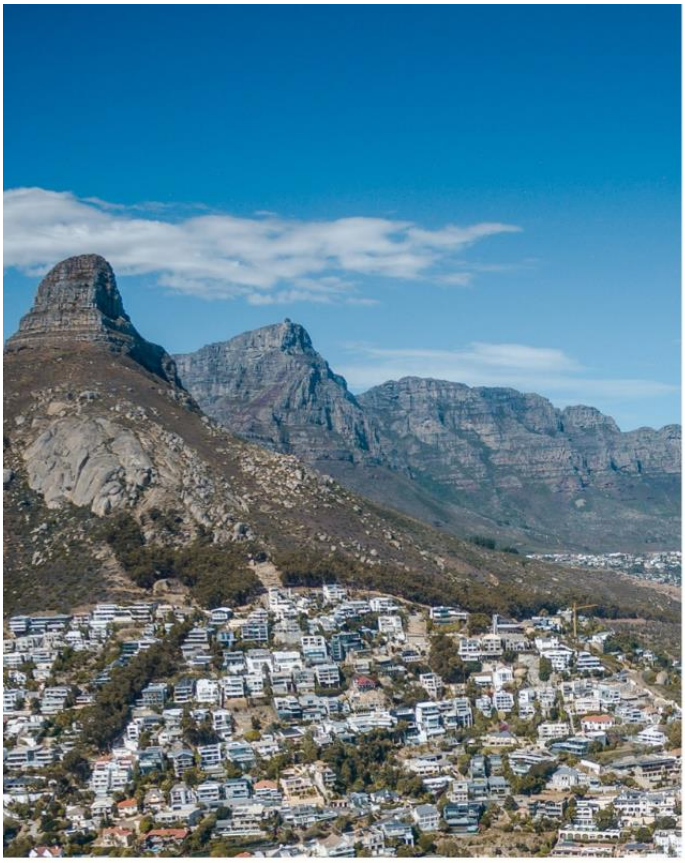


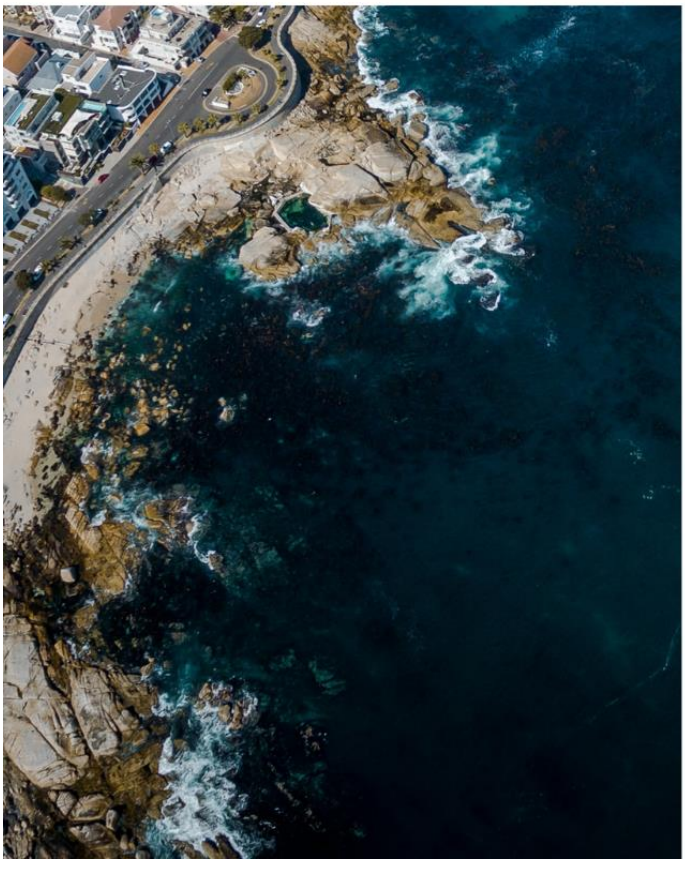






Drum Beat Academy

NATURE TOURIST GUIDE
(ELECTIVE –ONLINE)











NATURE TOURIST GUIDE

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Must have completed one of the following Culture Guide qualifications:

- Further Education and Training Certificate in Tourist Guiding, NQF Level 4, SAQA ID 71549.
- National Certificate in Tourism: Guiding, NQF Level 4, SAQA ID 20155.

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. 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 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:

- Techniques of guiding.
- Astronomy.
- Biomes.
- 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!

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NATURE ELECTIVE

The nature elective covers two unit standards as addons to your existing qualification:

- Conduct a Guided Nature Experience, NQF Level 4, US ID 335799.
- Conduct a Guided Biome Experience, NQF Level 4, US ID 335815.

DURATIONS

- ± 3 months, own time for preparation and completion of assignments and questionnaires.

ASSESSMENTS

- Practical assessment on Conducting a Guided Experience.
- Questionnaire on theory and information cards.
- Designed itinerary (assignments and workbooks).

PRACTICAL WEEKEND DATES

PRETORIA
17 – 18 April 2027
18 – 19 September 2027

The Nature Elective is presented according to Biomes and not Provinces.

- Dates may change without prior notice, please consult the office to confirm dates.
- The practical weekend must be completed.
- Each candidate must complete a Portfolio of Evidence, prepare for, and write exams.
- Complete verbal (practical) assessment.
- Additional biomes each has written exam/s.

COURSE FEES

ONCE OFF PAYMENT PACKAGES	PRICE
Nature Elective + 1 biome. ○ Includes practical weekend / practical assignment fee.	**R9 500.00**

OR

PAYMENT PLAN PACKAGES	PRICE PER MODULE	TOTAL PRICE PER PACKAGE
Nature Elective + 1 biome.		**R10 000.00**
○ Module 1: Introduction to Nature Guiding	**R5 000.00**	
○ Module 2: 1st Biome	**R3 000.00**	
○ Practical Weekend* Compulsory	**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.

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!*