



# APPRENTICE FIELD GUIDE COURSE 2020



55 days



# The Course



This FGASA endorsed, CATHSSETA accredited full Apprentice Field Guide Course is the entry level qualification for field guiding which encompasses vehicle-based guiding in dangerous and non-dangerous games areas. Once qualified, the guide is able to identify and interpret biodiverse elements of the natural environment. The guide will be able to conduct game drives for guests in a limited geographical area. The syllabus covers a broad spectrum of subjects including 4x4 Game Drive vehicle skills specific for game viewing, species identification and tracking to mention a few.

The course varies between classroom based theory and practical sessions, the proportions of which depends on the module and course requirements.

There is a maximum of eight participants per course, ensuring personalised attention and first-hand experience for all students and participants.

Although the primary objective is to achieve the Apprentice Field Guide qualification, we place strong emphasis on the ethos surrounding guiding.

## PLEASE NOTE

Each candidate has to

- Be over 18
- Be competent in the English language
- Have a valid drivers licence
- Have experience in manual transmission driving
- Have valid medical aid
- Enjoy a reasonable level of fitness



# The Course



We have a daily structure in place so that everyone gets into a routine of a working Field Guide. We aim to give a balance of theory and practical training during each day, but we do allow for program requirements, seasonal changes and students' needs.

An average day could look like this:

- 05h30: Meet for coffee and rusks, then depart for the morning activity, either a walk or a drive, or a lecture in the classroom
- 11h30: Brunch/Lunch
- 12h00: Free time
- 15h00: Afternoon activity or lecture in the classroom
- 19h00: Dinner

Your weeks will consist of different modules, including mammals, birds, tracking, just to name a few.

On your practical sessions, which are typically bush walks or a game drives, you will concentrate on specific modules and put the theory you have learned in the classroom into practice.



# The Course

The modules covered in the theoretical part are:

- Guiding in the natural environment
- Creating a guided nature experience
- Geology
- Astronomy
- Weather and Climate
- Ecology
- Taxonomy
- Biomes of Southern Africa
- Botany and Grasses
- Arthropods
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Fish
- Birds
- Mammals
- Animal Behaviour
- Conservation Management
- Historical Human Habitation

Regularly all students are tested on the modules that were covered recently and there will also be a mock exam to prepare you for the final FGASA theory exam. However, the learning of each topic will always be present in every week to cement the foundations of the previous weeks' theory.

In-between activities there is time for self-study and there will be full study days before the exam.

The bush is your classroom and you will never stop learning in this amazing environment!



# The Course



## Certificates

During the course each student is given the opportunity to achieve following certificates:

- FGASA Apprentice Field Guide (formerly Level 1)
- Wilderness First Aid
- NQF Level 2

Please be aware that a high level of dedication and self-study is needed to pass the FGASA theoretical and practical exam. Just attending the course will not get you certified.

## Additional Modules

On top of the FGASA required theory we have added theoretical and practical modules to enhance your guiding skills:

- 4x4 driving
- Birding
- Track & Signs
- Wildlife Photography



PROFESSIONAL  
AUTHENTIC  
QUALITY

# The Lodge

Bayala Private Safari Lodge is a newly renovated family oriented lodge situated 3 hours drive north of Durban's King Shaka airport. Bayala is nestled within a non-malaria, Big 5 private conservancy of close to 30,000 ha of unspoiled wilderness, providing ideal conditions to gain valuable experience for your Field Guide Career. Bayala Safari Lodge has 24 newly renovated thatch-roofed en-suite rooms decorated with neutral bushveld colours throughout.

The lodge boasts a beautiful and restful lounge, a bar and relaxed, informal dining inside or outside. In the evenings enjoy a traditional "braai" under the stars or a boma dinner.

Your shared room includes an en-suite bathroom, towels/linen and electricity. Free WiFi and phone signal are available in communal areas.

After booking confirmation you will be provided with a detailed map as well as driving directions from Johannesburg, KNP area or Durban.



# The Dates

## Full Apprentice Field Guide Course

October 1 – November 24

(min. 4 participants for the course to take place; max. 8 participants)

Please be aware that you will have **Lodge Accommodation** with all its benefits (great meals, phone & WiFi connection, comfortable room, en-suite bathroom, housekeeping, etc.) for the duration of this course!

If you are an international student please carefully check any visa requirements for coming to South Africa for the duration of the course (55 days) BEFORE you apply!

After booking confirmation you will receive:

- "Good to know" document
- List of "What to bring"
- List of recommended reference books
- Detailed driving directions



## Included in course:

- Apprentice Field Guide theoretical & practical lectures
- Bush walks / game drives
- FGASA Workbooks
- FGASA Logbooks
- Wilderness First Aid (theory, practical & exam)
- FGASA Apprentice Field Guide theory exam (1 attempt)
- FGASA Apprentice Field Guide practical assessment
- FGASA fees
- Lodge Accommodation
- All meals, water, tea & coffee

## Excluded from course:

- Flights / Visa
- Transfer to lodge
- Reference books
- Drinks & snacks
- General study material (paper, pens, etc.)
- Guiding equipment (binoculars, backpack, etc.)

EXPERIENCE  
LIFE CHANGING  
ADVENTURE