

AGENT-RATED SUPPLIER CATEGORIES

In each of the following 17 supplier categories, suppliers first register in order to be rated. Only the top rated 6-8 companies will then be asked to submit a written submission online, and pay £199.

UK/IRISH AIRPORT OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the UK or Irish airport that has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK&I travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the airport.

AIRLINE OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the airline that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK&I travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the airline.

ACCOMMODATION SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the trade-facing bed bank or accommodation wholesaler that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK&I travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. If accommodation-only is only one part of your business, you must give answers which are specific to this part of your business. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the supplier.

UK FERRY OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the ex-UK ferry operator that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK&I travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the supplier.

CAR HIRE SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the car hire provider or broker that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK&I travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. If car hire provision is only one part of your business, you must give answers which are specific to this part of your business. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the supplier.

HOLIDAY ESSENTIALS COMPANY OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the holiday essentials provider that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK&I travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. This category is intended for attractions and ticketing specialists, insurance companies, airport lounge and airport parking providers, transfer specialists, luggage transporters and more. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the supplier.

TRAVEL TECHNOLOGY COMPANY OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the travel technology business that supplies technology/a platform to travel agents, that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK&I travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the company.

UK HOLIDAYS OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the domestic tour operator that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK&I travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the tour operator.

ESCORTED TOURING OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the escorted touring or small group tours operator that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK&I travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the tour operator. **Please note, this is one of THREE tour operator categories, and operators can enter only ONE of those three.**

SPECIALIST OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the specialist tour operator – including real destination specialists, ski specialists and other activity specialists - that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. Escorted touring operators and small group adventure operators should enter Escorted Touring Operator the Year instead. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the tour operator. **Please note, this is one of THREE tour operator categories, and operators can enter only ONE of those three.**

HOTEL & RESORT OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the hotel or resort operator that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. It is intended for hotel and resort groups as opposed to individual hotels, and entrants are expected to work closely with UK&I travel agents and support them in various ways. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the hotelier.

TOURIST BOARD OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the tourist board (UK office) that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK&I travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the tourist board.

SPECIALIST CRUISE LINE OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the specialist cruise line that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK&I travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. It is intended for true destination specialists, as well as expedition cruise lines and those operating in a very specific niche. Cruise lines offering a more general programme should consider entering Ocean Cruise Line of River Cruise Line of the Year instead. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the cruise line. **Please note, this is one of THREE cruise categories and cruise lines can enter only ONE of these.**

RIVER CRUISE LINE OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the river cruise line that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK&I travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the cruise line. **Please note, this is one of THREE cruise categories and cruise lines can enter only ONE of these.**

OCEAN CRUISE LINE OF THE YEAR (mainstream)

This award will go to the ocean cruise line that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK&I travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. This category is intended for cruise lines with a more general/worldwide programme – those with a real destination specialism or operating in a specific niche should enter Specialist Cruise Line of the Year instead. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the cruise line. **Please note, this is one of THREE cruise categories and cruise lines can enter only ONE of these.**

TOUR OPERATOR OF THE YEAR (mainstream)

This award will go to the tour operator that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. This category is intended for tour operators with a general/worldwide/package holidays focus. Those that are destination specialists, or specialise in a certain activity or style of holiday, should consider Escorted Touring Operator or Specialist Operator of the Year instead. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the operator. **Please note, this is one of THREE tour operator categories, and operators can enter only ONE of those three.**

SUPPLIER SALES TEAM OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the supplier sales team that can prove it has had the most successful year and been the best at engaging the UK&I travel trade in the 12 months to June 2018. This category is aimed at both call centre/head office teams and on-the-road teams that give support to UK travel agents. This category will be based 50% on travel agent ratings, and 50% on a written submission from the supplier.

TRAVEL AGENT CATEGORIES

In each of the following 7 agent categories, travel agents must fill in an online submission. They are all FREE to enter. Colleagues can enter an agent on their behalf but must have that agent's permission and must be able to give enough detail to make a compelling submission.

HIGH STREET AGENT OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the individual high-street based agent working for an independent agency OR a multiple that can prove he or she has had the most impressive performance in the 12 months to June 2018. Entrants should be frontline consultants as opposed to managers, and will be expected to give details of their individual sales performance. Agents must fill in an online submission form in order to be considered. The winner of this category will be chosen by a panel of supplier judges, based on their written submission. The submission can be completed by the nominee themselves, or by their manager, but must be done with the agent's permission and include enough information to make a compelling entry.

HOMEWORKER OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the homeworker that can prove he or she has had the most impressive performance in the 12 months to June 2018. Agents must fill in an online submission form in order to be considered. The winner of this category will be chosen by a panel of supplier judges, based on their written submission. The submission can be completed by the nominee themselves, or by their manager, but must be done with the agent's permission and include enough information to make a compelling entry.

BUSINESS TRAVEL AGENT OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the individual business travel agent that can prove he or she has had the most impressive performance in the 12 months to June 2018. He or she might work for a dedicated business travel agency/TMC, or might sell significant amounts of business travel within an agency

that sells both business and leisure, but the submission should relate only to business travel sales. This category is intended for frontline consultants, and must relate to their own performance. The winner of this category will be chosen by a panel of supplier judges, based on their written submission. The submission can be completed by the nominee themselves, or by their manager, but must be done with the agent's permission and include enough information to make a compelling entry.

CALL CENTRE AGENT OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the call centre-based consultant working for a travel retailer who can prove he or she has had the most impressive performance in the 12 months to June 2018. Agents must fill in an online submission form in order to be considered. The winner of this category will be chosen by a panel of supplier judges, based on their written submission. The submission can be completed by the nominee themselves, or by their manager, but must be done with the agent's permission and include enough information to make a compelling entry.

CRUISE AGENT OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the individual cruise agent that can prove he or she has had the most impressive performance in the 12 months to June 2018. Non cruise-specialists are welcome to enter, but must give as much information specific to their cruise sales as possible. Agents must fill in an online submission form in order to be considered. The winner of this category will be chosen by a panel of supplier judges, based on their written submission. The submission can be completed by the nominee themselves, or by their manager, but must be done with the agent's permission and include enough information to make a compelling entry.

YOUNG AGENT OF THE YEAR

This award will go to the young travel agent that can prove he or she has had the most impressive performance in the 12 months to June 2018. Entrants must be under 25 years of age on September 17, 2018. He or she might work in a high street store, call centre or from home. The winner of this category will be chosen by a panel of supplier judges, based on their written submission. The submission can be completed by the nominee themselves, or by their manager, but must be done with the agent's permission and include enough information to make a compelling entry.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR - NEW

This new award will go to the manager that can prove he or she has had the most impressive performance in the 12 months to June 2018. It is intended for high street store managers or team leaders within call centres, and questions on the submission form will relate to how the manager has improved team expertise, inspired strong performance and supported team members, and ultimately delivered sales growth from that team. Sales consultants should consider one of the other agent categories instead. The winner of this category will be chosen by a panel of supplier judges, based on their written submission. The submission can be completed by the nominee themselves, or by someone more senior, but must be done with their permission and include enough information to make a compelling entry.

AGENT-VOTED CATEGORIES

In these two categories, agents vote for their favourite individuals or companies as part of the rating form they complete. Suppliers cannot enter them.

ON THE ROAD HERO

This award will go to the on-the-road supplier sales rep/business development manager that receives the highest number of agent votes. Agents will be asked to give the name of one on-the-road rep who goes above and beyond the call of duty in order to train, support (and entertain) their agent accounts. Agents will make their nomination as part of the online rating form. Reps will NOT be required to submit a written entry and there is no fee – this category will rely 100% on the number of votes individual reps receive. Votes will only be accepted from agents who have completed the rest of the rating process.

TRAVEL COMPANY OF THE YEAR

This major award will go to the supplier that has done more than any other to support UK&I travel agents in the 12 months to June 2018. A shortlist of 8 contenders will be drawn up based on travel agent votes. Agents will be asked to give the THREE suppliers who have done the most to support them, and whose products they love best. Agents will make their nominations as part of the online rating form. Votes will only be accepted from agents who have completed the rest of the rating process. The eight companies which receive the highest number of votes will then be invited to a face-to-face judging day at the TTG office in July 2018, where they will face a panel of top agents to convince them that they have had the most stand-out year in the UK&I travel industry.

SPECIAL AWARDS

TOP AGENT OF THE YEAR

This special award will be bestowed upon one of the winners of the seven agent categories, decided by a panel of TTG journalists in conjunction with the category sponsor, based upon that agent's written submission, and the scores and feedback of each of the seven judging panels.

LGBT-FRIENDLY TRAVEL COMPANY OF THE YEAR – launching in June 2018

This award will go to a travel company – whether operator, cruise line, airline, travel agency or other sector – which has done more than any other to improve its LGBT offering for both employees and customers. Companies enter by submitting a written submission (there is no agent rating stage), which will then be assessed by a specialist judging panel. The submission period will open in June. Judges will be looking for travel firms that have worked to create inclusive working environments for their employees, and/or how improved services for their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender customers in the past 12 months. It is free to enter.

PR & REPRESENTATION COMPANY OF THE YEAR – launching in June 2018

This award will go to a PR, marketing or representation agency that has worked closely with the UK&I travel trade to educate and inspire them about their clients' product. Agencies enter by submitting a

written submission (there is no agent rating stage), which will then be assessed by a specialist judging panel. The submission period will open in June.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE INDUSTRY AWARD

This special award is bestowed by the TTG Media team upon an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the UK&I travel trade.