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## NJ MORE GUIDE EXPERIENCE - SYLLABUS

Course content max 3 months, duration can vary due to public holidays etc

- FGASA Apprentice Field Guide (NQF2) (Level 1) (detailed syllabus below)
- Wilderness First Aid Level 2 (detailed syllabus below)
- Birding (ID of Birds and sounds)
- 4X4 Driving
- Rifle Competency

### 1. SYLLABUS FGASA APPRENTICE FIELD GUIDE (NQF2) (LEVEL 1)

The Apprentice Field Guide should be able to identify the major living and non-living features of the natural environment in which s/he operates and interpret them at a level based mainly on observation and from an elementary scientific and cultural perspective. As a general guideline, a Apprentice Field Guide must have sound knowledge of the history, geology, plants and animals (i.e. birds, mammals, reptiles, etc) in the specific area of operation

### 2. THE FGASA APPRENTICE FIELD GUIDE (LEVEL 1) SYLLABUS INCULDES THE FOLLOWING MODULES

- Introduction to guiding in the natural environment
- Creating a guided nature experience
- Geology
- Astronomy
- Weather and Climate
- Basic Ecology
- Basic Taxonomy
- Introduction to the Biomes of Southern Africa

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- Botany and Grasses
- Arthropods
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Fish
- Birds
- Mammals
- Conservation management and Historical Human Habitation

## MODULE 1 - INTRODUCTION TO GUIDING IN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

On completion of this module you will:

- Have an understanding of what a professional nature guide does and where s/he fits into the tourism guiding industry.
- Know what the aims of nature guiding are.
- Have an understanding of guiding ethics in the natural environment.
- Have been introduced to a set of guiding principles and a code of conduct for guides from a FGASA and a Dept of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) point of view and have an understanding of legal requirements.

## MODULE 2 - CREATING A GUIDED NATURE EXPERIENCE

On completion of this module you will:

- Be able to carry out a pre-briefing before embarking on a guided experience.
- Be aware of determining any medical considerations of your clients.
- Be able to determine if your clients have any special interests before departing on the

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guided experience.

- Have the ability to involve all of your clients as individuals in the guided experience.
- Take into consideration the environmental factors when it comes to the comfort of your clients.
- Have enhanced communication skills for guiding in the natural environment.
- Be able to carry out research on potentially interesting sights
- Approach animals taking into consideration all the client and animal factors which will affect the approach.
- Be able to orientate yourself during the day and at night making use of a number of methods to do so.
- Know what procedures to follow when lost and have the ability to find water and edible food in the natural environment.
- Be able to interpret all aspects of the natural environment to enhance the experience of your clients.

### MODULE 3 - GEOLOGY

On completion of this module you will:

- Know what the meaning of Geology is.
- Have a basic understanding of what the Earth consists of.
- Know how rocks are classified
- Understand how igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks are formed.
- Know what a mineral is and be able to give a few examples.
- Have an understanding and knowledge of a few common rock types.
- Know the weathering properties of some common rock types.
- Have an understanding of the interrelationships between rocks, soil, climate, vegetation and animals.

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## **MODULE 4 - ASTRONOMY**

On completion of this module you will:

- Be able to understand by definition what is meant by a universe, galaxy and solar system.
- Know the position of the nine planets in the solar system in terms of their distance from the Sun.
- Be able to point out the constellations of Orion, Scorpio and the Southern Cross.
- Be able to determine a southerly direction making use of the Southern Cross.
- Be able to describe the phases of the moon as it is viewed from Earth.
- Know what is meant by an eclipse and how to differentiate between a lunar and a solar eclipse in terms of the positioning of the Sun, Earth and Moon.
- Know how the ocean tides are affected by the moon.

## **MODULE 5 - WEATHER AND CLIMATE**

On completion of this module you will:

- Know the difference between weather and climate
- Understand the process of cloud formation.
- Know the different types and names of clouds and what weather conditions are associated with these different cloud types and how this may affect the guiding experience.

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- Know the different types of local wind conditions that may apply to the area of guiding operation.
- Be able to describe the four major influences on the South African climate.
- Understand the general Summer and Winter conditions of Southern Africa.

## MODULE 6 - BASIC ECOLOGY

On completion of this module you will:

- Know what Ecology is and how important an understanding of ecology is for the nature guide.
- Have a understanding of the major components of ecosystems.
- Be able to explain the different levels of organisation in ecology.
- Know what trophic pyramids, food chains and food webs are and how to give an explanation of these.
- Be able to give an explanation of the nutrient cycle.
- Be able to give an explanation and examples of symbiotic relationships.
- Know what predation is and the various types of competition that occurs in the natural environment.

## MODULE 7 - BASIC TAXONOMY

On completion of this module you will:

- Know what the meaning of taxonomy is.
- Have an understanding of why and how living organisms are classified.
- Be able to name the six kingdoms of living organisms.
- Be able to place living organisms into the hierarchical order of classification.

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## MODULE 8 - INTRODUCTION TO THE BIOMES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

On completion of this module you will:

- Know what a biome is.
- Be able to name the seven major biomes in Southern Africa
- Be able to explain the biomes in terms of the amount of seasonal rainfall and temperature
- Know what the main indicator species are for each of the biomes in terms of animals and dominant vegetation types

## MODULE 9 - BOTANY & GRASSES

On completion of this module you will:

- Know the anatomy of a tree
- Know how to identify a tree and thus be able to apply this knowledge to identify any tree in Southern Africa
- Be able to give some interesting facts about trees in terms of general uses, and traditional beliefs associated with specific trees
- Know the anatomy of a grass plant
- Know how to identify a grass plant and thus be able to apply this knowledge to identify any grass plant in Southern Africa
- Know the differences between sweet and sour veld
- Be able to explain grassland succession
- Understand what is meant by the ecological status and the grazing value of grasses

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## MODULE 10 – ARTHROPODS (INSECTS & RELITIVES)

On completion of this module you will:

- Know what a arthropod is
- Know what the characteristics of insects are
- Be able to explain the three different types of insect life-cycles and give examples of each
- Understand why insects are so successful and the ecological importance of insects
- Have a basic understanding of insect flight and their feeding behavior
- Be able to identify common insect orders
- Be able to explain the difference between insects and spiders
- Know what the characteristics of the Arachnid are and be able to place spiders two main sub orders
- Know how to recognize the venomous spiders in South Africa which are of medical importance to human beings and know what type of venom they have
- Know what the characteristics of scorpions are and how they distinguish between the two main types of scorpions.
- Know what the differences are between Millipedes and Centipedes and their particular feeding behaviour.

## MODULE 11 - AMPHIBIANS (FROGS AND TOADS)

On completion of this module you will:

- Know the characteristics of the class of amphibians and be able to explain the differences between frogs and toads and their calls
- Understand the life cycle of frogs and toads and be able to explain metamorphosis.
- Be able to explain mating postures, nests and types of eggs of frogs and toads

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## MODULE 12 - REPTILES

On completion of this module you will:

- Know the characteristics of the class of reptiles.
- Be able to identify the features of the three reptile orders.
- Be able to identify the features of Turtles, Tortoises and Terrapins.
- Be able to identify the features of skinks, lizards, agamas, geckos, chameleons, monitors and snakes.
- Know how to identify the more common species of snakes as well as the potentially lethal families and species of snakes.
- Be able to name the different types of snake venom, symptoms and effects.
- Be able to classify snakes in terms of the different teeth structures.
- Know the different types of reproduction in snakes.
- Have a basic understanding of the senses of snakes.
- Know some interesting facts about reptiles.

## MODULE 13 - FISH

On completion of this module you will:

- Know what a fish is.
- Be able to label the external anatomy of a fish
- Understand the ecological importance of fish
- Be able to explain how fish reproduce and grow
- Know the different types of fish feeding behaviour
- Understand how fish move through water
- Be able to explain the concepts of neutral buoyancy and the swim bladder
- Know how the lateral line system works in fish and why it is important

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- Be able to identify common species of fish

## MODULE 14 – BIRDS

On completion of this module you will:

- Know the characteristics of the class of birds
- Understand the difference between passerines and non-passerines
- Be able to give explanations of the various feeding methods and type of food that birds eat
- Be able to point out examples of prominent bird species nests
- Be able to give a basic explanation of commonly displayed bird behaviour
- Know how to identify birds making use of various identification pointers
- Be able to identify the prominent and common bird species

## MODULE 15 – MAMMALS

On completion of this module you will:

- Know the characteristics of the class of mammals
- Know the characteristics of the sub-classes of mammals
- Be able to explain the foot structure and digestive systems of ruminants and hindgut fermenters
- Be able to give the basic physical characteristics, social and feeding habits, habitat and distribution of the common species of mammals
- Be able to differentiate between males and females and common mammal species
- Have basic behavioural knowledge of the main indicator species (“flagship”)

## MODULE 16 - ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

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- Know what animal behaviour is.
- Understand the different grouping behaviour of animals.
- Be able to explain the different forms of animals' communication making use of relevant examples.
- Have an understanding of various types of animal protective behaviour.
- Be able to explain the differences between animal home-ranges and territories.
- Be able to identify and interpret animal signs and sounds.

## **MODULE 17 - CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AND HISTORICAL HUMAN INHABITANTS**

On completion of this module you will:

- Know what conservation practices are used in the natural environment.
- Understand why and how these conservation practices are carried out.
- Know what a Trans frontier/ Peace Park is and be able to give some examples.
- Know what a Biosphere Reserve is, why they are established and be able to give some examples of working Biosphere reserves.
- Have knowledge and an understanding of the early human inhabitants of Southern Africa.
- Be able to explain the three Stone Age periods that took place in Southern Africa and some of the more interesting Stone age sites and their significance.
- Be able to explain the characteristics of the Iron Age sites in Southern Africa and their significance.
- Have an understanding of the distribution of traditional Southern African cultures.
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This module 17 will cover the absolute basics in terms of the topics included, and is thus only a very brief introduction to conservation management and Historical Human Habitation of Southern Africa.

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a) The conservation management section of this module will include the following:

- The use of fire as a management tool
- Bush encroachment and alien plant control
- Erosion control/ Road maintenance
- Animal population control

b) The Historical Human Habitation section of this module will include the following:

- A brief history of humans in Southern Africa
- The early Stone Age
- The Middle Stone Age
- The Later Stone Age
- The Iron Age
- The distribution of traditional Southern African cultures based on language

### **3. SYLLABUS WILDERNESS FRIST AID LEVEL 2**

- Principles of First Aid and Safety Emergency Scene Management
- Artificial Respiration (AR)
- Single Rescuer Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- Choking ( Foreign Body Airway Obstruction – FBAO)
- Wounds and Bleeding
- Shock, Unconsciousness and Fainting
- Fractures
- Burns
- Head and Spinal Injuries
- Environmental Emergencies
- Envenomation
- Patient Transportation

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#### 4. PRACTICAL 4X4 DRIVING

- General Safety
- When to use high-and low-range
- Differentials, hubs and traction control
- Tyre Pressure
- Descents/ Ascents
- Driving on or through sand, grass, mud, rocks and Water

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