

Tourism Industry Awards 2017 Winners Announced

By Mark Murphy - Feb 6, 2017



Best Cultural Experience - Over 100,000 people - GPO Witness History - Aline Fitzgerald, Manager (blue dress) with colleagues. Pic: Paul Sherwood.

The winners of the 2017 Irish Tourism Industry Awards were announced on February 3rd, where winners in 14 categories won awards for excellence and innovation.

Minister for Tourism Shane Ross T.D. was on hand to present the Waterford Crystal trophies to winners at a gala event in the Clayton Hotel Burlington Road. The Irish Tourist Industry Confederation (ITIC), the umbrella group for the tourism industry in Ireland, organises the awards in conjunction with Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland. Over 550 people from the industry were in attendance.

Award winners included Westport House for Best Leisure Tourism Innovation, Dublin Airport for Best International Access Initiative and the GPO Witness History Visitor Centre for Best Cultural Experience.

There was also a Special Recognition Award for the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme, which the adjudicating panel felt shone a positive spotlight on Ireland to a global audience.

Minister Ross said: “The range of awards recognises both innovation and excellence and rewards the best operators within Irish tourism. It gives us the opportunity to come together to champion excellence, reward success and inspire others in the tourism industry to follow suit. Congratulations to all winners.”

Adjudication on the awards was carried out by an independent panel of experts, chaired by Maurice Pratt, the Chairman of the Uniphar Group and including Noirin Hegarty, Operations Director from Lonely Planet; Philip Browne, Chief Executive of the IRFU; Simon McKeever, Chief Executive, the Irish Exporters’ Association and Marian O’Gorman, Chief Executive, the Kilkenny Group.

Speaking at the event, Paul Gallagher, Chairman of the Irish Tourist Industry Confederation said: “The Irish Tourism Industry Awards are a celebration of Irish tourism and validate all of the hard work that the industry puts into growing this sector. ITIC believes if pro-tourism policies are adopted and appropriate investment strategies implemented that overseas earnings from inbound tourism can be as high as €7bn annually by 2025, thus adding another 50,000 jobs to the sector”.