

Queenslanders called on to vote for their favourite holiday hotspots

8 May 2023

Queensland holidaymakers and weekend warriors are being called on to vote for their favourite hotspots in the 2023 Queensland Top Tourism Town Awards.

Presented by the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC), the annual awards recognise outstanding regional destinations. Honouring communities that demonstrate a commitment to visitor excellence.

After an extensive judging process by a panel of tourism experts, QTIC CEO Brett Fraser said it is now up to the public to help decide the winners.

“From the list of 17 wonderfully diverse finalists, we are calling on the public to celebrate their best-loved destinations by voting for who they think should be crowned a Queensland Top Tourism Town,” Fraser said.

“Each finalist is a local treasure. From coastal escapes in Caloundra and Airlie Beach, to outback adventures in Quilpie and Julia Creek, these communities showcase the very best that Queensland has to offer visitors.

“It is not only homegrown attractions that drive guests to a destination. It is a combined effort from local communities and tourism operators that help holidaymakers feel welcome. The awards shine a light on these communities and celebrate their dedication to visitor excellence.

“Congratulations to all the remarkable finalists, who have demonstrated that you do not need to travel far in Queensland to enjoy an incredible experience,” said Fraser.

There are four Queensland Top Tourism Town Awards categories, with voters invited to nominate their top three destinations:

- Top Tourism Town Award – those with a population over 5,000
- Top Small Tourism Town Award – those with a population between 1,500 – 5,000
- Top Tiny Tourism Town Award – those with a population below 1,500

Every voter goes in the draw to win a three-night stay at the 5-Star RACV Noosa Resort in a luxurious three-bedroom villa.

Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said Queenslanders continued to lead the discovery of world-class visitor experiences in our own backyard.

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“This is a wonderful opportunity for Queenslanders to reward their favourite regional Tourism Towns for unforgettable visitor experiences,” Mr Hinchliffe said.

“From tourism and accommodation operators to cafes, restaurants and the local supermarket, being a Top Tourism Town is all about a united community commitment to excellence.

“Congratulations to this year’s finalists for working together to make holidaymakers welcome and being responsive to the changing needs of visitors.

“Recognising Top Tourism Towns and their diverse tourism experiences is critical to the industry led Towards Tourism 2032 roadmap’s commitment to growing Queensland’s visitor economy”.

With voting now open and closing 24 May, Queenslanders have two weeks to vote for their favourite holiday gems through the QTIC website at qtic.com.au/top-tourism-award/

State winners will go on to represent Queensland at the national awards held later in the year. Where they have the chance to be crowned one of Australia’s Top Tourism Towns.

Queensland’s three Top Tourism Towns will be announced in June at an awards ceremony held in Brisbane.

The Queensland Top Tourism Town Awards are made possible through the generosity of sponsors, in particular Racing Queensland.

QUEENSLAND TOP TOURISM TOWN AWARDS FINALISTS

Top Tourism Town Award (population over 5,000) finalists:

Bowen
Bundaberg
Caloundra
Redcliffe
Rockhampton
Tamborine Mountain
Townsville

Top Small Tourism Town Award (population between 1,500 – 5,000) finalists:

Airlie Beach
Ingham

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Top Tiny Tourism Town Award (population below 1,500) finalists:

Hughenden
Julia Creek
Linville
Quilpie
Richmond
Rubyvale
Toogoolawah
Winton

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**QUEENSLAND
TOURISM INDUSTRY
COUNCIL**

Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) is the peak industry body for tourism in Queensland representing more than 3,000 members. QTIC is a private sector, membership-based organisation which, since 2001, has worked to influence and shape the state's tourism business environment that directly contributes \$27.2 billion to the Queensland's economy and employs more than 237,000 Queenslanders.

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