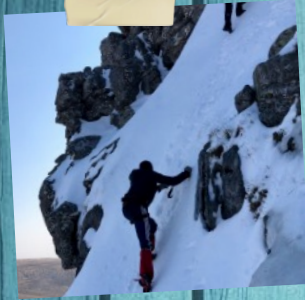


YEAR @ GUIDE SCHOOL: 2020

Comprehensive, accredited, adventure guide training in South Africa





The South African adventure tourism industry is one of the primary growth industries in the country. Tourist guiding, including adventure guiding, is a legally protected profession meaning that anyone who wants to register as a guide in South Africa must have an appropriate qualification and then guide only within the scope of that qualification.

The qualified adventure tourist guide is currently listed on the “critical skills shortage list” by the South African government.

The only way to become an accredited adventure guide is by completing a suitable CATHSSETA accredited training and assessment programme. If the course you are attending is not a National Qualification and accredited by CATHSSETA, then you cannot register as a legal guide.

Why a year-long programme?

We at Venture Forth have been at the forefront of training and assessment in the adventure guide industry since 1994 and have trained more accredited adventure guides than anyone else in Africa. Over the many years, we have adapted to market requirements and student needs with our training products.

Several issues face especially younger people entering the adventure industry.

These include:

1. The confusing number of short courses, training programmes, gap-year programmes, diplomas and degrees available on the market. Many of these are not CATHSSETA accredited or are offered by institutions or instructors who have no real adventure guiding experience.
2. The need for personal activity experience required by each qualification. You cannot be a guide if you do not have a high level of individual skill and experience in the activity. Opportunities to gain this experience under qualified, mature supervision and in a systematic, cost-effective method is not available.
3. Little available guidance from anyone experienced in the industry and often the available “guidance” and “advice” is just plain wrong or misinformed.
4. No planned career path or career advice is readily available.
5. It is challenging to contact employers in the industry and make a real career out of adventure.
6. There is confusion about what an adventure guide is as opposed to an adventure-based learning facilitator (youth camp councillor).
7. There are some theory-based adventure tourism programmes on the market that offer minimal hard skills and no guide accreditation after completion.
8. Obtaining practical, real-world work experience is difficult to arrange.
9. The incorrect assumption that adventure guiding is “not a real job” and has limited earning potential.

We designed the Year@GuideSchool Programme to overcome the above problems. Although it is primarily aimed at younger students (18 – 25-year-olds), it is suitable for anyone wanting to enter the industry.



Things you need to know

- This is not a fun-and-games “gap year” programme. This is a serious professional career development course. Although it will be an immensely fun adventure, it will be hard work, long hours and physically demanding.
- You will be expected to conduct yourself in a professional, disciplined manner throughout the course.
- You will learn more from us this year than you will learn at some universities in 4 years. Be ready for it.
- You will learn more about yourself than you did in 12 years of school.
- If you complete the programme, work hard and learn hard, you will be one of the most employable people in the adventure industry in South Africa and abroad.
- This is a qualification programme. You can fail the courses. Certification requires commitment, hard work and study.
- You need to be healthy and willing at the start of the course. A reasonable amount of fitness will help. You will, however, be very fit and strong by the end of the course.
- You need to commit to the whole programme and process. There are no half-measures.
- You will be exposed to many different instructors and also to actual industry employers while on this programme. It is not just training; they will be looking to recruit you.
- You will be outside often. You will sleep in a tent often. You will get cold, hot, uncomfortable, tired. You will miss your mom. It’s ok. It’s Guide School.
- If you are Adventure Guide material, you will love every minute of it!
- The course will run out of our Cape Town base, but you will travel around the country as part of the programme.



What do you get for your time and money?

- The most experienced instructors in the industry with a combined experience of over 100 years in the South African and international adventure guiding world.
- The most comprehensive and highest quality programme of its sort on the market both locally and internationally.
- The widest range of adventure guiding skills and scope of practice in a single programme.
- A career-in-a-box training solution.
- You will see and experience the best in South African adventure activities and tourism.
- Direct personal exposure to some of the best employers and adventure companies in South Africa with the opportunity to experience working for them and gaining possible employment prospects for the future.
- Advice on international qualifications and opportunities.
- Extensive personal activity experience.
- Additional, optional add-on training and assessment opportunities.
- Opportunity to purchase personal outdoor clothing and equipment for your new career at professional wholesale prices.
- Personal career development advice, career-path planning and support.
- Exclusive opportunity to be one of the select few to complete this programme. We have a limited intake of only 12 persons per year as we want to give our students extensive personal attention and assistance.



What is the programme?

This is an abbreviated programme and year-planner:

- **Phase 1 starts: early January 2020**

Introduction

Training courses

Personal experience to meet logbook requirements

In-house work experience with Venture Forth

Work experience around Cape Town to meet logbook requirements

Easter Holiday Break, approximately 1 week

- **Phase 2:**

Training courses

Personal experience to meet logbook requirements

Work experience to meet logbook requirements

Formative assessment

Winter Holiday Break, approximately 10 days during July

- **Phase 3:**

Personal experience to meet logbook requirements

Work experience to meet logbook requirements

Summative training interventions

Spring Holiday Break, approximately 1 week during September

- **Phase 4:**

Final work experience with Venture Forth & other providers

The course ends: Mid December 2020

Off-days and breaks:

There will be some week-days and weekends given off during each phase. A more detailed programme will be available towards the end of September 2019.





What will I learn and which short courses will I attend?

Foundation course:

1. Generic Adventure Site Guide – NQF Level 4 – 60 Credits

SAQA Registered Unit standards included:

- 335803 – Research and design a guided experience at a prominent tourism site
- 335801 – Conduct a tourist guiding activity
- 262320 – Manage and organise groups
- 262317 – Lead participants through an outdoor recreation and adventure activity
- 262305 – Plan and implement minimum environmental impact practices
- 262246 – Set up and operate a camping site
- 255914 – Minimise and manage safety and emergency incidents
- 246740 – Care for customers
- 335816 – Conduct a guided adventure experience

Elective Adventure Guiding Skills and Unit Standards:

2. **MOUNTAIN GUIDING** (CATHSSETA Accredited)

Off-trail mountain walking guide
Abseil Guide – Level 1 and 2
Single-Pitch Rock Climbing Guide
Non-technical Canyoneering Guide
Technical Single-Pitch Canyoneering Guide

3. **OVERLAND AND 4x4 SKILLS**

4x4 Operations – Basic and Advanced (TETA Accredited Unit Standards)
Defensive Driver Training
Heavy-duty drivers licence (optional extra at additional cost)

4. **PADDLING & RIVER GUIDING** (African Paddling Association & CATHSSETA accredited)

Flat-water Paddling Guide
Sea-Kayak Guide
River Guide (Swift Water)



5. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL GUIDING COURSES (CATHSSETA Accredited)

Zip-line Guide

High Ropes Challenge Course Guide

Mountain Bike & Cycle Touring Guide

6. ADDITIONAL GUIDING SKILLS

Nature interpretation for adventure guides

Basic photography and adventure film making skills

Basic camp construction and maintenance skills

7. FIREARM TRAINING (PFTC & ITA Accredited)

Legal aspects of the Firearms Control Act

Personal Firearms Competency for Handgun, Shotgun and Manual Rifle

Business Purposes Competency for Handgun, Shotgun and Manual Rifle

8. ADVENTURE-BASED LEARNING SKILLS

ABL Facilitator Training

Soft skills, group training and debriefing

Whole Brain Leadership

Water activities

Archery

Air rifle shooting

Challenge courses

Challenge games

9. FIRST AID AND SURVIVAL

Wilderness First Responder (Department of Labour & ECSI Accredited)

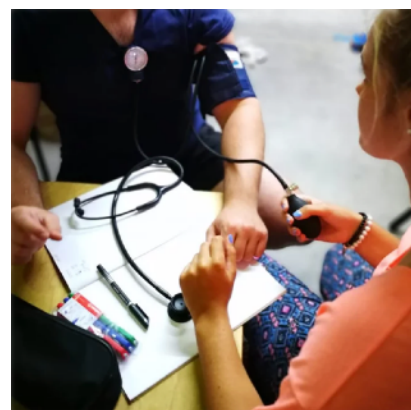
Tactical First Aid (Department of Labour Accredited)

Incident management

Bush craft and survival

Self-defence for adventure guides

Urban and Travel Survival





Where is the course based?

Venture Forth has its headquarters in Cape Town. The course will run from Cape Town and be predominantly based in the Western Cape. You will, however, visit different adventure operators and different areas of the country as part of the course. Students taking up residence will be based outside Somerset-West at a beautiful venue.

You will get to know the following areas well:

Table Mountain and the Peninsula Mountain Areas
 Cederberg Wilderness Area
 Matroosberg, Ceres and the Hex River Mountains
 Kogelberg, Grabouw and the Boland and Du Toit's Kloof Mountains
 Langebaan and the West Coast
 Stanford, Hermanus and the coastal area

You will visit the following areas:

Groot-Winterhoek Mountains near Tulbagh
 Swellendam and the Langeberg
 Oudtshoorn and the Swartberg Mountains
 The Garden Route, Addo and the Eastern Cape
 Parys and the Vaal River
 Gariep Dam
 Magaliesberg
 Drakensberg
 Magoebaskloof and the Wolkberg Area
 Clarens and surrounds



A number of the areas will be visited during your year with us.

We will travel by road, train and air. You will become comfortable with airports and various arrival and departure procedures.



Where will I stay and what will I eat?

There are two options for this course. Residential and non-residential. We do recommend the residential option as it benefits group cohesion and logistics, however, if you are based in and around Cape Town and Somerset West, and have your own reliable transport, you can be non-residential for the components based in Cape Town. You will, however, have to stay and travel with the group when we travel or are out on practical exercises.

Residential students will stay at the Pneumatix Centre in the Somerset West area, arranged by Venture Forth. The venue has strict rules and is an equipped self-catering facility. You will need to bring your own bedding and a set of house cutlery. You will cook and clean for yourself and provide your own meals when at the student venue. We will arrange a cooking and catering plan amongst the residential students once the programme starts.

When travelling and on practical exercises, you will mostly camp out on a self-catering basis. Venture Forth will provide suitable tents, mattresses and cookware.

When on work experience with actual clients or school groups, you will eat with the group and other staff if catering is part of the package. Venture Forth will provide certain meals during the training.

When at formal lectures at the Venture Forth offices, we provide coffee, tea, milk etc.



What equipment will I need?

Aside from your normal casual wear for class and travel you will need some other items. We will provide you with a comprehensive list on sign-up. This is an abbreviated list:

Clothing	Equipment	Venture Forth Provides
Full waterproof shell gear (Jacket and Trousers) Good quality hiking boots Running shoes Sandals Hiking clothing Swimming clothing Warm jacket Sun protection Warm clothing for winter	Large expedition backpack Day climbing backpack Sleeping Bag (-8) Sleeping Bag Liner 2 x Waterproof backpack liners Quality headlamp Travel towel Small wet-kit	Tents Self-inflating mattress Camping stoves Pot sets All technical equipment Harnesses and helmets "Life Jackets" Group equipment First aid kits Guide School LOGO Kit: Student Jacket – Soft Shell Wide brim hat 2 x Wicking T-Shirts 2 x Cotton T-Shirts 2 x Trekking Shirts 1 x Trekking Zip-off Trouser

You will be able to purchase equipment through Venture Forth on our professional deals with various suppliers at wholesale prices.



Image left:

After this event, the owner of these shoes quickly invested in the correct hiking boots.

Cost and Payment Options:

Total cost of the 2020 programme:

Residential:	R165 500.00 per person
Non-residential:	R133 000.00 per person

Payment options:

Option 1

10% Discount for full payment on booking prior to 31 October 2019

Residential:	R148 500.00
Non-residential:	R119 700.00

Option 2

5% Discount for deposit and 2 x bulk payments

Registration fee: R5000.00 on registration

Deposit: R25000.00 by 31 October 2019 (residential)
R10000.00 by 31 October 2019 (non-residential)

Date: (on or before)	Residential:	Non-Residential:
25 December 2019	R63 612.50	R55 675.00
27 June 2020	R63 612.50	R55 675.00
TOTAL PAID:	R157 225.00	R126 350.00





Option 3

Registration fee: R5000.00 on registration

Deposit: R25000.00 by 31 October 2019 (residential)

Date: (on or before)	Residential:	Non-Residential:
25 December 2018	R33 875.00	R29 500.00
27 March 2019	R33 875.00	R29 500.00
27 June 2019	R33 875.00	R29 500.00
27 August 2019	R33 875.00	R29 500.00
TOTAL PAID:	R165 500.00	R133 000.00

Included in the fees:

- CATHSSETA, TETA and other learner registration fees as applicable
- All tuition, textbooks and course notes
- All assessment and moderation fees
- Permits, camping fees, access fees
- Student card
- All travel associated with the course (Approximately 20 000km)
- Cape Town accommodation for residential students
- Meals and catering as indicated above
- Use of VFI equipment as indicated on the list for the duration of the programme

Excluded from the fees:

- Travel to and from Cape Town for holidays and breaks and personal reasons
- Any food or meals aside from those indicated in the section above
- Personal equipment and clothing as mentioned on the kit list
- Medical, rescue or travel insurance
- Medical fees or costs





About Venture Forth

Based in beautiful Cape Town on the Southern tip of Africa, Venture Forth International was founded in 1994 as a specialised mountain guide service and an accredited mountaineering school. Using our experience gained in the mountains of the world, we have expanded our adventure portfolio to include services such as corporate team building and youth outdoor education.

We pride ourselves on being a dynamic and professional company with the flexibility to serve our clients' adventure, travel and training requirements with dedication and enthusiasm. Whether you want to take a half-day hike up Table Mountain, start out rock climbing or go on a high altitude expedition, we would like to meet you and make it a reality

Your safety and enjoyment is our top priority.

Venture Forth has a 100% safety record since its inception in 1994. All guides, instructors and facilitators are highly qualified and experienced in their respective fields. We like to believe that our products are so good because of the passionate and friendly outdoor people who make Venture Forth work. Our permanent and freelance staff all work to the same high standards and together we form a team with diverse skills, broad adventure experience, unequalled ability and the highest qualifications.

All our guides are Registered Adventure Tourist Guides with the Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism and all mountain guides and instructors hold qualifications in mountaineering from CATHSSETA and the SA Mountaineering Development & Training Trust (MDT). Venture Forth guides are all trained in first-aid and rescue procedures and most are qualified emergency care practitioners providing you peace of mind on any adventure and for all eventualities.





Who is in charge of the Year@GuideSchool Programme?

Walther Meyer, founding partner and managing director of Venture Forth is the formal lead for this programme. He will be assisted by some of the best instructors in the industry.



Image right:
Walther Meyer

Walt joined Venture Forth in 1997. He trained in the USA as a technical alpine leader on snow, rock and ice before returning to run Venture Forth. With over 30 years of personal mountaineering and adventure experience, Walt has climbed and guided in Southern and East Africa, South America, the USA and Canada and is one of only 3 people in the country holding all available National Qualifications in mountain guiding.

Walt is the most experienced trainer and assessor of adventure guides in South Africa. As a firm believer in the power of adventure, he is actively involved in the development of the adventure guiding and outdoor education industry. He spent many years on the road as an active volunteer for the government emergency services in the Western Cape and founded the first wilderness first aid training company in South Africa, Wild Medix.

Email: walt@ventureforth.co.za Mountaineering Guide - NQF7

Rock Climbing Guide
 Canyoneering Guide
 Mountain Walking Guide
 4x4 Overlanding Guide
 Flatwater paddling guide
 Tourist Guide Registration #: WC2921
 MDT Mountain Walking Instructor
 MDT Rock Climbing Instructor
 Alpine Leader: Snow, rock & ice – American Alpine Institute
 CATHSSETA Registered Assessor 613/A/000076/2005
 TETA Registered Assessor TETA-ASSR15-195
 ETDP Trainer
 PFTC Advanced Firearms Instructor

Emergency Care Practitioner - Intermediate
 ITLS - Advanced Provider
 Wilderness EMT-I
 Wilderness First Responder Instructor

Code 14/EC Drivers Licence
 HBDI Facilitator

Contact Walt directly to discuss this programme or arrange a meeting:

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