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## Best 2022 Australian Experiences for Mature-Age Tourists Revealed

**Twenty tourism experiences have been named as the best in Australia for mature-age visitors from the Sunshine Coast tonight, with Queensland and South Australia dominating the list.**

Heading the list was the Point Turton Caravan Park on South Australia's Yorke Peninsula. The waterside van park built into an abandoned historic limestone quarry was named the Best of the Best as the finale to the Awards celebration after being named the Gold Award winner of the Best Grey Nomad Small Caravan Park. The Best of the Best is handed to the winner that impressed the judges the most, as determined by the highest cumulative score from all winners.

The Grey Nomad Awards is a niche national tourism program that shines a light on the best places for older travellers to stay and play around the country.

An outback station known for its sunset artesian baths, a heritage rail experience, a 1930s castle in the rainforest, and a quirky pub with bar stools shaped like cowgirls' bottoms were among those that secured top honours.

The Awards are judged by tourism leaders from across the country who offer valuable insights and detailed feedback to each entrant, ensuring nominees have practical tips to improve their tourism offering for the future benefit of their business, their community and visitors.

Australians aged over 55 represent one of the biggest opportunities in domestic tourism recovery, possessing 32% of Australia's disposable income\* along with the flexibility and motivation to travel.

Awards Director, Liz Rivers, said the Awards provide verified information for this important segment, helping guide mature-age Australians' decisions on where to visit and what to include on a must-see Australian itinerary in 2022.

"Australians have long enjoyed epic trips, starting in the post-war period when economic prosperity and the launch of Holden collided. That love of the open road has never dimmed, and as Australia is a big country knowing where to visit to experience something extraordinary is highly valuable," Ms Rivers said.

Commenting on the Awards, the judges said, "This year's winners reflect the exceptional experiences on offer to senior travellers. Each winner is playing a small yet critical role in assisting the Australian tourism sector recovery," the judges said.

2021 Grey Nomad Award Gold Winners:

- Best Grey Nomad Attraction: Paronella Park, Tropical North QLD
- Best Grey Nomad Historic Attraction: Mary Valley Rattler, Gympie QLD
- Best Grey Nomad Tour: Go Ballooning Gold Coast Hot Air Balloon Flight, Gold Coast QLD
- Best Grey Nomad Trail: Explore Rockhampton Self-Guided Audio Tours App, Central QLD
- Best Grey Nomad Festival or Event: Hervey Bay Seafood Festival, Fraser Coast QLD
- Best Grey Nomad Community Stay: Berri Riverside Holiday Park, Riverlands SA
- Best Grey Nomad Council Free Stay: Kimba Recreation Reserve, Eyre Peninsula SA
- Best Grey Nomad Farm or Station Stay: Charlotte Plains Outback Magic, Outback QLD
- Best Grey Nomad Pub Stay: The Wellshot Hotel Ilfracombe, Outback QLD
- Best Grey Nomad Small Caravan Park: Point Turton Caravan Park, Yorke Peninsula SA
- Best Grey Nomad Large Caravan Park: Queens Beach Tourist Village, Bowen QLD

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2021 Silver Award winners:

- Best Grey Nomad Attraction: The Original Eumundi Markets, Sunshine Coast QLD
- Best Grey Nomad Historic Attraction: Paronella Park, Tropical North QLD
- Best Grey Nomad Tour: Charlotte Plains Historic Property Tour, Outback QLD
- Best Grey Nomad Trail: Burra Heritage Passport, Burra - Clare Valley SA
- Best Grey Nomad Community Stay: CMCA RV Park Humpty Doo, Top End NT
- Best Grey Nomad Small Caravan Park: Dirranbandi Retreat and Caravan Park, Outback QLD
- Best Grey Nomad Large Caravan Park: Berri Riverside Holiday Park, Riverlands SA

2021 Bronze winners:

- Best Grey Nomad Attraction: Charlotte Plains Outback Magic Day Visitor Pass, Outback QLD
- Best Grey Nomad Tour: Sunset Experience on Towers Hill, Charters Towers QLD
- Best Grey Nomad Trail: Rooru Nature Trails - Kimba, Eyre Peninsula SA
- Best Grey Nomad Community Stay: CMCA RV Park Innisfail, Tropical North QLD
- Best Grey Nomad Small Caravan Park: Evening Star Tourist Park – Charleville, Outback QLD

\* *Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)*

**Media contact and comment:**

Liz Rivers: 0409 071 816 / [liz@awardsabsolute.com](mailto:liz@awardsabsolute.com)

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