



MEDIA INFORMATION

AWARDS

Each year, Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia prepares submissions and enters Ayers Rock Resort into various awards in order to acknowledge the unique property that strives for excellence in every area of operation.

Australian Tourism Awards

In February 2016, Ayers Rock Resort was awarded the 2015 Qantas Australian Tourism Award for *Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Tourism*.

The award highlights tourism operations that demonstrate authenticity and integrity in fostering a greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and traditions. Ayers Rock Resort was recognised for its delivery of a daily suite of free Indigenous guest activities that include bush yarns, garden walks, dance and theatre performances and more, as well as its significant advances in Indigenous employment, training and development through Voyages' National Indigenous Training Academy.

It is the second consecutive year that Ayers Rock Resort has received this highest award - the Resort won the *Indigenous Tourism* accolade in the 2014 Australian Tourism Awards and was a silver finalist in the 2013 awards.

Previous achievements for Voyages at the Australian Tourism Awards include:

Australian Tourism Awards 2014
Gold Award for *Indigenous Tourism*
Bronze Award for *Indigenous Tourism*
Silver Award for *Business Tourism*

Ayers Rock Resort
Mossman Gorge Centre
Uluru Meeting Place

Australian Tourism Awards 2013
Gold Award for *Business Tourism*
Bronze Award for *Luxury Accommodation*
Silver Award for *Indigenous Tourism*

Uluru Meeting Place
Sails in the Desert Hotel
Ayers Rock Resort

Brolga Awards

At the 2015 Northern Territory Tourism Awards, Ayers Rock Resort was awarded the Brolga for *Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Tourism* for the second year running. This Brolga was awarded not only for the creation and delivery of a daily suite of free Indigenous guest activities that include bush yarns, cultural dance performances, garden walks and more but also the significant achievements made in Indigenous employment training and development.

At the 2014 Brolga Northern Territory Tourism Awards, Ayers Rock Resort was awarded Brolga Awards for both *Indigenous Tourism* and *Business Tourism*. The *Business Tourism Award* won by the Uluru Meeting Place recognised the superior meetings and events facilities



on offer, as well as the breadth of options for unique team building activities in the spiritual heart of Australia.

Other achievements for Voyages at the Brolga Northern Territory Awards include:

Brolga Northern Territory Awards 2013

Indigenous Tourism Award

Luxury Accommodation Award

Business Tourism Award

Ayers Rock Resort

Sails in the Desert

Uluru Meeting Place

HM Awards

At the 2016 HM Awards, which celebrate the Australasian accommodation industry's highest achievers, Voyages was recognised in the following categories:

Environmental Program – Winner – Tjintu Solar Field, Ayers Rock Resort

Communications Associate – Winner – Karena Noble

Hotel Engineer – Winner – Mark Mason

Hotel Chef – Highly Commended - Vanessa Grace, Sails in the Desert Hotel

Australian General Manager – Highly Commended – Manfred Pieper

Sails in the Desert won the category for best *Upscale Hotel* at the 2015 HM Awards, and at the 2014 HM Awards, the Outback Pioneer Hotel won the *Best Budget Accommodation* category, and the Uluru Meeting Place was awarded *Best MICE Property* at the 2013 HM Awards.

AHA (NT) Aristocrat Technologies Awards for Excellence

Voyages Ayers Rock Resort enjoyed stellar success at the 2016 AHA (NT) Aristocrat Technologies Awards, picking up four key awards. *Industry Rising Star of the Year* was awarded to Ashlee Murphy, best *Marketed Accommodation Hotel* went to Ayers Rock Resort, Voyages National Indigenous Training Academy was named best *Training Initiative* and Emu Walk apartments were crowned best *Redeveloped Accommodation Hotel*.

Tourism Central Australia Awards

Ayers Rock Resort's exclusive restaurant in the desert, Tali Wiru, won the category of *Territory Taste Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services* at the 2015 Tourism Central Australia Awards. Running nightly from 1 April to 15 October, the open-air gastronomic experience includes Champagne and canapés as the sun sets to the sound of a didgeridoo, a table d'hôte four-course dinner matched with premium Australian wine and captivating stories from an Indigenous storyteller.

Australian Hotel Association (NT) Australian Liquor Marketers Gold Plate Awards

Tali Wiru was named *Best Tourism Themed Restaurant* at the 2015 Australian Hotel Association (NT) Australian Liquor Marketers Gold Plate Awards. The awards recognise the diversity of restaurants in the Northern Territory and the importance of hospitality staff.



Media Architecture Biennale 2016

Bruce Munro's Field of Light has been created in its largest form to date in the place that inspired it – Uluru. The installation opened on 1 April 2016 to worldwide acclaim and was awarded Spatial Media Art 2016 at the Media Architecture Biennale 2016 in Sydney.