

Sanctuary TOFTigers Wildlife Tourism Awards

Information for Applicants, Rules and Nomination form

India's premier wildlife magazine, Sanctuary Asia and the nature tourism action charity, TOFTigers, have combined to bring together the 3rd Sanctuary TOFTigers Wildlife Tourism Awards 2014. They aim to highlight and reward the very best in the nature tourism field; those individuals, businesses, service providers and community enterprises who are leading the way in wilderness destinations in the Indian subcontinent. Each in their own way will be pioneering new ways to support and inspire wildlife conservation, engage local communities and help restoration of wildlife habitat through their vision, drive and actions.

Please note: Applications can be made by anyone. You can nominate your own lodge, business, yourself or your enterprise or project, or others can do this for you.

Award Categories 2014

- 🏆 **The John Wakefield Memorial Award for Most Inspirational Eco Lodge of the Year 2014**
- 🏆 **The Billy Arjun Singh Memorial Award for Wildlife Guide of the Year 2014**
(also carries INR 20,000 prize)
- 🏆 **Lodge Naturalist of the Year 2014**
(also carries INR 25,000 prize)
- 🏆 **Visitor Friendly Wildlife Destination of the Year 2014**
(also carries a prize of INR 75,000 worth of kit or equipment to be used in tiger protection/conservation)
- 🏆 **Wildlife Promotion Company of the Year 2014**
- 🏆 **Wildlife Tourism Related Community Initiative of the Year 2014**
(also carries a prize of INR 50,000)
- 🏆 **Wildlife and Tourism Initiative of the Year 2014**
(also carries a prize of INR 50,000 towards equipment/services for the benefit of the community)
- 🏆 **International Wildlife Tour Operator of the Year 2014**

Awards – Eligibility

Each Award has separate eligibility criteria as detailed below:-

- A) **Most Inspirational Eco Lodge of the Year 2014** - The Lodge must be in an area associated with tiger watching and must predominantly cater for tourists who intend to watch wildlife within an Indian subcontinent park. The lodge need not be a member of TOFTigers or accredited to the PUG Eco-Certification scheme but must meet the minimum PUG standards of a PUG Eco-audit.
- B) **Wildlife Guide of the Year 2014** - Open to a Park Guide who must be working in, or for, a park that is recognised as a tiger habitat and must have worked there for at least 2 years prior to the closing date for entries.
- C) **Lodge Naturalist of the Year 2014** - Open to a Lodge Naturalist who must be working in, or for, a lodge that is recognised as a tiger habitat and must have worked there for at least 2 years prior to the closing date for entries.
- D) **Visitor Friendly Wildlife Destination of the Year 2014** - This category is open to any park that has tigers within its boundaries and where sightings have been documented in the 6 months prior to the closing date for nominations. The park does not have to be currently covered by TOFTigers, but must be able to highlight its efforts to work with and use tourism more effectively for conservation and support.
- E) **Wildlife Promotion Company of the Year 2014** - This award is only open to Destination Management Companies with a registered office in India and the company must have been a full TOFTigers member for at least 3 months prior to the closing date for entries.
- F) **Wildlife Tourism Related Community Initiative of the Year 2014** - Nominations are open to any community related tourist initiative connected with tourism in parks where there are tigers. The definition of what constitutes a Community Initiative will be decided at the absolute discretion of the judges but for general guidance it would be expected that ownership of the initiative would reside within the local community (5kms. radius of the project) and not involve commercial operations such as a tiger lodge(s) having a commercial interest of greater than 49%. Nominations must be supported by at least one lodge catering for tiger watching tourists and the lodge does not need to be part of TOFTigers.
- G) **Wildlife and Tourism Initiative of the Year 2014** - This is a very wide category intended to encourage innovative thinking around wildlife tourism in the Indian subcontinent. The projects need not be related to tigers but should be capable of application in tiger areas.
- H) **International Wildlife Tour Operator of the Year 2014** - This award is only open to International Tour Operators with a registered office in their respective country and they must have been a full TOFTigers member for at least 3 months prior to the closing date for entries. The nominated company itself must also have paid any outstanding subscriptions due to TOFTigers in full and prior to the closing date for final Information.

Applications

Must be made on the official Sanctuary TOFTigers Awards Application form with all information required completed either online at www.toftigers.org/SanctuaryTOFTigersAwards or by emailing this form to awards@toftindia.org by **18th July 2014**.

Judging Criteria

The initial judging of applications will be undertaken by a small committee combining experts in tourism and conservation. A shortlist will be drawn up for the next round, with a short further presentation and justification being requested. Some categories will require two independent referees to be given. After the referees have been contacted the final judging panel of international experts will determine the winners. The Chairman's decision is final.

Judging Panel

The international judging panel of experts will be drawn from a range of experiences and backgrounds in tourism, government, business and conservation, both from India and abroad. This will be overseen by a well respected Chairman of the panel.

Timetable

- ▶ Completed Entry Forms must be received by midnight on the **18th July 2014**
- ▶ Short listed applicants will be notified by **end of July 2014**
- ▶ Final information must be received by **15th August 2014**
- ▶ The Judges will convene from **1st September 2014**
- ▶ The Winners and Runners Up will be announced on **19th September 2014** at a **Gala award ceremony in Delhi**

Rules

- 1) By entering the Awards the applicants agree to be bound by the rules.
- 2) The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into in relation to any short listing or judging decision.
- 3) The judges, in their absolute discretion, may decide not to make an award if they believe no entrant is of sufficient quality to meet the requirements of the Awards.
- 4) Applications must be made on the official Sanctuary TOFTigers Wildlife Tourism Awards Application Form.
- 5) Applicants may be asked to submit further information as part of the judging process, failure to provide this information within the timescale stipulated at the time of the request may invalidate the application. No correspondence will be entered into in relation to such a decision to invalidate a nomination.
- 6) In certain categories the judges will require the applicant to supply independent references, where such references are requested these must be completed in the format requested and provided within the timescale stipulated.
- 7) Connections and associations (e.g. financial, family relationships, employment, etc) with the nominee will not invalidate an application but must be declared on the initial application. Failure to declare such interest will invalidate an application.
- 8) Whilst information contained within application forms and assessments will be treated as far as possible as confidential, the organisers accept no responsibility for loss or damage should any information become public knowledge at any time.
- 9-a) Applicants agree that if they are short-listed this decision will be made public, together with outline details of their project. In addition, in some categories, a short film report may be made of the nominees and their project. The applicants agree to cooperate in such filming and to be filmed and that such film may be used to promote the Awards as the organisers may decide. Such uses may include web, broadcast television, DVD, or other medium and may also be shown at the Awards. All material is the sole property of TOFTigers.
- 9- b) At the sole discretion of TOFTigers, TOFTigers can use all materials provided for Award's promotions and publicity. TOFTigers does not however guarantee promotion of any winner or finalist.
- 10) Applicants consent to their images, trademarks, logos etc being made public in promotional material related to the Awards and this may include press, web, radio or broadcast.
- 11) Awards may be withdrawn in the event that information subsequently becomes available to show that information provided at the time of judging was incorrect or unavailable and that such information had it been available would have made the award inappropriate.
- 12) Winners of cash prizes agree to be bound by the conditions stipulated in the individual Awards with regard to acceptable uses for such cash prizes.
- 13) Where appropriate the organisers may arrange for the money due in cash prizes to be paid only when appropriate invoices, and or, receipts are available, and or, that the organisers are satisfied that the goods, services etc to be provided to the person, community, organisation, or group have in fact been supplied.
- 14) In the case of cash prizes, the organisers' decision that the conditions described in Clause 12 have been fulfilled will be at the organisers' absolute discretion and no correspondence on its decisions in regard to these clauses will be entered into.
- 15) No responsibility is accepted by the organisers for any application submitted by email but not received by the organisers. Applicants concerned about whether an application has been received have to make their own enquiries to ensure their applications have been received.
- 16) The organisers can terminate one or more of the Awards if they see fit or shorten or curtail the Award ceremony should circumstances prevail that do not allow it to continue.

Useful Contacts:

India Office:**TOFTigers India**

A1/76, 1st Floor, Safdarjung Enclave,

New Delhi - 110029 (INDIA)

Tel: +91-11-4100 6608

International Office:**The TOFTigers Initiative**

Glyn House, Westhill, Wincanton,

Somerset BA9 9BY, UK

Tel: + 44 (0) 1963 34203

Sanctuary TOFTigers Wildlife Tourism Awards 2014

Application Form

(Please use one form for each category for each nomination)

Category of Award Applied for :

Award Name _____

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

Email _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

(inc. full International access code)

(inc. full International access code)

Full Name of the Nominee _____

(Please state the organisation, lodge, person or project wishing to be nominated)

Local Contact (if not known please leave blank) _____

Brief summary of the lodge, project or nominee (approx 100 words).

Please explain why you wish to nominate this organisation, lodge, person, or project (up to 500 words).

Please explain why you think the nominee or project is both sustainable and responsible (100 words only).

Please detail any connection (position in organisation, family, relationship, etc) you have with the nominee or project (all connections must be declared).

If you are nominating yourself, or your own lodge or organisation, please give the name and contact details of two independent people who will support your nomination (note: they will be contacted separately for more information).

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Referees will be required for all those nominations in the shortlist.

Signed _____ Date _____

Please send this signed application to arrive before midnight on the 18th July 2014 by mail or scanned jpeg email to:

Wildlife Tourism Awards 2014

TOFTigers India

A1/76, 1st Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110029 (INDIA)

Tel: +91-11-4100 6608 | Or scan and send to: awards@toftindia.org

Please send supporting documentation if possible:

- Biographical notes where necessary (max 500 words) | - Any photos of the project, lodge commitments or person at work
- Any press clipping/material published, if any, plus any other material for the benefit of the judges. Please do not send original copies.