

Extra Course Syllabus

1. MORE EXTRA COURSE CONTENT**

- FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide (detailed syllabus below)
- Rifle competency & Advanced Rifle Handling (ARH) (detailed syllabus below)
- Tracks & Signs (detailed syllabus below)
- Specialist Birding
- Wildlife Photography
- Snake handling
- Hospitality in a 5-star environment
- Specialist training from external experts

*** In order to gain the ARH and FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide qualifications you need to have a valid First Aid and NQF2 Nature Site Guide (FGASA). If you don't have that, you can still participate in the whole course and get the full experience, but you can't get the actual qualifications.*

2. FGASA TRAILS GUIDE SYLLABUS

A FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide is an individual who is in training (in an apprentice program) to become a Trails Guide and will learn how to function as 2nd Rifle and later as 1st Rifle during the training phase. The apprentice program is a stepping stone in the process for a guide to attain a FGASA Trails Guide qualification and is not yet qualified to conduct trails or walks in areas with dangerous game in absence of a FGASA Trails Guide (NQF4), Professional Trails Guide, or SKS (DG) Guide. you should be able to prepare to conduct a guided nature experience as a back-up on foot in areas where potentially dangerous animals may occur and back-up a guided viewing experience of potentially dangerous animals.

Furthermore, the Trails Guide back-up should be able to interpret the behavior of animals in the broader ecological context in terms of human safety and demonstrate firearm action drills as a back-up guide in the event of an attack by an animal (if carrying a rifle).

MODULE 1

Conducting a Guided Experience

- Conducting walking trails in dangerous game areas
- Preparing clients for a walking trails in a dangerous animal area
- Requirements and ground rules while on the trail
- Where to walk and all-around awareness
- Considerations before approaching an animal
- Immediate action drills in a potentially dangerous situation
- The role of a FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide (Back-up Trails)

MODULE 2

Trails Guiding Equipment

The Trails Guide bag, back-pack and belt kit

MODULE 3

Orientation Skills

- Map reading and orientation
- Finding direction and bearings using natural indicators
- What to do if you get lost
- Finding water and food from the bush

MODULE 4

Approaching Animals on Foot

- Encounters with dangerous animals
- Approaching dangerous animals
- Animal comfort zones
- Responses to charging animals
- Shooting responses to a serious charge

MODULE 5

Dangerous Animal Knowledge

- What is a dangerous animal?
- General statistics and dental formulae of dangerous animals
- Species knowledge

MODULE 6

Animal Diseases

- The functions of parasites and diseases in the ecosystem
- Diseases of African wildlife

MODULE 7

Incident & Crime Scene Management

- Incident and crime scene management
- Shooting an animal in self-defense

ADVANCED RIFLE HANDLING SYLLABUS

MODULE 1

Rifle Handling for Dangerous Animals

- Rifle knowledge for viewing dangerous animals on foot
- Rifle requirements for guides
- Rifle loading
- Stages of rifle readiness
- Rifle operation in dangerous situations
- Carrying the rifle and steering clients
- Aiming the rifle
- Rules and safe handling of firearms

MODULE 2

The Basic Actions of a Bolt Action Rifle

- Parts of a bolt-action rifle
- Parts of the bolt-action mechanism
- Basic actions of the bolt-action rifle
- Components of the bolt-action rifle
- The cartridge

MODULE 3

Rifle Ballistics

- Introduction to rifle ballistics
- Internal ballistics
- External ballistics
- Terminal ballistics
- Malfunctions

MODULE 4

Cleaning & Maintenance

- Cleaning all parts of a bolt-action rifle
- Final maintenance
- Cleaning ammunition

MODULE 5

The Legal Aspects of Guiding with a Rifle

- The use of a rifle and SASSETA competency
- Guiding and the Firearms Control Act

MODULE 6

The FGASA Rifle Handling Assessments

- Explanations of rules and regulations at the FGASA assessment
- Rifle handling drills
- Fatal errors

3. TRACKS & SIGNS SYLLABUS

- Track & sign interpretation
- The basics of trailing
- Gaits
- Track & sign interpretation evaluation

4. SHORT COURSES SYLLABUS**

**The content of these short courses can be subject to change

SPECIALIST BIRDS

- ID of local and most common bird species by sight and sound

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

- Camera-use and settings in an outdoor environment
- How to deliver a safari for photographers

SNAKE HANDLING

- Dangerous snake identification
- How to use snake handling equipment

HOSPITALITY IN A 5-STAR ENVIRONMENT

- Give your guests an unforgettable 5-star experience



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