

GLOBAL VISION AWARDS



Travel is a powerful engine of change: It can protect environments, preserve cultures, and transform lives. Once again, *Travel + Leisure* honors the companies and organizations that are harnessing travel to positively impact our world. With the help of our panel of expert judges, we sifted through nearly 150 applications to find the 2010 Global Visionaries. Read on—and be inspired to see the world with this year's winners.

2010 GLOBAL VISION AWARDS JUDGES

BONNIE BURNHAM

President of the World Monuments Fund

LIYA KEBEDE

Model, designer, goodwill ambassador for the World Health Organization, and founder of the Liya Kebede Foundation

JAKE KHEEL

Environmental director for Grupo Puntacana and director of the Puntacana Ecological Foundation

BLAKE MYCOSKIE

Founder of Toms Shoes and the company's One for One movement

LOUIE PSIHOYOS

Oscar-winning documentarian (*The Cove*), photographer, and executive director of the Oceanic Preservation Society

DR. JOSEPH STIGLITZ

Nobel Prize-winning economist and chair of Columbia University's Committee on Global Thought

TONY WILLIAMS

Senior vice president of resorts and projects at Emirates Hotels & Resorts

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THE WINNERS

PRESERVATION

CULTURAL IMMERSION ● Cnoc Suain | Galway, Ireland

A beautifully restored hill village that literally sits on layers of Irish history, Cnoc Suain offers a thorough immersion in local culture. Bog walks and classes on Irish language, music, and storytelling combine with picturesque surroundings and centuries-old stone cottages to form a microcosm of traditional Ireland that's devoid of pretension or Lucky Charms kitsch. Thanks in part to its ecology program for local students, Cnoc Suain has also made environmental stewardship a key element of its heritage preservation efforts. Its exemplary approach to cultural tourism operates on the assumption that you can't have one without the other.

TAKE THE TRIP Cnoc Suain's two-night Spirit of Ireland Gaelic immersion includes language classes and music sessions (353-91/555-703; cnocsuain.com; Aug. 26-28, Sept. 16-18, and Oct. 7-9; from \$500 per person).

ARTISAN REVIVAL ● The Haciendas | Yucatán, Mexico

When development company Grupo Plan began a painstaking restoration of colonial estates that once anchored the Yucatán's sisal industry, it had little idea that its five beautiful hotels (from the jungle-shaded Hacienda San José to the stately and manicured Hacienda Temozon) would end up revitalizing entire areas of rural Mexico. The properties inspired a wave of community-focused tourism. Today, folk art collectives sell handicrafts both to the hotels and directly to the wave of visitors they are now attracting. Meanwhile, a cultural center and hotel-sponsored initiatives promoting health and literacy are allowing these once-depressed communities to take a larger role in determining their own future.

TAKE THE TRIP Each of the Haciendas has an on-site boutique selling local handmade goods such as carved horn necklaces and Mayan cotton hammocks (800/325-3589; haciendasmexico.com).

HERITAGE SITE ● Linden Centre | Yunnan, China

The product of an unprecedented initiative by two American antiquities experts, this 14-room luxury hotel in Yunnan province serves as a museum, learning center, and meeting place for visitors and local artisans alike. Guests at the restored historic mansion can participate in 10-day to three-week-long painting, writing, and culinary-arts programs, attend a local wedding, or even help carry sedan chairs during a temple celebration. The Linden Centre has helped persuade skeptical officials of the importance of preserving the heritage of China's rural areas, and the owners are now adapting their model for two more historic buildings in Yunnan.

TAKE THE TRIP Traditional Chinese dance programs are held in the hotel's restored central courtyard, set high in the Himalayan foothills (86-872/245-2988; linden-centre.com; doubles from \$125).

FROM THE JURY

JAKE KHEEL,
ENVIRONMENTAL
DIRECTOR
OF GRUPO
PUNTACANA



“Making local traditions an integral part of the hotel operations and guest experience is the Haciendas' real triumph.”



Mexico's Hacienda Uayamon