



**Celebrating the finest in the Tourism Industry:**

## **VisitEngland Reveals Finalists for 2015 VisitEngland Awards for Excellence**

**7 April 2015:** VisitEngland is proud to announce the finalists for the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2015. The Awards celebrate the very best England has to offer and the winners of this prestigious accolade will be announced at the Award Ceremony on Monday 11 May at the Sage Gateshead conference centre.

Entrant's for the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence are rigorously assessed by independent assessors and judged by a board of tourism industry experts. The finalists represent the finest in the industry and include a wealth of attractions, accommodation providers, tourism experiences, Tourist Information Centres and businesses that have shown complete dedication to developing the excellent standards of English tourism. We guarantee each finalist a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Highly Commended in their category.

**VisitEngland's Chief Executive James Berresford said:** "I would like to congratulate all those nominated as VisitEngland Awards for Excellence finalists this year. We receive hundreds of applications each year of an extremely high standard, so it is a fantastic achievement for any tourism business to become a finalist. Each finalist is already a winner and can take justifiable pride and credit in earning a coveted place in the top five in their category in England, and in the contribution they make to an industry worth £106 billion to the economy, supporting 2.6 million jobs. I wish all our finalists the very best of luck for the awards ceremony in May in Gateshead".

This year's Award ceremony will also include the official presentation of the Tourism Superstar 2015 Award. As part of English Tourism Week, VisitEngland teamed up with the Daily Mirror for an online public vote to find England's unsung tourism hero – someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty to make visitors feel extra special, and is a real ambassador for the local area. The 2015 winner is Matthew Henderson, an engagement and events officer at Beamish Museum in County Durham who received 21,400 public votes via the Daily Mirror's website.

To find out more and to book tickets visit [www.visitenglandawards.org](http://www.visitenglandawards.org).

### **2015 Finalists**

**Below are the finalists in each category for this year's awards (listed alphabetically).**

#### **Tourism Event of the Year**

Bournemouth Air Festival 2014  
Bournemouth, Dorset  
[www.bournemouthair.co.uk](http://www.bournemouthair.co.uk)

The Cotswold Show  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire  
[www.cotswoldshow.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldshow.co.uk)

Mallard 75, National Railway Museum  
York, North Yorkshire  
[www.nrm.org.uk](http://www.nrm.org.uk)

Northumbrian Water – Kielder Winter Wonderland  
Hexham, Northumberland  
[www.visitkielder.com](http://www.visitkielder.com)

Vintage by the Sea - The Midland  
Morecambe, Lancashire  
[www.englishlakes.co.uk](http://www.englishlakes.co.uk)

### **Self-Catering Holiday Provider of the Year**

Bosinver Farm Cottages  
St Austell, Cornwall  
[www.bosinver.co.uk](http://www.bosinver.co.uk)

The Dandelion Hideaway  
Market Bosworth, Leicestershire  
[www.thedandelionhideaway.co.uk](http://www.thedandelionhideaway.co.uk)

The Dovecote Barns York  
York, North Yorkshire  
[www.dovecotebarnsyork.co.uk](http://www.dovecotebarnsyork.co.uk)

High Barn Cottages  
Nr. Bridlington, East Yorkshire  
[www.highbarncottages.co.uk](http://www.highbarncottages.co.uk)

Millbrook Cottages  
High Bickington, Devon  
[www.millbrookcottages.co.uk](http://www.millbrookcottages.co.uk)

### **Visitor Information Provider of the Year**

Chesterfield Visitor Information Centre  
Chesterfield, Derbyshire  
[www.visitchesterfield.info](http://www.visitchesterfield.info)

City of London Information Centre  
London  
[www.visitthecity.co.uk](http://www.visitthecity.co.uk)

Durham Visitor Information Network  
Durham, County Durham  
[www.thisisdurham.com](http://www.thisisdurham.com)

## **Simply Staffordshire**

Uttoxeter, Staffordshire

[www.simplystaffordshire.co.uk](http://www.simplystaffordshire.co.uk)

The Welcome People

London

[www.thewelcomepeople.com](http://www.thewelcomepeople.com)

## **Large Visitor Attraction of the Year**

Chatsworth

Bakewell, Derbyshire

[www.chatsworth.org](http://www.chatsworth.org)

Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

Telford, Shropshire

[www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk)

Liverpool Cathedral

Liverpool, Merseyside

[www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk)

The Lost Gardens of Heligan

St Austell, Cornwall

[www.heligan.com](http://www.heligan.com)

The Roman Baths & Pump Room

Bath, Somerset

[www.romanbaths.co.uk](http://www.romanbaths.co.uk)

## **Small Hotel of the Year**

Brockencote Hall Hotel

Kidderminster, Worcestershire

[www.brockencotehall.com](http://www.brockencotehall.com)

Cedar Manor Hotel & Restaurant

Windermere, Cumbria

[www.cedarmanor.co.uk](http://www.cedarmanor.co.uk)

Hell Bay Hotel

Isles of Scilly, Cornwall

[www.hellbay.co.uk](http://www.hellbay.co.uk)

The Horn of Plenty

Tavistock, Devon

[www.thehornofplenty.co.uk](http://www.thehornofplenty.co.uk)

Mallory Court

Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

[www.mallory.co.uk](http://www.mallory.co.uk)

The Talbot Hotel  
Malton, North Yorkshire [www.talbotmalton.co.uk](http://www.talbotmalton.co.uk)  
**Business Tourism Award**

Barnett Hill  
Guildford, Surrey  
[www.sundialgroup.com/barnetthill](http://www.sundialgroup.com/barnetthill)

Event Durham, Durham University  
Durham, County Durham  
[www.durham.ac.uk/event.durham](http://www.durham.ac.uk/event.durham)

National Space Centre  
Leicester, Leicestershire  
[www.venuehire.spacecentre.co.uk](http://www.venuehire.spacecentre.co.uk)

The University of Manchester Conferences and Venues  
Manchester, Greater Manchester  
[www.conference.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.conference.manchester.ac.uk)

Woodland Grange Conference Centre  
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire  
[www.eefvenues.co.uk/conference-venues/warwickshire/](http://www.eefvenues.co.uk/conference-venues/warwickshire/)

### **Taste of England Award**

Delifonseca Dockside  
Liverpool, Merseyside  
[www.delifonseca.co.uk](http://www.delifonseca.co.uk)

Hotel Maiyango  
Leicester, Leicestershire  
[www.maiyango.com](http://www.maiyango.com)

The Parkers Arms  
Newton in Bowland, Lancashire  
[www.parkersarms.co.uk](http://www.parkersarms.co.uk)

Stokes Tea & Coffee  
Lincoln, Lincolnshire  
[www.stokes-coffee.co.uk](http://www.stokes-coffee.co.uk)

Yorebridge House  
Leyburn, North Yorkshire  
[www.yorebridgehouse.co.uk](http://www.yorebridgehouse.co.uk)

### **Holiday Park/Holiday Village of the Year**

Cofton Country Holidays  
Dawlish, Devon  
[www.coftonholidays.co.uk](http://www.coftonholidays.co.uk)

Poston Mill Park  
Hereford, Herefordshire

[www.postonmill.co.uk](http://www.postonmill.co.uk)

Seafeld Caravan Park  
Seahouses, Northumberland  
[www.seafieldpark.co.uk](http://www.seafieldpark.co.uk)

Searles Leisure Resort in Hunstanton  
Hunstanton, Norfolk  
[www.searles.co.uk](http://www.searles.co.uk)

Trethem Mill Touring Park  
Truro, Cornwall  
[www.trethem.com](http://www.trethem.com)

### **Tourism Pub of the Year**

The Exchange  
Leicester, Leicestershire  
[www.exchangeleicester.com](http://www.exchangeleicester.com)

Freemasons at Wiswell  
Clitheroe, Lancashire  
[www.freemasonsatwiswell.com](http://www.freemasonsatwiswell.com)

The Pandora Inn  
Falmouth, Cornwall  
[www.pandorainn.com](http://www.pandorainn.com)

Wild Boar Inn, Grill & Smokehouse  
Nr Windermere, Cumbria  
[www.englishlakes.co.uk/hotels/lake-district-hotels/windermere-hotels/wild-boar-inn/](http://www.englishlakes.co.uk/hotels/lake-district-hotels/windermere-hotels/wild-boar-inn/)

The Wro Bar, Lounge & Loft  
West Kirby, Merseyside  
[www.the-wro.co.uk](http://www.the-wro.co.uk)

### **Tourism Experience of the Year**

The Cycle Hub  
Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear  
[www.thecyclehub.org](http://www.thecyclehub.org)

Farm Stay UK Ltd  
Kenilworth, Warwickshire  
[www.farmstay.co.uk](http://www.farmstay.co.uk)

Livingstone Lodge Overnight Safari Experience, Port Lympne Reserve  
Ashford, Kent  
[www.aspinallfoundation.org/portlympne](http://www.aspinallfoundation.org/portlympne)

St Annes Beach Huts  
Lytham, Lancashire  
[www.stannesbeachhuts.co.uk](http://www.stannesbeachhuts.co.uk)

Treetop Trek Ltd

Windermere, Cumbria  
[www.treetoptrek.co.uk](http://www.treetoptrek.co.uk)

### **Bed & Breakfast/Guest Accommodation of the Year**

Colton House  
Rugeley, Staffordshire  
[www.coltonhouse.com](http://www.coltonhouse.com)

Lower Barns Boutique B&B  
St Austell, Cornwall  
[www.lowerbarns.co.uk](http://www.lowerbarns.co.uk)

Mere Brook House  
Wirral, Merseyside  
[www.merebrookhouse.co.uk](http://www.merebrookhouse.co.uk)

The Old Rectory of St James  
Telford, Shropshire  
[www.theoldrectoryofstjames.co.uk](http://www.theoldrectoryofstjames.co.uk)

Swan House  
Hastings, East Sussex  
[www.swanhousehastings.co.uk](http://www.swanhousehastings.co.uk)

### **Small Visitor Attraction of the Year**

Gladstone Pottery Museum  
Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire  
[www.stokemuseums.org.uk](http://www.stokemuseums.org.uk)

Owl & Monkey Haven  
Newport, Isle of Wight  
[www.owlandmonkeyhaven.co.uk](http://www.owlandmonkeyhaven.co.uk)

Stott Park Bobbin Mill  
Ulverston, Cumbria  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/stottpark](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/stottpark)

Topsail Charters Ltd  
Maldon, Essex  
[www.topsailcharters.co.uk](http://www.topsailcharters.co.uk)

The World of James Herriot  
Thirsk, North Yorkshire  
[www.worldofjamesherriot.com](http://www.worldofjamesherriot.com)

### **Large Hotel of the Year**

Chewton Glen Hotel & Spa  
New Milton, Hampshire  
[www.chewtonglen.com](http://www.chewtonglen.com)

Ellenborough Park  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire [www.ellenboroughpark.com](http://www.ellenboroughpark.com)  
The Manor House Hotel  
Moreton-on-the-Marsh, Gloucestershire  
[www.cotswold-inns-hotels.co.uk](http://www.cotswold-inns-hotels.co.uk)

Matfen Hall Hotel  
Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland  
[www.matfenhall.com](http://www.matfenhall.com)

Peckforton Castle  
Tarporley, Cheshire  
[www.peckfortoncastle.co.uk](http://www.peckfortoncastle.co.uk)

### **Sustainable Tourism Award**

At Bristol Science Centre  
Bristol  
[www.at-bristol.org.uk/](http://www.at-bristol.org.uk/)

Colton House  
Rugeley, Staffordshire  
[www.coltonhouse.com](http://www.coltonhouse.com)

The Green House Hotel  
Bournemouth, Dorset  
[www.thegreenhousehotel.com](http://www.thegreenhousehotel.com)

St Cuthbert's House  
Seahouses, Northumberland  
[www.stcuthbertshouse.com](http://www.stcuthbertshouse.com)

Wheatland Farm Eco Lodges  
Winkleigh, Devon  
[www.wheatlandfarm.co.uk](http://www.wheatlandfarm.co.uk)

### **Access for All Tourism Award**

The Bristol Hippodrome  
Bristol  
[www.atgtickets.com/venues/bristol-hippodrome](http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/bristol-hippodrome)

Eureka! The National Children's Museum  
Halifax, West Yorkshire  
[www.eureka.org.uk](http://www.eureka.org.uk)

Kernock Cottages  
Saltash, Cornwall  
[www.kernockcottages.com](http://www.kernockcottages.com)

Sandcastle Waterpark  
Blackpool, Lancashire  
[www.sandcastle-waterpark.co.uk](http://www.sandcastle-waterpark.co.uk)

## Press contacts

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## About VisitEngland

- VisitEngland is the country's national tourist board. We work in partnership with the industry to develop the visitor experience across England, plan national tourism strategy, grow the value of tourism in England and provide advocacy for the industry and our visitors. Our work is underpinned by robust research and customer insights. You can access the latest in-depth market intelligence and statistics on [www.visitengland.org/insight-statistics](http://www.visitengland.org/insight-statistics).
- England is a unique destination and a real powerhouse in global tourism. It represents 84 per cent of the total UK visitor economy, is worth £106 billion, and supports 2.6 million jobs.
- For corporate information see [www.visitengland.org](http://www.visitengland.org) and for consumer information see [www.visitengland.com](http://www.visitengland.com).

## About the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2015

- The VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2015 celebrate the best of English tourism. They promote healthy industry competition and high standards, helping to ensure England's place as a world-class destination. [www.visitenglandawards.org](http://www.visitenglandawards.org).
- The 17 categories for the 2015 awards include: Access for All Tourism Award, Bed & Breakfast / Guest Accommodation of the Year, Business Tourism Award, Holiday Park / Holiday Village of the Year, Large Hotel of the Year, Large Visitor Attraction of the Year, Self-Catering Holiday Provider of the Year, Small Hotel of the Year, Small Visitor Attraction of the Year, Sustainable Tourism Award, Taste of England Award, Tourism Event of the Year, Tourism Experience of the Year, Tourism Pub of the Year, Visitor Information Provider of the Year.
- Included in the 17 categories are the additional Awards of Tourism Superstar and Outstanding Contribution to Tourism. The Outstanding Contribution to Tourism Award will be announced on the night. Previous winners of this award have included The Great English Pub, Michael Eavis CBE, HM The Queen, the Harry Potter films, Sir Cameron Mackintosh, Sir Paul McCartney, Liverpool, The National Trust, the English Garden, the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Makers and last year The Travel Agent.