

Pulling in visitors from overseas and across UK

INTERNATIONAL VISITOR EXPERIENCE OF THE YEAR

The South West Coast Path Association won gold.

The longest National Trail in the UK offers exercise, wonderful views, heritage and wildlife and all without an admission fee.

There is no doubting how big an impact the 630-mile path has on the tourism economy of the region, as one of the greatest attractions in the South West, year-round.

Select South West Tours, which is based in Plymouth, and Unique Devon Tours, Newton Abbot, were both awarded bronze.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AWARD

Wild Futures, The Monkey Sanctuary, was awarded gold.

The attraction near Looe is home to 37 primates, each one with their distinct characters and personalities.

As well as caring for the creatures and pulling in visitors to south-east Cornwall, the operation is an active rescue centre.

The Monkey Sanctuary also educates thousands of visitors on primate welfare and conservation, giving visitors an intimate insight into a working sanctuary.

Millbrook Estate, which offers holiday cottages and weddings at High Bickington in North Devon, was awarded silver. Old Barn, Tregonetha, and River Dart Country Park, received bronze awards.

GLAMPING AND ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION

Gold went to Longlands, the luxury glamping site near Combe Martin in North Devon.

Each of the five safari lodges sleeps six and two dogs. There are 17 acres of countryside, including meadows, ancient woods and streamside walks, plus a boating lake complete with rowing boats and stocked with rainbow trout.

A hot tub overlooks the valley and there is also a spa barn. Games include quoits, giant chess, netball and basketball.

Silver was awarded to O'Connors Campers, which rents out VW vans from its Okehampton base. Safari Cornwall, a glamping site at St Kew Highway, near Wadebridge in North Cornwall, was highly commended.

GUIDED TOUR OF THE YEAR

Adventure Segway, which offers electric two-wheeled adventures in Cornwall was awarded the gold.

There are six experiences at Mount Edgcumbe on the Rame Peninsula: Avenue tree slalom, barn pool, woodland safari, coastal waters, duck decoy and ski-style hill slalom – "the closest sensation to skiing this side of the Alps".

There was also recognition for encounter Cornwall, which has been running guided canoe trips and kayak hire on the Fowey estuary since 2006, in form of a bronze award.



A woolly monkey surveys the world from the security of The Monkey Sanctuary, near Looe

VENUE & BUSINESS TOURISM

The gold here went to the Carbis Bay Hotel, Spa and Estate, near St Ives.

The coastal retreat in Cornwall enjoys with direct access to its privately owned 25-acre Blue Flag beach and breath-taking views of

one of the world's most beautiful bays.

Beach weddings, with domes and firework finales are one of the hotel's special attractions.

The Carbis Bay also has a variety of meeting rooms suitable for conferences, seminars, open days,

workshops and one-to-one interviews.

Deer Park Country Hotel, near Honiton in East Devon was awarded a silver and RHS Rosemoor, near Great Torrington in North Devon came away with a bronze.

SMALL ATTRACTION OF THE YEAR

Screech Owl Sanctuary, known for its unique animal encounters, was awarded the gold.

Visitors can try a range of activities, from falconry lessons to feeding the meerkats, near Indian Queens in Mid Cornwall.

The sanctuary rescues, treats and releases sick and injured owls, but there are raccoons, alpacas, pygmy goats, emu and ponies, too.

Plymouth Gin picked up a silver.

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE

The front of house team at the Headland Hotel and Spa, Newquay, earned a gold.

They are credited with helping make the famous hotel a sanctuary by the sea.

The hotel was designed by the Cornish architect Silvanus Trevail and opened in June, 1900. The grand Victorian building would be familiar to Edward, Prince of Wales, and his brother Prince Albert (later Kings Edward VIII and George VI respectively) from the outside, but not from the luxurious mod cons on the inside.

Stephen Eddy, of Exmoor Zoo, was highly commended.

RHS GARDEN

Rosemoor

AWARD-WINNING VENUE HIRE


