

WEST RAND TOURISM AWARDS

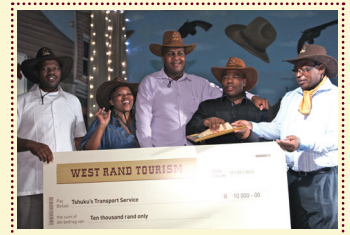
CELEBRATING TOURISM EXCELLENCE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE CRADLE OF HUMANKIND WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The fifth annual West Rand Tourism Awards were held at Maropeng in the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site (COH WHS) on 17 February 2012.

These prestigious awards recognise and reward excellence in the tourism industry, paying particular attention to exceptional service and value for money.

The aim of the awards in the short-term is to encourage local tourism establishments to give visitors the best possible experience, and in the long-term to establish the West Rand – both regionally and nationally – as an internationally acclaimed tourism destination.

There was much anticipation among the finalists as they awaited the announcement of the winners. The 2012 categories included: accommodation (ranging from camping and backpackers to hotels and lodges), food and beverage, Meetings, Exhibitions and Special Events (MESE) venues, tourist guides, tour operators and tourism experiences/activities (including adventure, leisure and spa establishments).



A total of **41 certificates** were handed out during the gala dinner, demonstrating the high level of entries with a number of joint winners in selective categories.

WE CONGRATULATE ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED AND IN PARTICULAR THE WINNERS IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

Township Accommodation	Popsue Place
Bed & Breakfast	Premier Guest House
Self- Catering	Stone Hill
3 Star Guest House	Soetkysi Guest House
3 Star Lodge	Heia Safari Lodge
4 Star Guest House	Onze Whonen Guest House
4 Star Lodge	Valley Lodge & Spa
4 Star Hotel	Maropeng a'Afrika Leisure (Pty) Ltd
5 Star Lodge	Kloofzicht Lodge
Best HDI-Owner Accommodation	Usiba Country Lodge
Most Improved Township Accommodation	Tsitsi B&B
Best Emerging Accommodation	Hibon
Restaurant – Buffet	Mount Grace Country House & Spa
Restaurant – Al Fresco	Gilroy's Brewery
Restaurant – Fine Dine	Budmarsh Country Lodge
Tavern	Shimi's Inn
Most Improved Township Tavern	Maggie Sports Bar
Conference & Wedding Venue	Engedi
Best HDI-Owned Conference Venue	Ekhaya Conference Venue
Provincial Guide	Adam Fillmore
Site Guide	Reuben Tsime

Tour Operator	Jelani Transfers & Tours
Best Outdoor Experience	Heia Safari Ranch
Best Tourism Leisure Experience	Gilroy's Brewery
Best Recreational Experience	Sundowner Adventures
Most Exhilarating Experience	AirVentures Hot Air Ballooning
Best Spa Experience (Joint Winners)	Mount Grace Country House and Spa & Valley Lodge & Spa
Arts & Crafts Beadworks	Suzaan Crafts
Arts & Crafts Visual/Fine Art	Green ORB
Arts & Crafts Weaving	The Sun Hat Knitting and Multi-purpose
Arts & Crafts Design & Innovation	Mamagola General Trading
Performing Arts (Theatre)	Ubizo Ma-Afrika Theatre
Performing Arts: Dance	Red for Danger
Performing Arts: Poetry	Abram Mokome
Best Eco-Tourism Establishment	Mount Grace Country House & Spa
Most Improved Local Tourism Association (Joint Winners)	Kagiso LTA & Merafong LTA
Best Walk-in Tourism information office	Mogale Tourism
Best Overall Tourism Establishment for 2011	Valley Lodge & Spa
Best Overall Township Establishment for 2011	Tshuku's Transport Serive

Cllr K.M. Nawa, Executive Mayor of West Rand District Municipality and Dawn Robertson, CEO of the COH WHS, were thrilled with the awards garnered by the West Rand and COH WHS.

"It's wonderful to see such high standards in tourism recognised and rewarded. With establishments like these, the West Rand and COH WHS will go from strength to strength, building the economy and attracting tourists from all over South Africa and beyond."



WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



West Rand Tourism



cradle of humankind
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