

JAMAICA®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JAMAICA RECOGNIZES TOURISM WORKERS HAVING 50+ YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE GOLDEN TOURISM AWARDS



Pictured: Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett (center) and Director of Tourism, Donovan White, (4th from left) share lens with awardees from the 2022 staging of the Golden Tourism Awards.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, December 12, 2022 – In a grand ceremony for the Golden Tourism Day Awards held at the AC Hotel in Kingston yesterday, officials from Jamaica’s Ministry of Tourism and the Jamaica Tourist Board, led by Minister of Tourism the Hon. Edmund Bartlett, recognized employees who have worked in the tourism sector for fifty years or more.

“As Minister of Tourism, this particular occasion is one that is close to my heart, as we recognize and celebrate those distinguished workers who have dedicated 50 years or more to working in our beloved tourism industry.” said Minister Bartlett. “This moment is even more special as we continue on our path to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. And, indeed, we are recovering and recovering strongly,” said Minister Bartlett.

This year’s Golden Tourism Awards honored a total of 14 individuals who have worked for 50 or more years in the island’s tourism sector. One of these individuals received special recognition for having worked in the sector for 65 years: Jean Seaga Anderson.



Pictured: Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett (L) and Jean Seaga Anderson, the longest serving tourism worker with 65 years of service to the sector.

The name Jean Anderson is well known in the travel industry, especially in the mid-island town of Mandeville in Jamaica, where she pioneered the operation of travel agencies. Jean's 65 years of sterling service had its genesis in a six-month stint as a social hostess at Silver Seas Hotel in Ocho Rios. She opened the first IATA certified travel agency, Global Travel Service, in Mandeville in 1974. She has captained its development through the years from the agent having to make all arrangements for travel related matters manually to meeting the new technology demands by going digital.

"These awards are even more special because even when times were tough and borders were closed, it is the people here who remained dedicated to their jobs and helped us be able to welcome visitors back to our shores and to do so often in record-breaking numbers," said Minister Bartlett. "I am truly honored to have this opportunity to acknowledge and applaud your many years of commitment and dedication to this incredibly important sector that contributes so much to our nation's economy. It is your legacies that have helped Jamaica become one of the leading tourism destinations in the world, both before the pandemic and now."

"Jamaica's demand and success as a destination truly lies in the creativity and genuine hospitality of our people. We salute them for their years of hard work and dedication," said Donovan White, Director of Tourism.

For more information on Jamaica, please go to www.visitjamaica.com.

ABOUT JAMAICA TOURIST BOARD

The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB), founded in 1955, is Jamaica's national tourism agency based in the capital city of Kingston. JTB offices are also located in Montego Bay, Miami, Toronto and London. Representative offices are located in Berlin, Barcelona, Rome, Amsterdam, Mumbai, Tokyo and Paris.

In 2021, the JTB was declared 'World's Leading Cruise Destination,' 'World's Leading Family Destination' and 'World's Leading Wedding Destination' for the second consecutive year by the World Travel Awards, which also named it the 'Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board' for the 14th consecutive year; and the 'Caribbean's Leading Destination' for the 16th consecutive year; as well as the 'Caribbean's Best Nature Destination' and the 'Caribbean's Best Adventure Tourism Destination.' In addition, Jamaica was awarded four gold 2021 Travvy Awards, including

'Best Destination, Caribbean/Bahamas,' 'Best Culinary Destination –Caribbean,' 'Best Travel Agent Academy Program,;' as well as a *TravelAge West*WAVE award for 'International Tourism Board Providing the Best Travel Advisor Support' for a record-setting 10th time. In 2020, the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA) named Jamaica the 2020 'Destination of the Year for Sustainable Tourism'. In 2019, TripAdvisor® ranked Jamaica as the #1 Caribbean Destination and #14 Best Destination in the World. Jamaica is home to some of the world's best accommodations, attractions and service providers that continue to receive prominent global recognition.

For details on upcoming special events, attractions and accommodations in Jamaica go to the JTB's Website at www.visitjamaica.com or call the Jamaica Tourist Board at 1-800-JAMAICA (1-800-526-2422). Follow the JTB on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [YouTube](#). View the JTB blog at www.islandbuzzjamaica.com.