](#), Somerset

ETHICAL, RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AWARD

Finalists

- [Middlewick Holiday Cottages](#), Somerset
- [Sleepy Owl Devon](#), Devon
- [Ugly Butterfly by Adam Handling](#), Cornwall
- [Westonbirt, The National Arboretum](#), Glos

EXPERIENCE OF THE YEAR (ACTIVE OR LEARNING

Finalists

- [Gin & Vodka Masterclass - Colwith Farm Distillery](#), Cornwall
- [Indoor Karting - Raceworld](#), Devon
- [Learn to Ski - Mendip Activity Centre](#), Bristol
- [The Story Tram – Seaton Tramway](#), Devon

GLAMPING BUSINESS OF THE YEAR, sponsored by [Booking .com](#)

Finalists

- [Brackenhill Glamping](#), Devon
- [Lydcott Glamping](#), Cornwall
- [Valleyside Escapes](#), Devon

HOLIDAY PARK OF THE YEAR, sponsored by [Tozers](#)

Finalists

- [Cofton Holidays](#), Devon
- [Ladram Bay Holiday Park](#), Devon
- [Padstow Holiday Village](#), Cornwall
- [The Park Cornwall](#), Cornwall

LARGE HOTEL OF THE YEAR, sponsored by [Guestline](#)

Finalists

- [Bovey Castle](#), Devon
- [De Vere Cotswold Water Park](#), Glos
- [De Vere Tortworth Court](#), Glos
- [Holiday Inn Bournemouth](#), Dorset

LARGE VISITOR ATTRACTION OF THE YEAR, sponsored by [Blue Soup](#)

Finalists

- [Lappa Valley](#), Cornwall
- [Seaton Tramway](#), Devon
- [The Milky Way Adventure Park](#), Devon
- [WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre](#), Glos

Commended

- [Dorset Museum](#), Dorset

NEW TOURISM BUSINESS AWARD, sponsored by [Voltshare](#)

Finalists

- [English Cottage Vacation](#), Dorset

- [Sleepy Owl Devon](#), Devon
- [Whitebeam Wood](#), Devon

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTH WEST TOURISM AWARD, sponsored by [South West Tourism Alliance](#)

- To be announced at the Awards Event

PUB OF THE YEAR, sponsored by [Vickery Holman](#)

Finalists

- [The Acorn Inn](#), Dorset
- [The Barrington Boar](#), Somerset
- [The Cotley Inn](#), Somerset
- [The Peterville Inn](#), Cornwall

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR, sponsored by [Sandridge Barton](#)

Finalists

- [Gambas](#), Bristol
- [Podshavers Restaurant](#), Somerset
- [The Olive Tree Restaurant](#), Bath
- [Ugly Butterfly by Adam Handling](#), Cornwall

SELF CATERING ACCOMMODATION OF THE YEAR, sponsored by [Touch Stay](#)

Finalists

- [Bournemouth Beach Lodges](#), Dorset
- [My Cottages in St Ives](#), Cornwall
- [Sleepy Owl Devon](#), Devon

SMALL HOTEL OF THE YEAR, sponsored by [pkf Francis Clark](#)

Finalists

- [Lympstone Manor Hotel](#), Devon
- [Talland Bay Hotel](#), Cornwall
- [The Idle Rocks](#), Cornwall
- [THE PIG-at Harlyn Bay](#), Cornwall

SMALL VISITOR ATTRACTION OF THE YEAR, sponsored by [AGI](#)

Finalists

- [Alder Vineyard](#), Devon
- [Museum of Dartmoor Life](#), Devon
- [Nothe Fort](#), Dorset
- [Via Ferrata Cornwall](#), Cornwall

SPA & WELLBEING EXPERIENCE OF THE YEAR, sponsored by [Made for Life Organics](#)

Finalists

- [The Spa at Bowood, Bowood Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort](#), Wilts

- [Your Best You at Aztec Hotel & Spa](#), Bristol

TOURISM EVENT / FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR

Finalists

- [Arts by the Sea Festival 2022](#), Dorset
- [Enchanted Christmas at Westonbirt, The National Arboretum 2022](#), Glos
- [Heligan Night Garden 2022 - The Lost Gardens of Heligan](#), Cornwall
- [Tankfest 2023](#), Dorset

UN Sung HERO AWARD, sponsored by [Plymouth Business School](#)

Finalists

- Ben Patrick, [Lappa Valley](#), Cornwall
- Rosanna Dean, [The Tank Museum](#), Dorset
- Shelly Worthy Eveleigh, [Born Hectic Events](#), Devon
- Zoe Furse - [Aurora Foxes](#), Somerset

VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE YEAR, in partnership with [South West Coast Path Association](#)

Finalists

- [English Riviera Visitor Information Centre](#), Devon
- [Exmoor National Park Centre Dulverton](#), Somerset
- [Plymouth Tourist Information Centre and The Mayflower Museum](#), Devon
- [Swanage Information Centre](#), Dorset

WEDDING VENUE OF THE YEAR, sponsored by [Plymouth Gin](#)

Finalists

- [Aldwick Estate](#), Bristol
- [Blackfriars Priory](#), Glos
- [Rockbeare Manor](#), Devon

Ends

Notes to editors

For more information or interviews please contact Robin Barker at rbarker@services4tourism.co.uk or 07870 397438.

For photos from past awards please contact awards@services4tourism.co.uk

The Awards are managed by Services for Tourism Ltd working alongside the tourism industry across the South West.

Services for Tourism Ltd is a private company led by Robin Barker FTMI and Nell Barrington FTMI, both experienced destination managers based in South West England. See www.services4tourism.co.uk for more information.