Northern Territory tourism operators have dazzled in front of their home crowd, winning seven awards at the 2016 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards held at the Darwin Convention Centre tonight.

Territory operators took home two gold awards, two silver and three bronze.

Minister for Tourism and Culture Lauren Moss congratulated the winners on their achievements and reiterated the importance of the tourism industry to the Northern Territory.

“To host the 2016 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards here in Darwin for the first time is a huge honour and a wonderful opportunity to showcase the Northern Territory for all its charm and beauty,” Ms Moss said.

“The Territory Labor Government understands that tourism and culture are valued and treasured assets, delivering significant financial and social benefits to Territorians. It is a major economic driver, and employs more than 15,000 Territorians directly and indirectly.

“The Territory has always punched above its weight in terms of attracting national and international visitors, but it’s crucial that we continue to nurture new markets and grow and evolve our tourism offerings to keep our industry viable and strong.

“I’d like to congratulate all of the winners this evening, in particular the Northern Territory Award winners, to stand up in front of your peers on this night-of-nights is an amazing achievement.”

**NT WINNERS:**

**GOLD**

**Hall of Fame – Voyages Ayers Rock Resort - Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Tourism**
Voyages Ayers Rock Resort is committed to excellence in Indigenous cultural tourism, playing a leading role as one of Australia’s iconic tourism destinations. The resort provides employment, training and business development opportunities for local Anangu and Indigenous people Australia-wide with indigenous culture in every element of its offering.

**Alice Springs Visitor Information Centre - Visitor Information Services**

Located in the heart of Alice Springs, the Visitor Information Centre houses a wealth of free information on tours, attractions, accommodation, events, transport options, including travel tips and maps, and their friendly and professional staff members are also available to assist travellers with their holiday queries.

**SILVER**

**Kakadu National Park - Major Tourist Attractions**

Kakadu National Park attracted 180,000 visitors last year, and is recognised as offering world class tourism experiences through its natural and cultural attractions. Covering nearly 20,000 square kilometres of exceptional natural beauty and unique biodiversity, Kakadu is one of Australia’s iconic World Heritage attractions.

**Darwin Convention Centre – Business Tourism**

Located on the spectacular Darwin Harbour, the world class Darwin Convention Centre is the Northern Territory’s premier conference venue. The highly accredited Centre is large enough to cater for conventions of 1,200 delegates, yet small enough to offer bespoke and unique Top End event experiences.

**BRONZE**

**Uluru Camel Tours – Tour and/or transport Operations**

Uluru Camel Tours is an owner operated tour business based in the heart of Australia, the Red Centre. They are the largest Camel farm in Australia, home to over 60 beautiful camels, offering a camel with stunning views of World Heritage listed Uluru and Kata Tjuta as the backdrop.

**Uluru Camel Tours – Adventure Tourism**

Take the ultimate camel adventure, at Uluru Camel Tours in the beating heart of Australia. Be inspired by the stunning surrounds of Uluru and Kata Tjuta as you gently coast along the sand dunes some ten feet off the ground, letting go of your fears, with not a care in the world.
Venture North Australia – Cultural Tourism

Venture North Australia offer guided cultural and nature based tours throughout the Top End and operate Cobourg Coast Camp – an eco-tourism and fishing camp on the Cobourg Peninsula in northern Arnhem Land. They specialise in taking guests off the beaten track and into some of the more remote and hard to access regions.

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