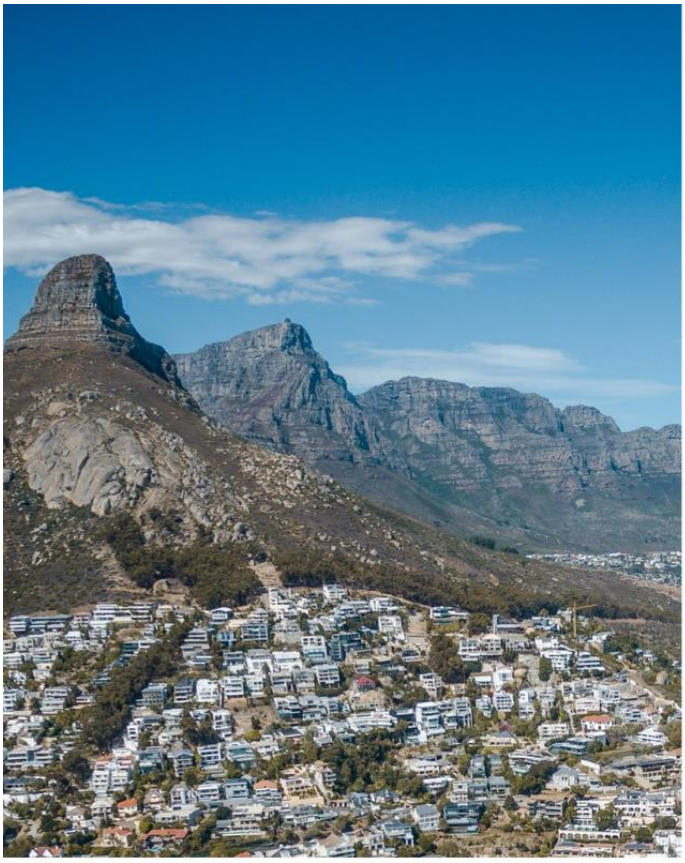


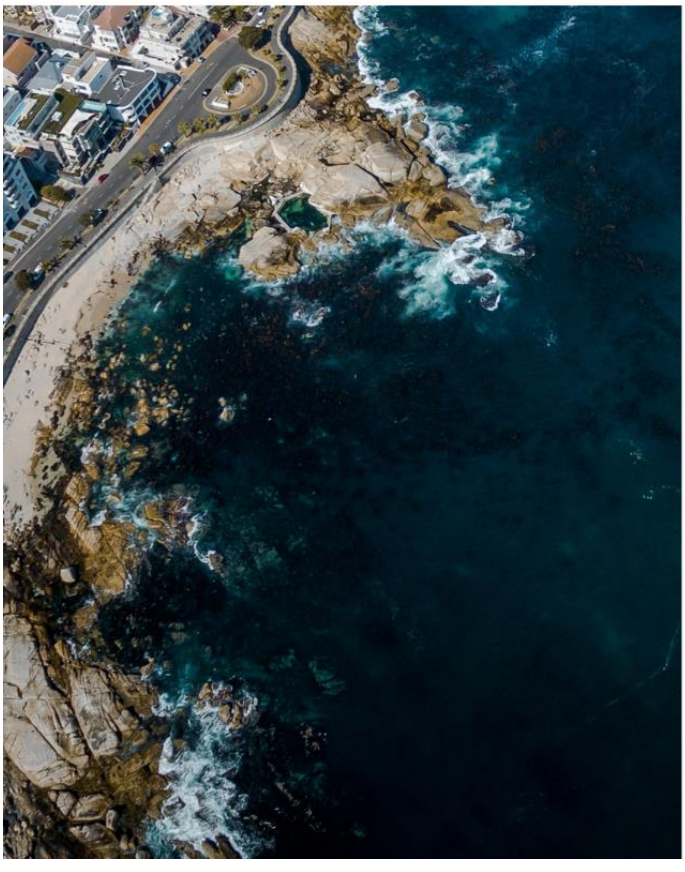






Drum Beat Academy

NATURE TOURIST GUIDE COURSE (ONLINE)











NATURE TOURIST GUIDE

WHAT IS A NATURE GUIDE?

A Nature Guide is a person that interprets the natural wealth of a site or province to a group of international or local visitors and educates and informs them of the different aspects of that particular area. South Africa has a very diverse natural heritage that offers countless tourism destinations where people can experience a variety of tourism attractions from the Fynbos in the Western Cape to the majestic Baobab in the Limpopo, from the wonders of the wetlands at St. Lucia to the striking Gemsbok of the Kalahari. These guides are very well informed about the natural elements of the site or province they guide in and have a wealth of information about the animals and plant life that inhabit it. A Nature Guide can operate in one specific site or qualify to work as a competent guide in a province/s or as a National Guide. A Nature Guide can guide in national parks, conservation areas, mountains, bushveld, different biomes, game reserves, etc. A Nature Guide can also qualify as a specialised guide in an area, province or the whole of South Africa and conduct tours such as botanical tours, biome tours, big 5 tours, birding tours, geology tours, wetlands tours, natural resource tour, etc.

Drum Beat Academy offers a **CATHSSETA accredited** Nature Guide qualification. This course will enhance your skills as a guide and enable you to interpret our natural heritage in an interesting informative way. This course will let you travel throughout South Africa exploring and sharing our country with paying customers both local and international. Once qualified a Nature Guide can move from province to province finding employment with tour operators, working as a free-lance guide or working on private game reserves in the provinces they are qualified for. This programme is presented twice a year at our head office and can be arranged at other locations should there be a big demand.

COURSE CONTENT

Theory:

- Introduction to the learning programme.
- Working in the tourism / tourist guide industry.
- Techniques of guiding.
- Overview of South Africa.
- Knowledge on sites, nature, biomes, and cultures.
- Design & conduct a guided experience.
- Astronomy.
- Climatology.
- Ecology.
- Geology.
- Taxonomy.
- Fauna & Flora.

Practical:

- Conducting a guided nature tour.
- Provide customer service.
- Demonstrate ability to handle problems.

BONUS

Once you've qualified and registered as a Tourist Guide, we'll place your details on our website for Tour Operators to find you! Mahala! Gratis! For Free!

QUALIFIATION DETAILS

FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING CERTIFICATE: TOURIST GUIDING

SAQA ID 71549 **NQF Level 4** **Minimum 134 Credits**

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Matric (grade 12) Certificate or equivalent.
- Two South African languages.
- South African citizen.
- Reading, writing and basic mathematical skills are required.
- Able to read, write, speak, and understand English.

DEPARTMENT TOURISM REQUIREMENTS

All qualified tourist guides must register with a Provincial Registrar appointed by the Department of Tourism (e.g., Gauteng Tourism Authority). This registration is the learner's responsibility and none of these costs are included in the course price. For the registration you must be a South African citizen or have a valid work permit. You will submit a copy of your Tourist Guiding certificate (and Drum Beat Acknowledgement of Result), a valid First Aid certificate, R240 registration fee, and 4 passport size photos. You will also need to complete a registration form and sign a code of conduct and ethics upon registration. Once approved you will receive your guiding badge and card. Registrations are valid for 3-years, registrations can be renewed and updated. (Note: Driver-guides need to be 21 years of age to get their PDP).

DURATION

- Online structured 12-month course.
- 2-day practical weekend to be attended in person on scheduled dates (Pretoria) OR Practical assignments / logbooks (depending on location).

PRACTICAL WEEKEND DATES

PRETORIA
17 – 18 April 2027
18 – 19 September 2027

ASSESSMENT

- Practical assessment on Conducting a Guided Experience (via Google Meet). Should you wish to do an in-person assessment this can be arranged in Pretoria / Johannesburg.
- Portfolio of Evidence (assignments & workbooks).
- Questionnaires (tests) on theory and information cards (cue-cards).

AWARD

Drum Beat Academy and CATHSSETA Certificate.

ONLINE START DATE

As soon as we receive payment.

COURSE MODULES / CLASSROOMS

- Classroom / Module 1: Introduction to guiding (FET Certificate).
- Classroom / Module 2: Overview of South Africa.
- Classroom / Module 3: Introduction to Nature Guiding.
- Classroom / Module 4: 1st Biome.
- Practical weekend OR practical assignments / logbooks (depending on location).

COURSE FEES

ONCE OFF PAYMENT PACKAGES	PRICE
FET Certificate + 1 biome. ○ Module 1 – 4. ○ Includes practical weekend / practical assignment fee.	**R14 950.00**

OR

PAYMENT PLAN PACKAGES	PRICE PER MODULE	TOTAL PRICE PER PACKAGE
FET Certificate + 1 biome.		**R14 000.00**
○ Module 1	**R3 000.00**	
○ Module 2	**R3 000.00**	
○ Module 3	**R5 000.00**	
○ Module 4	**R3 000.00**	
PRACTICAL WEEKEND* Compulsory. ○ 2-day practical weekend to be attended in person on scheduled dates (Pretoria) OR practical assignments / logbooks (depending on location).	**R2 000.00**	**R2 000.00**
Additional Biome x 1.		R1 450.00
Additional Biomes x 4.		~~R5 800.00~~ **R4 350.00** Save R1 450.00

PRICE INCLUDES

- Workbooks and assignments via Google Classroom.
- All assessments.
- Support and guidance.
- Moderation and certification.

PRICE EXCLUDES

- Cost for First Aid, any travelling to and from Drum Beat Academy, and registration at the Provincial Registrar for Guides.
- **Reference material.** Below is a list of books that we advise you buy or ensure have access to for the course.

REFERENCE BOOKS (not included in the price)

TITLE	AUTHOR
Guide to Grasses of Southern Africa	Frits van Oudtshoorn
Field Guide to Trees of Southern Africa	Braam & Piet van Wyk
Stuart's Field Guide to the Tracks & Signs of Southern, Central & East African Wildlife	Chris & Mathilde Stuart
Sasol Birds of Southern Africa, 5th edition	Ian Sinclair, Phil Hockey
Stuarts' Field Guide to Mammals of Southern Africa, revised edition	Chris & Mathilde Stuart
Stargazing from Game Reserves in Southern Africa	Tony Fairall
Geological Journeys: A traveller's guide to South Africa's Rocks and Landforms	Nick Norman

Alternative books may be required depending on the biome you choose.

Alternatives:

- Mammals: Smither's Mammals of Southern Africa.
- Birds: Newman's Birds of South Africa – Sappi.
- Birds: Roberts Field Guide to Birds of Southern Africa.
- Stars: Stars of the Southern Skies – Mary Fitzgerald.

Nice to Have:

- First Sasol Field Guide to Spiders & Scorpions of Southern Africa, Tracey Hawthorne.
- Snakes and Reptiles of Southern Africa, Bill Branch.
- Game Ranger in Your Backpack (2014), Megan Emmett, et al.

PLATFORM

- Conducted via Google Classroom.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Access to a computer / laptop / notebook / tablet.
- Stable internet connection & data.
- Free Google account (Gmail address preferably).
- PDF Reader and Microsoft Office Word.
- Printer / scanner (optional).
- Recording device (e.g., smartphone).

OVERVIEW

With the online course you do not have to be available at any specific time to 'attend class', you can work through the training material, workbooks, & assignments when it suits you. However, it is a structured course and there will be submissions dates for your workbooks & assignments. You will have ample time for theory, research, and task completion. The submission dates are there to guide you towards completion of your course at a steady pace. An extension can be requested for extenuating circumstances.

Not all your material, workbooks, & assignments will be visible when you're invited to your online class (via Google Classroom). With this structured course we will publish new material at a set pace. You must first complete one section before moving on to the next. As you submit your tasks they will be assessed, and feedback given. One module must be completed in full (workbook, assignments, and assessments) before moving on to the next.

Continuous support and mentoring will be available during office hours. Should your facilitator see a need, a Google Meet session will be scheduled with the class to address concerns and commonly asked questions.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Complete the enrolment. Choose whether you're paying per module or the full amount as a once-off payment. For both options you must pay the full amount stipulated to gain access to your classroom.
2. Email the completed form to pta@drumbeatacademy.co.za.
3. We will send you a proforma invoice for your chosen module/s.
4. Make payment via EFT / direct deposit.
5. Email proof of payment to pta@drumbeatacademy.co.za.
6. Upon confirmation that the full (100%) payment has been received, you will be placed on the attendance register for invitation on the scheduled date for the training programme/s.
7. You will receive an invitation to join a Google Classroom. Once you've accepted the invitation you will have access to the classroom and your training material.
8. Your facilitator will guide and assist you should you have any problems navigating through Google Classroom and your training material.

ESTIMATED TIMELINE FOR REGISTERING AS A TOURIST GUIDE

FET CERTIFICATE, NQF 4

You will have 12 months from the start of your course to complete your qualification and first biome. Should you fail to do so, you will be deregistered. Your course fee is non-refundable.

STEPS	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED TIME
1. Enrol.	Enrol for CATHSSETA's FET Certificate: Tourist Guiding (71549, NQF 4).	--
2. Attend Class.	Attend class in Pretoria or Johannesburg. 10 days theory and 2 days practical.	12 days
3. Portfolio of Evidence (PoE).	Complete your workbooks, tasks, and assignments at home.	3 – 6 months
4. 1st written exam.	Prepare for and write Overview of South African Exam.	2 – 4 weeks
5. 2nd written exam.	Prepare for & write your 1st of 2 biome exams (typically Grassland).	2 – 4 weeks
6. 3rd written exam.	Prepare for & write your 2nd biome exam.	2 – 4 weeks
7. Verbal assessment.	Prepare for and conduct your verbal assessment.	2 – 4 weeks
8. Moderation.	Your portfolio of evidence is moderated, and final signoff completed.	2 weeks
9. Achieve with CATHSSETA.	We achieve you for the FET Certificate: Tourist Guiding with CATHSSETA.	2 weeks
10. CATHSSETA Endorsement.	CATHSSETA endorses the qualification, issues a certificate number, and sends it off for printing. Printing is completed in batches and not printed per individual. 4 months is the average time from endorsement to issue, though delays can extend the time it takes to issue certificates.	3 – 4 months
11. Drum Beat Certificate & AoR.	In the meantime, we will issue you with a Drum Beat Certificate and Acknowledgement of Result (AoR).	2 weeks
12. First Aid Level 1.	Schedule and attend your First Aid training with an accredited service provider.	2 days
13. Additional Biomes.	This is the time to continue with your additional biomes if you chose to do more than one biome. Each additional biome has written exam/s.	2 – 4 weeks per province
14. CATHSSETA Certificate.	CATHSSETA issues your FET Certificate. It is sorted and sent to the provider (Drum Beat Academy) and we'll let you know when it is ready for collection.	2 – 4 weeks
15. Register as a Tourist Guide.	Once you have your CATHSSETA Certificate, your Drum Beat Certificate & AoR, and a valid First Aid Level 1 Certificate you can contact your Provincial Registrar for registration as a Tourist Guide.	2 – 4 weeks

- Assessment: Assessment and feedback of your PoE and exams can take up to two weeks.
- Written Exams: 3 hours to complete a written exam. Written exams are held every Tuesday in Pretoria at 09:00 and exams must be booked in advance.
- Verbal Assessment: ± 1 hour to complete verbal assessment and paperwork. Date is discussed and booked with your assessor.
- FET Certificate & 1st boime timeframe: The typical timeframe for completion is 10 – 12 months depending on the amount of time you have available to dedicate to the course work.
- Total timeline: To register as a Tourist Guide can take 12+ months from the start of your course.

WHAT IS AN RPL?

It is a process that recognises that learning and qualifications can be obtained not only through formal study but also through years of experience in a particular job / field. Adults don't need to start studying from scratch; they can receive credit for their competence in a field by proving their expertise. This process, known as Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), allows experienced guides to obtain the FET Certificate in Tourist Guiding with minimal time and expense.

However, it is the guide's responsibility to apply for RPL and create a comprehensive portfolio of evidence showcasing their previous learning and experience. An assessor will then evaluate this evidence against the unit standards required for the tourist guide qualification. Based on the assessment, the guide will receive recognition for their prior learning and/or experience, and they may need additional evidence and/or learning for certain unit standards.

The RPL process starts with a briefing / interview with the learner to ascertain their current level of competency, once this is determined we will guide them as to what evidence we will require to declare them competent against the selected qualification. This is ideal for learners with previous guiding experience.

PORTFOLIO OF EVIDENCE

Examples of types of evidence to include in your POE:

- Tour operator reports.
- Tourism industry qualifications.
- Former SATOUR acknowledged guiding qualifications.
- Certificates and/or awards for any other activities or courses that you have taken part in.
- Language course certificates.
- Itineraries of previous tours.
- Photos, testimonials, emails, or videos from previous customers.

Contact us on 012 460 9585 or email info@drumbeatacademy.co.za for more detailed information on the RPL process and who qualifies.



012 460 9585
info@drumbeatacademy.co.za
www.drumbeatacademy.co.za

*We **drum** out your future!*