



Women in Travel CIC announces new awards event alongside International Women in Travel and Tourism Forum 2023

21 July 2022: After fantastic feedback from a sell-out event on Thursday 30 June 2022, Women in Travel CIC is delighted to announce the date of the **International Women in Travel and Tourism Forum 2023** and the addition of an awards element which will recognise advocates and changemakers in diversity, equity and inclusion and the empowerment of women in the travel industry.

IWTTF, whose Founding Sponsor is Intrepid Travel, was created in 2019 to provide an international and inclusive platform for women and like-minded men to come together to discuss the acceleration of diversity and inclusion in the travel and tourism sector. IWTTF 2023 will take place on **Thursday 22 June 2023** at the London offices of Google, an established partner of Women in Travel, with the awards being incorporated mostly likely the evening before.

The award categories will specifically reflect Women in Travel's mission and core pillars, comprising: Leadership; Mentoring; Allyship; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Talent and Recruitment and there will be opportunities for both individuals and companies to be successful.

Alessandra Alonso, Managing Director and Founder of Women in Travel CIC said:

“Being in the room at IWTTF 2022 and feeling the passion that so many people in the industry share for our mission has inspired us to add an awards element to the IWTTF concept for 2023. We want to recognise those companies and individuals who are campaigning for more diversity in our industry, actively supporting women into roles in travel and developing that talent through mentoring and allyship. It's very important to us that the awards reflect our specific purpose and the values that are integral to our work. Watch this space for more details.”

Zina Bencheikh, Managing Director EMEA at Intrepid Travel, opened the proceedings at IWTTF 2022, while other speakers included Jo Rzymowska, Vice President and Managing Director EMEA for Celebrity Cruises; Julia Lo Bue-Said, CEO at Advantage Travel Partnership; Nena Chaletzos, CEO and Founder at Luxtripper; Cat Jones, Founder at Byway; Thomas Power, Co-founder and CEO at Pura Aventura; Christina Lawford, CEO at DiamondAir International; Dr Sumeetra Ramakrishnan, Senior Teaching Fellow at the University of Surrey; Juliet Kinsman, Sustainability Editor at Condé Nast Traveller; Ashleigh Morgan, Head of IT Quality and Risk at easyJet; Toby Horry, Group Brand and Content Director at TUI and Nishma Patel Robb, Senior Director of Brand and Reputation at Google.

Feedback from the event was incredibly positive, with comments from respected industry representatives including:

Zina Bencheikh, Managing Director EMEA at Intrepid Travel:

“It was an amazing day packed with inspirational speakers, refreshingly honest conversations and practical ideas for people to make their business more inclusive and diverse.”

Jo Rzymowska, Vice President and Managing Director EMEA for Celebrity Cruises

“I had the privilege of being surrounded by the most incredibly diverse group of people at the International Women in Travel and Tourism Forum. There were so many inspirational stories and insightful conversations.”

Julia Lo Bue Said, CEO at Advantage Travel Partnership

“When you bring together a group of diverse speakers, who genuinely care about supporting each other in such an authentic and honest manner, great things happen! It truly was an inspirational and thought-provoking day.”

Anna Pollock, Founder at Conscious Travel:

“If this event was typical of an event showing what women (and some very supportive men) are doing to transform travel, and I believe it was, then I have high hopes for our future. I came disillusioned and left exhilarated.”

Dan Pearce, CEO at TTG Media:

“It’s been brilliant to watch the International Women in Travel & Tourism Forum grow in size, profile and importance over the past three years and given TTG’s mission for Smarter Better Fairer travel I’m delighted to have been involved with both the forum and male allyship programme. There is every opportunity for male allies across the industry to get more involved with next year’s event, and I look forward to TTG once again playing a part in spreading the word.”

Dr Sumeetra Ramakrishnan, Senior Teaching Fellow at the University of Surrey:

“IWTTF is truly ground-breaking in its approach to bring together major travel organisations, social enterprises, entrepreneurs and academics to create long lasting and meaningful change for all women to participate and progress in travel and tourism.”

Ella Paradis, Founder at The Black Explorer:

“Thanks Alessandra Alonso and Women In Travel CIC for always championing us and providing space for all voices to be heard and for meaningful connections to be made. Grateful to have caught up with old friends and for all the new ones made as well.”

Edward Lines, Industry Manager at Google and Advisory Board Member of Women in Travel:

"Google is proud to be a key partner of Women in Travel and it was a pleasure to host the International Women in Travel and Tourism Forum in our office. Thank you to everyone who came, supported and shared their wisdom in the name of creating a diverse and equal travel industry. We look forward to hosting the forum again in 2023."

Toby Horry, Group Brand and Content Director at TUI:

“I had the most incredible day yesterday at the International Women in Travel & Tourism Forum at Google HQ in London. 150 brilliant travel professionals passionate about improving diversity within the travel industry with some incredible stories to tell. The positive energy in the room was testament to Alessandra’s drive and passion to improve the lives of women in the travel industry.”

David Meany, Director of Partner Marketing at The Travel Corporation:

“The room was full of change makers who are passionate about pushing for greater diversity, equity and inclusion in the travel industry.”

Fiona Anderson, Company Director at GEC PR:

“IWTTF 2022 was the biggest and best yet. Thought provoking, inspiring, and a lot of laughter! The speakers and panellists were a roll call of those who work in the tourism industry and are ambitious about travel and hospitality growing through a real diversity of talent. And passionate about ensuring all who join our workforce feel seen and welcome.”

For more information on sponsorship opportunities around IWTTF 2023 and the newly created awards, please contact alessandra@womenintravelcic.com. The event programme will be uploaded nearer to the time at www.iwttf.com

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Images

A link to images from IWTTF 2022 is available [here](#):

About Women in Travel

Women in Travel CIC is the UK based, award winning social enterprise dedicated to empowering all women using travel, tourism and hospitality as a ‘force for good’, based on the belief that empowered women thrive and in turn, foster thriving communities. Women in Travel cic partners with employers and charities to provide all women – especially marginalised, vulnerable, and underrepresented – with visibility, confidence, access to training, mentoring and allyship programmes and eventually employment and enterprising opportunities.

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