

**NEWS RELEASE  
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**Hampshire tourism businesses step closer to national glory**

Two tourism businesses in Hampshire have been announced as finalists in the annual Enjoy England Awards for Excellence it has been revealed today.

The Awards, organised by national tourism body VisitEngland, celebrate some of the very best tourism businesses in the UK, recognising businesses that demonstrate commitment to high quality, helping to make England a world-class destination.

Hampshire's finalists were both winners at Tourism South East's Excellence Awards in October and have battled it out with tourism businesses across the UK to make it through to the national stage. The contenders will be judged alongside two other businesses in each category before the Gold winners are announced on St George's Day at a glittering awards ceremony to be held in the Corn Exchange at the Brighton Dome on 23 April.

They join 5 other finalists representing the South East at the Awards; no other region has achieved more finalists, making it the best year ever for the Beautiful South.

Lainston House Hotel in Winchester will be vying for gold in the Small Hotel of the Year category and the Portsmouth Information Service will be hoping to be named Tourist Information Service of the Year.

'We are delighted to be hosting the Enjoy England Awards for Excellence here in the Beautiful South' said Tourism South East Chief Executive Mike Bedingfield, 'the announcement of so many finalists in our region affirms the incredibly high-standard of entrants we had in our regional awards; and the quality of the tourism businesses in the South East. I wish both Lainston House and the Portsmouth Information Service the very best of luck on the big night.'

**More information about the Enjoy England Awards for Excellence can be found at [www.enjoyengland.com/excellence](http://www.enjoyengland.com/excellence)**

**More information about Tourism South East can be found at [www.tourismsoutheast.com](http://www.tourismsoutheast.com)**

**More information about Lainston House Hotel can be found at [www.lainstonhouse.com](http://www.lainstonhouse.com)**

**More information about Portsmouth Information Service can be found at [www.visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk)**

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**Note to Editors:**

**For further information contact: Hannah Payne on 023 8062 5471 or email [hpayne@tourismse.com](mailto:hpayne@tourismse.com)**

Tourism South East is the official tourist board for South East England, covering Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East and West Sussex, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire and Surrey.

The South East is the largest region for tourism in Britain outside of London, worth in excess of £12 billion p.a. to the regional economy (7% of regional GVA) supporting over 300,000 jobs.