

2018 Business Traveller Africa Award winners

By  Shan Raddiffe

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Honouring those brands that have provided superior South African business travel service, the 7th annual Business Traveller Africa Awards announced its 2018 winners last week.



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The awards programme, launched in 2012 in association with *Business Traveller Africa* magazine, is aimed at the South African business travel trade and the broader business travel community.

The voting survey is compiled and sent to the business travel industry, via various organisations (ASATA, SAACI, SATSA and ABTA), where industry professionals nominate the best in business.

The votes are collated before being vetted by a voting panel of senior industry members, led by Gillian Saunders, currently Special Advisor to the Minister of Tourism.

Emirates was the biggest winner of the evening, taking home three awards for the 'Best Airport Business Lounge', 'Best International Long-Haul Airline' and 'Best Business Class' categories. All three finalists in the Business Lounge category are situated at international departures at OR Tambo.

Tsogo Sun, HRG Rennies Travel and Comair each received two awards, with Tsogo Sun taking the best SA and business hotel group categories, HRG Rennies beating out competition from BCD Travel for both best travel management company and sales team, and Comair's Kulula.com and BA being named the best African low-cost and best regional short-haul airlines respectively.

Shaun Pozyn, head of Marketing at Kulula.com and British Airways (operated by Comair) said, "We're ecstatic to receive the awards for Best African Low-Cost Airline, as well as the Best African Regional Short-Haul Airline for a second consecutive year. Receiving these accolades are very encouraging as they are proof that both our offerings to travellers and travel-buyers are on par when customers are looking for maximum value for money, especially in the current tough economic climate."

The 2018 BTA Awards winners

Category	Winner	Finalist	Finalist
African Long-Haul Airline	SAA	Air Mauritius	Ethiopian Airlines
African Low-Cost Airline	Kulula	FlySafair	Mango
African Regional Short-Haul Airline	Comair (Kulula & BA)	Airlink	SAA
Airport Business Lounge	Emirates (ORTIA – International)	Bidvest Premier (ORTIA – International)	SLOW Lounge (ORTIA – International)
Business Class	Emirates	Qatar	Virgin Atlantic
Business Hotel Group in SA	Tsogo Sun	City Lodge	Marriott
Car Rental Company	Avis	Bidvest	Europcar
Cruise Operator	MSC Cruises	Cruises International	
Forex Supplier	Bidvest Bank	Amex Foreign Exchange	Travelex
Global Distribution System	Travelport	Amadeus	Sabre
International Hotel Group	Marriott	Hilton	Radisson Hotels
International Long-Haul Airline	Emirates	BA	Qatar
Large Conference Venue	Sandton Convention Centre	Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre	Cape Town ICC
Large Hotel Conference Venue	Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre	Century City Conference Centre	Sun City
Luxury Hotel in SA	One&Only Cape Town and The Oyster Box (joint winners)	Michelangelo	
Private Aviation Operator	Comair Flight Services	ExecuJet	Federal Airlines
Small Hotel Conference Venue	Champagne Sports Resort	Emperors Palace	The Westin Cape Town
South African Hotel Group	Tsogo Sun	City Lodge	Sun International
Travel Credit Card Provider	Visa	Amex	MasterCard
Travel Management Company	HRG Rennies	BCD Travel	Flight Centre Business Travel
Travel Sales Team	HRG Rennies	BCD Travel	ExecuJet
Visa Service Provider	Visa International	Visas & Passports Unlimited	Visa Express

ABOUT SHAN RADCLIFFE

Shan Radcliffe is the editor of Bizcommunity HR, Education and Legal.
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