

WELLINGTON CABLE CAR MUSEUM

Tourism award winner

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From left: Wellington Museums Trust Chief Executive John Gilberthorpe, communications adviser Ann Cunninghame and Wellington Cable Car Museum Manager Emmanuel Makarios receiving the museum's tourism award
Photo courtesy of Tourism Industry Association New Zealand

On its very first entry into the prestigious New Zealand Tourism Industry awards, the Wellington Cable Car Museum has won the category for visitor activities and attractions - culture and heritage tourism.

The museum's recent expansion and restoration project was the catalyst for its entry into the tourism awards, which were announced last night at a gala dinner in Wellington. The museum is the city's second busiest (after the national facility Te Papa Tongarewa) with nearly three quarters of its 200,000+ annual visitors being international tourists.

John Gilberthorpe, Chief Executive of the Wellington Museums Trust (which manages the museum) says: "We entered these awards as we know the museum is an integral part of the New Zealand tourism experience and our goal is best practice".

"Winning this award certainly validates all the hard work that's been put in to preserve and promote such an important part of our social history. It is a tremendous recognition for the team who worked on the museum redevelopment and on the restoration of Grip Car 3 to the highest professional standards, and in particular for the staff who operate the facility on a daily basis to ensure that our visitors have a really enjoyable and memorable experience."

The museum has recently doubled in size, thanks to a new two-storey building extension, and has conserved and professionally restored another of the city's original grip cable cars (c1904) for display.

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