

Winners announced: National Geographic Traveller Reader Awards 2016, in association with Qatar Tourism Authority

Submitted by: APL Media (Absolute Publishing)

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Michael Palin, British Airways and New York were among the winners announced at the National Geographic Traveller Reader Awards 2016, in association with Qatar Tourism Authority.

Celebrity chef and TV presenter Kiran Jethwa hosted the awards ceremony at Le Méridien Piccadilly in London on 29 November, which was attended by some of the travel industry's top executives and senior figures.

Pat Riddell, editor of National Geographic Traveller (UK), said, "A huge congratulations to all the winners and finalists, and a huge thanks to all those who took part. Our readers are a knowledgeable, sophisticated, well-travelled bunch who don't need much prodding to air their views — so it's very satisfying to reward their favourite destinations, attractions and companies.

"And, of course, a very special mention goes to Michael Palin, who received our Outstanding Contribution to Travel Award this year. As far as we're concerned, he's nothing short of a national treasure, on account of his hugely significant and influential career to date."

The 2016 awards saw an additional five categories added, with winners selected by a record 7,957 readers — up nearly 2,000 from last year — who voted for their favourite tour operator, blog, destination, and more. The winners will be featured in an eight-page spread in the Jan/Feb 2017 issue of National Geographic Traveller (UK).

Voters were automatically entered into a prize draw. Holiday prizes included a seven-night cruise of northern Iceland on board a new, boutique 17-cabin yacht with Variety Cruises; and a seven-night ski trip to Austria, courtesy of VIP SKI. An Apple iPad mini 2, two Amazon Kindles and 20 National Geographic Traveller (UK) subscriptions were also up for grabs.

2016 READER AWARDS WINNERS

SHORT-HAUL COUNTRY

Italy

LONG-HAUL COUNTRY

USA

SHORT-HAUL CITY

Barcelona

LONG-HAUL CITY

New York

SHORT-HAUL AIRLINE

British Airways

LONG-HAUL AIRLINE

British Airways

OVERSEAS HOTEL GROUP

Hilton Hotels & Resorts

UK HOTEL GROUP

Premier Inn

TOUR OPERATOR

Kuoni

FAMILY TRAVEL COMPANY

Thomas Cook

RAIL JOURNEY

Rocky Mountaineer, Canada

CRUISE LINE

P&O Cruises

OVERSEAS ATTRACTION

Grand Canyon, USA

UK ATTRACTION

Eden Project

NEW CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Lincoln Castle (renovation), UK

NEW GREEN INITIATIVE

Wilderness Safaris – Rhino Conservation Project

TRAVEL BLOG

Budget Traveller

TRAVEL BOOK

The Road to Little Dribbling, by Bill Bryson

TRAVEL TV PROGRAMME

Great Barrier Reef with David Attenborough (BBC)

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO TRAVEL

Michael Palin

For more information and additional pictures of the evening, please visit
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NOTES

National Geographic Traveller (UK)

is published under license by APL Media Limited, from National Geographic Partners LLC in Washington, D.C. It was launched in December 2010, and is one of 16 local-language editions. The magazine is also available in Australia, China, Czech Republic, France, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Latin America, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia and Spain. The 180-page travel and lifestyle magazine is packed full of you-are-there photography, authentic travel experiences and inspiring narratives. natgeotraveller.co.uk (<http://natgeotraveller.co.uk>)

About National Geographic Travel (USA)

National Geographic Travel creates authentic, meaningful and engaging travel experiences through National Geographic Traveler magazine; National Geographic Expeditions; National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World; digital travel content; travel books; maps; and travel photography programmes. National Geographic Traveler (six issues per year) has 16 international editions. National Geographic Expeditions, the travel programme of the Society, offers a variety of unique travel experiences led by top experts to more than 80 destinations across all seven continents. National Geographic Travel books bring readers curated travel advice, photography and insider tips. nationalgeographic.com/travel (<http://nationalgeographic.com/travel>)

About National Geographic Partners LLC

National Geographic Partners LLC, a joint venture between National Geographic Society and 21st Century Fox, combines National Geographic television channels with National Geographic's media and consumer-oriented assets, including National Geographic magazines; National Geographic Studios; related digital and social media platforms; books; maps; children's media; and ancillary activities that include travel, location-based entertainment, archival sales, catalog, licensing and e-commerce businesses. A portion of the proceeds from National Geographic Partners LLC will be used to fund science, exploration, conservation and education through significant ongoing contributions to the work of the National Geographic Society. nationalgeographic.com (<http://nationalgeographic.com>)

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