



Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

NEWS

Office of the Governor

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“Tour Rhode Island” Program To Receive National Award

Encourages Rhode Islanders to Tour Their Home State

Providence, RI -- “Tour Rhode Island: There’s No Place Like Home,” a program designed to encourage Rhode Islanders to experience authentic, cultural, historic and natural treasures as a tourist in their own state, has won national recognition with an Odyssey Award in the Geotourism Category. The Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) presents the Odyssey Awards in partnership with the National Geographic Society. The award will be presented at the Travel Industry Awards Gala in Charlotte, North Carolina, on October 23, 2007.

“The Odyssey Awards are an unparalleled showcase of inspiring, successful work across the U.S.,” said Roger Dow, TIA’s president and CEO. “Every year, entries come in from all segments of the industry that are truly exceptional – work that takes us into new, uncharted territory. These winners have demonstrated creativity, resourcefulness, community involvement and solid business results.” “Tour Rhode Island’s” entry was reviewed and selected by a team of judges from the National Geographic Traveler editorial staff and showcases achievement in the field of sustainable tourism.

“Four years ago, my wife, Sue, wanted to find a way to encourage Rhode Islanders to discover our state’s natural beauty and our rich cultural heritage, said Governor Don Carcieri. “Through the hard work of our state’s Tourism Division, the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, our state’s regional tourism agencies and AAA of Southeastern New England, Tour Rhode Island was established. It’s gratifying to me that this innovative program has received national recognition. My thanks to all who have helped make Tour Rhode Island a success.”

The event has been held annually in May since 2004, and has been a perennial sellout. This year's 1,200 participants chose from two dozen tours showcasing every corner of the state. To date, there have been over 4,000 participants.

“‘Tour RI’ creates an opportunity for Rhode Island residents to discover what visitors from all over the world experience each year — its distinctive regions, museums, attractions, stunning scenic views and remarkable history,” said State Tourism Director David C. DePetrillo, “The tours are designed to incorporate as much local authentic flavor as possible. This means visits to such places as local eateries, bakeries, food processors, vineyards, dairies, farms, creameries and fisheries. Local ethnic traditions were highlighted as well, including Native American food and culture,” DePetrillo continued.

Organizers of the annual “Tour Rhode Island“ program include the Rhode Island Tourism Division, the state's seven regional tourism organizations, AAA of Southeastern New England, and industry experts. Dozens of attractions, organizations, and tourism-related businesses participate each year. The event coincides with National Tourism Week, celebrating an industry that is vital to Rhode Island's economy

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