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## Tourism KwaZulu-Natal

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# Media Release

### **KwaZulu-Natal tourism providers take centre stage at the Lilizela Tourism provincial awards**

KwaZulu-Natal announced the names of the provincial winners of the 2015 Lilizela Tourism Awards. The announcement was made at an awards ceremony held on 16 September 2015 at The Greyville Racecourse where all the province's finalists were publically honoured for their contribution to service excellence and quality assurance in the tourism industry.

Billed to recognise only the best in the South African tourism industry, the Awards became the definitive accolade for excellence in tourism when they were launched in 2013. They are the ultimate reward for entrepreneurial excellence, and service excellence that sets global benchmark standards.

"We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the KwaZulu-Natal finalists and the winners. The quality of their offerings and continued commitment to their trade has not only impacted positively on their business, but it also enhances South Africa's global competitiveness," says Mr Thulani Nzima, Chief Executive Officer of South African Tourism.

The Lilizela Tourism Awards are an important platform to celebrate tourism businesses and offer the public an opportunity to cast their vote for establishments that offer excellence beyond the ordinary. This year's provincial awards are being held in the month of September – which also happens to be the time the country and industry at large celebrate Tourism Month.

Commenting on the Lilizela Awards, Kwazulu-Natal MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr Michael Mabuyakhulu said "Congratulations to all the winners from KwaZulu-Natal. It is so pleasing to see so many members of the trade within the province participating at these awards; it goes to show that they too value the importance of delivering excellent service to our visitors. When a tourist comes to KZN, they want the exceptional service and hospitality that we have promised them and the trade are the people that assist us to deliver that promise. It is also such a pleasure to celebrate our most

valuable partners in the sectors during Tourism Month, when we are actually calling on everyone to come and Re-Discover the beauty of KwaZulu-Natal. We encourage all the members of the trade to continue to support this initiative and enter again next year. ”

The KwaZulu-Natal provincial winners as selected by independent judges are:

- **Three Star, Backpackers and Hostelling - Happy Hippo Lodge and Backpackers**
- **Three Star, Bed & Breakfast- Lala Khona Lodge**
- **Four Star, Bed & Breakfast –St.Lucia Wetlands Guest House**
- **Five Star, Bed & Breakfast- Westville B & B**
- **Five Star, Country House- Days at Sea Beach Lodge**
- **Four Star, Country House- Lythwood Lodge**
- **Five Star, Game Lodge- Zulu Waters Shaka Lodge**
- **Four Star, Guest House-Lodge Afrique**
- **Five Star, Guest House- AmmaZulu African Palace**
- **One Star Hotel-Road Lodge, Richards Bay**
- **Two Star Hotel- StayEasy Pietermaritzburg**
- **Three Star Hotel-Garden Court Umhlanga**
- **Four Star Hotel-Southern Sun Elangeni & Maharani**
- **Five Star Hotel- Oyster Box Hotel**
- **Three Star Lodge- Rain Farm Game and Lodge**
- **Four Star Lodge - Three Tree at Spioenkop**
- **Five Star Lodge – Amakhosi Safari Lodge**
- **Three Star, Self-catering - Villa La Palma**
- **Five Star, Self –catering- Caban Beach Resort**
- **Wildlife Encounters – Amakhosi Safari Lodge**
- **Lap of Luxury – The Oyster Box Hotel**
- **Action and adventure- Wild 5 Adventures**
- **Marine Adventures- Ushaka Marine World**

- **Tourist Guide, Nature - Duval Pierre**
- **Tourist Guide, Culture- Jeffery Mthandeni Buthelezi**
- **Emerging – Access2Africa Safaris**
- **Experience General- Acces2AfricaSafaris**
- **Accommodation, Mobility – Garden Court Ulundi**
- **Experience, Hearing- Access2AfricaSafaris**
- **Experience, Visibility – Access2AfricaSafaris**
- **Experience, Mobility – Access2AfricaSafaris**
- **ETEYA-My Travel**
- **MEC's Awards- Mr & Mrs Nzuz**

The National Winners will be announced at the Sandton Convention Centre on 22 October 2015.

To view the full list of finalists and winners visit [www.lilizela.co.za](http://www.lilizela.co.za)

**ENDS.**

**Note to the news editors:**

**About Tourism KwaZulu-Natal**

Tourism KwaZulu-Natal was established in 1996 and is responsible for the development, promotion and marketing of tourism into and within the province, both domestically and internationally. The organisation is an entity that reports to the provincial Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

**Social links to Tourism KwaZulu-Natal:**

Website: <https://www.zulu.org.za>

Facebook: Tourism KwaZulu-Natal

Instagram: Tourismkzn\_offical

Twitter: @TourismKZN

Pinterest: KZN Tourism

**Hashtags: #GottaLuvKZN**

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