



TRAILS COURSES



Professional FGASA endorsed Apprenticeship
Trails Courses, ARH and assessments



28 Days
Apprentice Trails Course



The Course

The Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA) accredited full Apprentice Trails Guide Course (28 days) is conducted in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

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 Trails Guide qualification, we place strong emphasis on the ethos surrounding trails.

PHASE 1

The courses will take place at the Bayala Safari Lodge in the Big-5 Munyawana Private Game Reserve. We commence with the Advanced Rifle Handling (ARH) theory, training and assessment components. We also start with introductory walks during which the participants may begin logging walking hours and dangerous game encounters towards the Apprentice Trails Guide qualification.



The Course



PHASE 2

In this phase of the course we will spend nights out on a 'Wilderness Trail' in the Munyawana Private Game Reserve, without camp or vehicle facilities.

Nights are spent sleeping in the open, under the stars (no tents), with each participant taking turns at "watch duty", ensuring the group's safety.

All food and equipment are carried in backpacks, water is found or provided.

PHASE 3

From day 15 we focus on logging well beyond the minimum requirement of 50 walking hours and 10 potentially dangerous game encounters. Between walks we concentrate on the remaining Trails Guide theory modules. Once all the lectures have been completed, there will be a brief study period before the FGASA Trails Guide Theory exam takes place.

Track and sign training will be ongoing, preparing you for a CyberTracker Track & Sign Assessment (not included).



PROFESSIONAL.
AUTHENTIC.
QUALITY.



The Course



During the course we will spend an average of seven hours walking on most days. You will be able to log valuable walking hours and dangerous game encounters with a highly experienced mentor who will guide you through the process of approaching and retreating from dangerous game on foot, as well as interpretation and professional guest handling.

A typical day starts with waking up prior to sunrise. After coffee & rusks we head out on a four to five hour walk, as soon as sufficient daylight allows.

We return to the lodge around midday for lunch, followed by either a short lecture, or a few hours of free time. Around 3pm we head out again for a two to three hour walk, to gain more valuable hours and encounters. Dinner and a campfire await us back at the lodge, time for daily de-briefs and exchange with your fellow participants, usually followed by an early night.

We will be walking for long periods at times in rather rugged conditions, so you should be fit and prepared to get hot and dirty. This is all part of being a Trails Guide operating in Africa's wild areas.

"Fantastic experience in an awesome big 5 area – and of course Massi, who is one of the best out there."

- Horst Kalcher, Field Guide, Mentorship Trail Juli 2019

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 Trails 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 Trails Course - 28 days

Please contact us for dates

(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!

ARH qualification only (theory, practical training & assessment, 5 days) is also offered separately:

Please contact us for dates

Included in course:

- Lodge Accommodation
- ARH training & assessment (2 opportunities)
- PTFC standards
- FGASA Workbooks
- FGASA Logbook
- Apprentice Trails Guide theory lectures & exam
- Logging mentored walking hours & dangerous game encounters
- Apprentice Trails Guide assessment
- All meals, water, tea & coffee

Excluded from course:

- Reference books
- Transfer
- Drinks & snacks
- FGASA Membership fees

*"The professional personalisation is just amazing!
Thanks Massi"*

- Craig Wale, Field Guide, Mentorship Trail May 2019

After booking confirmation you will receive:

- List of "What to bring"
- List of recommended reference books
- Reminder on the requirements that must be met BEFORE arriving for the course
- Detailed driving directions

Requirements for participating:

- Apprentice Field Guide Certificate (formerly Level 1)
- Valid Wilderness First Aid
- Paid FGASA member