

2019 Lilizela Tourism Awards winners announced

The seventh annual Lilizela Tourism Awards, which took place on Saturday, 9 November 2019, honoured South Africa's tourism accommodation establishments, visitor experiences, tour operators, tour guides, emerging entrepreneurs alongside several industry luminaries, during an awards ceremony that saw performances by the likes of Sibongile Khumalo and The Ndlovu Youth Choir.



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The awards recognise and reward exemplary service among businesses in the local tourism sector, ranging from accommodation establishments and tour operators to scenic attractions and cultural heritage sites.

Tourism Minister, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane paid special tribute to South Africa's outstanding tourism businesses, some of which have been beneficiaries of the National Department of Tourism's market access and enterprise development programmes.

"Thank you to the men and women who, in their area of work, go an extra mile to ensure that tourists that travel to our country enjoy a memorable experience. Providing real authentic experiences to tourists is what will sustain and grow our tourism sector. All of us should do this cognisant of the fact that tourists have no obligation to choose South Africa as a tourist destination.

"Tourism is a very competitive sector and demands from all of us to offer tourists a distinct, authentically South African and memorable experience so that they can return to our country again and again, or even better entice others to come along with them in their subsequent visits. As we cast our eyes into the future, we must continue to ensure that we transform our sector inclusively and to showcase more authentic and uniquely South African experiences," , said Kubayi-Ngubane.

Celebrating SA culture and heritage

This year's awards coincide with South Africa's 25 years of democracy commemorations and honoured the tourism excellence born as a result of this history. In support of Government's efforts to promote sustainable tourism and youth

employment, a Sustainability Village showcased SA’s arts and craft.

The Minister and other special guests toured the Sustainable Village curated space for selected black-owned businesses to market their products at the venue, all of which are proudly made in South Africa. Many of their products are also inspired by South African culture and heritage, and are beautifully handcrafted using sustainable materials which is why we are proud to support this initiative.

In total, 66 awards under eight categories were handed.

Bheki Dube of Curiosity Backpackers was awarded the prestigious "I Do Tourism" award. Introduced in 2018, this award recognises proudly South African organisations or individuals who, through sheer dedication and passion, have excelled in positioning the country as a tourism destination of choice, contributing to the vibrancy and growth of the sector.

The winners, within in their respective categories, are as follows:

ETEYA	
Camping RetrEats	Gauteng
TOUR OPERATOR	
Earthstompers Adventures	Western Cape
ACCOMMODATION MOBILITY	
Soli Deo Gloria	Western Cape
EXPERIENCE MOBILITY	
Cape Town International Convention Centre Company	Western Cape
SCENIC BEAUTY	
Kagga Kamma Nature Reserve	Western Cape
WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS	
Hayward's Grand Safaris	Gauteng
BEACH EXPERIENCE	
Chokka Trail	Eastern Cape
ACTION &ADVENTURE	
Baviaans Camino	Eastern Cape
ROOTS & CULTURE	
TAHS-SA (Traditional African homestays South Afri	Limpopo
CULTURE & LIFESTYLE	
The Workshop ko Kasi	Northern Cape
LAP OF LUXURY	
Oceana Beach & Wildlife Reserve	Eastern Cape
MARINE ADVENTURE	
Raggy Charters	Eastern Cape
CARAVAN & CAMPING	
Mahai Caravan Park Royal Natal	KwaZulu-Natal
Jackalberry Ridge	Mpumalanga

Dibiki Holiday Resort	Western Cape
BACKPACKERS & HOSTELING	
Saltycrax Backpackers	Western Cape
Once in Joburg	Gauteng
Coffee Shack Backpackers & Surf School	Eastern Cape
Bushbaby River Lodge	Limpopo
African Tulip Guesthouse	Western Cape
GUESTHOUSE	
River Place Manor	Northern Cape
La Lechere Guesthouse	Limpopo
Panorama Guest House King William's Town	Eastern Cape
Naba Lodge Guest House	Northern Cape
COUNTRY HOUSE	
Welgelegen Manor	Mpumalanga
Pleasant Places Country Guest House	KwaZulu-Natal
Hamilton Parks Country Lodge	Mpumalanga
LODGE	
Ebundu (Pty) Ltd	Mpumalanga
Kagga Kamma Nature Reserve	Western Cape
The Gorge Private Game Lodge & Spa	KwaZulu-Natal
GAME LODGE	
Bayala Game Lodge	KwaZulu-Natal
Phelwana Game Lodge	Limpopo
Palala Boutique Game Lodge and Spa	Limpopo
SELF CATERING SHARED VACATION	
Mejane Bush Camp	Mpumalanga
Thunzi Bush Lodge	Eastern Cape
Haga Haga	Eastern Cape
SELF CATERING EXCLUSIVE	
N'Wambu Safari Lodge by Elite Residences	Mpumalanga
Burlington Bush Cottages	Eastern Cape
Aquarius Luxury Suites	Western Cape
Bethesda Exclusive Accommodation	Free State
IN-HOTEL CONFERENCE CENTRE	
Mont d' Or Hotel	Free State
EVENTS VENUE	
Sun Arena	Gauteng
Mhatha Dam Resort Luchaba Nature Reserve	Eastern Cape
Naba Lodge Conference Facility	Northern Cape
FUNCTION VENUE	
AnnVilla Conference Venue	North West
Monakaladi Gardens Wedding and Conference Venue	North West
CONFERENCE CENTRE	
The Forum The Campus	Gauteng
CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE	
Sandton Convention Centre	Gauteng
Olive Convention Centre	KwaZulu-Natal
Meetings, Exhibitions & Special Events (MESE)	
Centurion A Forever Hotel Conference	Gauteng
Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre	Gauteng
SMALL HOTEL	
Mayfair Hotel	Eastern Cape
Eendracht Hotel	Western Cape
APARTMENT HOTEL	
The Hyde Hotel	Western Cape
BOUTIQUE HOTEL	
Oceana Beach & Wildlife Reserve	Eastern Cape
Ekhaya Boutique Hotel	KwaZulu-Natal

HOTEL	
The Oyster Box Hotel	KwaZulu-Natal
Thaba Eco Hotel	Gauteng
Lesedi African Lodge & Cultural Village	North West
Town Lodge Port Elizabeth	Eastern Cape
Road Lodge Potchefstroom	North West
TOUR GUIDES	
Fhumulani Sidney Mkosi	Limpopo
Bulelani Gerald Futshane	Western Cape
Kwandiwe Waxa	Eastern Cape

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