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## Media Release

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# NZ Tourism Awards finalists revealed

Twenty-four leading tourism operators and stakeholders have been announced today as finalists in the 2017 New Zealand Tourism Awards – the \$35 billion tourism industry’s most prestigious awards.

The finalists span the country from Queenstown to Waitangi and include long-established operators as well as new businesses. Accommodation providers, activity and transport operators, educators and researchers are among the finalists.

They will compete for awards in two individual categories and eight business categories, says Chris Roberts, Chief Executive of Tourism Industry Aotearoa which runs the annual awards programme.

“It’s really pleasing to see the competition for the New Zealand Tourism Awards is growing stronger every year. New Zealand’s tourism industry is enjoying unprecedented growth,” Mr Roberts says.

“These prestigious awards celebrate the industry’s success and recognise the individuals and businesses doing an outstanding job, generating economic wealth and supporting jobs in communities throughout the country.

“I’d like to congratulate everyone who took the time to enter the Awards, even if they didn’t make it to finalist status. The Awards are a valuable opportunity to benchmark your business against your peers and demonstrate you are striving to be the best.”

The Awards are closely aligned with the industry’s **Tourism 2025** growth framework, which aims to grow total annual tourism revenue to \$41 billion.

The winner of the Air New Zealand Supreme Tourism Award will receive international air travel to any Air New Zealand destination valued at \$10,000 (+GST) to help them grow their tourism business.

The winners will be announced at a black-tie dinner in Christchurch on Thursday 7 September.

ChristchurchNZ convention bureau and industry partnership manager Caroline Blanchfield says Christchurch is delighted to host the annual Awards for the first time.

“This is a great opportunity to showcase all Christchurch has to offer to New Zealand’s top industry performers. I hope they will take the time while here to soak up our warm hospitality and experience a city that changes daily, with new places to eat, drink, shop and discover popping up all over town.

“Visitors now spend over \$2 billion annually in the city, exceeding pre-earthquake levels. This is a city that has so much to offer, we’re excited to welcome the Awards to Christchurch and demonstrate to the New Zealand industry that it is a vibrant city of opportunity.”

## **2017 New Zealand Tourism Awards finalists**

### **PATA New Zealand Trust Emerging Tourism Leader Award**

- Jasmine Adams - Rotorua TOP 10 Holiday Park
- Shayne Forrest – Hobbiton Movie Set & Farm Tours, Matamata
- Margaret Munro – Earth & Sky Stargazing & Observatory Tours, Tekapo

### **Auckland Airport Tourism Industry Champion Award**

- Lisa Li – China Travel Service (NZ) Ltd, Auckland
- Les Morgan – Sudima Hotels & Resorts
- Ryan Sanders – Haka Tourism Group
- Angus Stubbs – Tourism Holdings Ltd – Discover Waitomo

### **Sudima Hotels & Resorts Tourism 2025 Enabler Award**

- Angus & Associates Ltd, Wellington
- New Zealand Transport Agency
- Queenstown Resort College

### **Westpac Business Excellence Award – Less than \$6 million annual turnover**

- Auckland Seaplanes
- Dive! Tutukaka
- Taupo DeBretts Spa Resort

### **JLT & AIG Business Excellence Award – More than \$6 million annual turnover**

- Haka Tourism Group
- Real Journeys, Queenstown
- Skyline Queenstown

### **Department of Conservation Environmental Tourism Award**

- Real Journeys – Walter Peak Land Restoration Project, Queenstown
- Sudima Hotels & Resorts
- Taupo DeBretts Spa Resort
- YHA New Zealand

### **Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment Industry Alignment Award**

- TIME Unlimited Tours, Auckland
- Tourism West Coast

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### **He kai kei aku ringa Māori Tourism Award**

- TIME Unlimited Tours, Auckland
- Kapiti Island Nature Tours

### **epay New Zealand Tourism Marketing Award**

- Haka Tourism Group
- SKYCITY Auckland Ltd
- YHA New Zealand

### **ServiceIQ Visitor Experience Award**

- Skyline Rotorua
- Tourism Holdings Ltd – NZ Rentals
- Waitangi Treaty Grounds

### **About the New Zealand Tourism Awards**

The New Zealand Tourism Awards 2017 are run by TIA, with Award Partners Air New Zealand and the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment.

The Awards are also supported by the Air Force Museum of New Zealand, Auckland Airport, Christchurch Casino, Crowe Horwath International, Department of Conservation, epay New Zealand, He kai kei aku ringa, JLT/AIG, Monteiths, Pacific Tourways, PATA New Zealand Trust, ServiceIQ, Sudima Hotels & Resorts, Westpac, media partner NZME and host city ChristchurchNZ.

For more details, visit [www.nztourismawards.org.nz](http://www.nztourismawards.org.nz)

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## KEY FACTS

- Tourism in New Zealand is a \$95 million per day industry. Tourism delivers around \$40 million in foreign exchange to the New Zealand economy each day of the year. Domestic tourism contributes another \$55 million in economic activity every day.
- Tourism is New Zealand's biggest export earner, contributing \$14.5 billion or 20.7% of New Zealand's foreign exchange earnings (year ended March 2016).
- 13.2% of the total number of people employed in New Zealand work directly or indirectly in tourism. That means 332,322 people are working in the visitor economy.
- The [Tourism 2025](#) growth framework has a goal of growing total tourism revenue to \$41 billion a year by 2025.

Visit [www.tia.org.nz](http://www.tia.org.nz) for more information

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