

# PRESS RELEASE

December 2018

# Proud Finalists – 2018 MRTA

# National Tourism Awards

(copy starts)



Irrawaddy Voyages has reached the finals of the MRTA Awards in the category of 'Best Responsible Tour Operator' for 2018.

The selection of shortlisted candidates for the 2018 Myanmar Responsible Tourism Awards (MRTA) is now complete.

Speaking at the unveiling of the shortlist, Ko Nyunt (Chairman of MRTI) said "The purpose of MRTA is to inspire, educate and encourage competition in the tourism industry. Responsible tourism is about making better places for people to live in, and better places for people to visit by generating meaningful social, economic and environmental benefits. Because great places to live in, with their natural and cultural heritage, are great places to visit."

"MRTI congratulates all the shortlisted candidates on their significant achievement. They will now advance to the next stage. They can expect to be visited on site by our assessors for verification of claims, before the independent panel of judges will meet to review all findings and decide the winner for each of the six categories".

Irrawaddy Voyages Managing Director Ms Aye Thuzar Thant said; "We are absolutely delighted to be in the finals of the MRTA awards 2018. This is only the beginning as we continue our commitment to sustainable tourism and practically applying our goals and policies day by day."

The first MRTA Awards were held in 2017 and are now regarded as the leading national awards program in Myanmar.







## Categories & Shortlisted Candidates;

#### Best Responsible Tourism Accommodation

Boulder Bay Eco Resort
Inle Princess Resort
Laguna Lodge
Ngwe Saung Yacht Club & Resort
The Hotel Kalaw Hill Lodge

## Best Tourism Business Innovation

iDiscover Asia Inle Horse Club Nyaung Shwe Myanmar Adventure Outfitters Thahara

#### **Best Awareness Raising Project**

Boulder Bay Eco Resort ChuChu Green Hill Valley Elephant Care Camp Novotel Yangon Max Sampan Travel

#### **Best Product for Empowerment**

Beyond Boundaries Myanmar Inle Canoe Lady

#### Best Responsible Tour Operator

EASIA Travel – Myanmar Irrawaddy Voyages Myanmar Adventure Outfitters PEAK DMC Myanmar/Journeys Adventure Travel Sampan Travel Khiri Travel Myanmar

### Best Community Involvement in Tourism

Ayeyarwady Dolphin Conservation and Ecotourism Community Involved Tourism Pa-O Region (CITPAR) HOME Myanmar

# Shortlist Best Responsible Tour Operator 2018





Shortlist: Best Responsible Tour Operator 2018



## MRTA is made possible by the generous support of the following Partners:

Frontier Myanmar, Grab Myanmar, International Trade Centre (ITC), Lux-Development (LuxDev) on behalf of Luxembourg Aid and Development, Swisscontact funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Flymya.com, Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB), Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF) and Myanmar Tourism Marketing (MTM).

MRTA is led by the Myanmar Responsible Tourism Institute (MRTI). In 2018, the Awards are organised in collaboration with the Business Innovation Facility, with funding from UKaid.

(copy ends)

Irrawaddy Voyages, Myanmar

Tel: +95 1 387547/ 387548

Web: www.irrawaddyvoyages.com

Media Contact: Barry Atkinson E-Mail: bja@irrawaddyvoyages.com

#### Community Engagement policy

#### **Our Vision**

Irrawaddy Voyages believes that tourism on and around the Irrawaddy River should build a respectful and mutually beneficial relationship between travelers, businesses and the local communities. We already play an active role in providing financial benefits for local people through employment, local purchasing and delivering opportunities for our guests to support local communities. We will help to preserve the many cultures, ethnic minorities and traditions that exist along the riverbanks for future generations, as well as educate our guests about these unique characteristics. We care about the social welfare of our community and the protection of our shared natural environment.

#### Irrawaddy Voyages Sustainable Policies 2018

Irrawaddy Voyages offers guests a genuine nature based travel experience in a stylish and luxurious cruising environment. At all times we adopt a Safety First Policy 24/7. This applies not only to our onboard guests but to our ships crews. We pride ourselves on ensuring that every guest receives a warm and friendly welcome, a high level of comfort and excellent service. We also believe in delivering a responsible tourism experience that is environmentally friendly and gives back to the river communities. Our sustainable policies promote environmentally friendly operations that contribute to the protection of our natural and cultural heritage. We continuously strive to be a fair employer that promotes local recruitment and promotion.