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Icy Strait Point wins tour-industry award

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JUNEAU - Huna Totem Corp., Hoonah's Alaska Native village corporation and the town's largest employer, announced this week that it won an industry award for sustaining indigenous culture.

The Travel Industry Association, a national industry advocacy group, and National Geographic Traveler magazine named Icy Strait Point the winner of a "Travel to a Better World" award, which recognizes the best in the global tourism industry along with its Odyssey awards.

Icy Strait Point has been open to cruise ships since 2004. Huna Totem bought and restored a salmon cannery that was once the economic engine of the village, then hired locals to run cultural and nature tours.

Bob Wysocki, CEO of Huna Totem and Icy Strait Point, said the company has 90 percent local hire, about 120 jobs, and 85 percent Native hire at the tourist port.

Icy Strait Point is Alaska's only privately owned cruise ship port.

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