<u>Awards for the best in the Tourism industry</u>

The awards are hosted by Visit Wales to celebrate the best of the tourism industry — showcasing Wales' tourism businesses and the industry's achievements.

The awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, 8 March 2018 at the Celtic Manor Resort, Newport and nominations are now being invited in a range of categories.

Categories for the awards are

- Best Hotel
- Best Bed & Breakfast
- Best Self-Catering
- Best Caravan, Camping or Glamping,
- Best Attraction
- Best Activity
- Best Event
- Best Place to Eat
- Best Destination
- Young Tourism Person of the Year
- Tourism Business Innovation Award.

The winners from regionally hosted awards will go through to the National Awards in March. The Tourism Minister, Dafydd Elis-Thomas, attended the North Wales Tourism Awards last week, where some of the first regional entries to the National Awards were announced.

Speaking about the awards, the Tourism Minister, said:

"The North Wales Tourism awards were a fantastic success and it is great to see the winners going on to compete in the Wales awards. I'd encourage all tourism businesses across the rest of Wales to nominate themselves for these awards; the effort in entering awards can pay dividends and can be of great benefit to team and staff morale. Of course, being able to say that you're the 'Best in Wales' is also a great marketing boost.

"The quality of what we have to offer here in Wales goes from strength to strength and the Awards are an opportunity for us all to celebrate the industry and to showcase the outstanding quality of our vibrant tourism sector.

"This is our opportunity to put tourism in the limelight and pay tribute to those who are committed and passionate about their businesses, tourism and Wales." Speaking at the Go North Wales Tourism Awards last week, Managing director Jim Jones said the quality of entries this year underlined why the region was increasingly being recognised as a world class destination which generates £2.8 billion every year and employs around 40,000 people.

He said:

"It's been very successful and I congratulate all the winners. However, in my eyes every nominee is a winner and all have played a party in what has been a successful year for North Wales Tourism.

"This event really showcases the very best of North Wales and we have seen so many amazing entries. A number of the winners will now go forward to represent North Wales at the Visit Wales National Awards in 2018 and I wish them every success."

Tourism businesses can nominate themselves or anyone can enter a business which they deem as a worthy winner. Further information is available here (external link). The closing date for applications is Friday, 12 January 2018.