

Congratulations on applying for your EcoGuide Certification. We want to make this process as efficient as possible for you and can assist you with your Application at any time.

WHAT IS THE ECOGUIDE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM?

The EcoGuide Certification Program is a voluntary, industry-driven and managed certification program for Nature and EcoGuides. The program promotes professionalism and best practice guiding standards in the nature and ecotourism sectors by establishing consistent standards and by recognising individuals committed to working to this standard.

The EcoGuide Certification Program was developed through an extensive industry-based consultation process including tourism operators, protected area managers, training providers, our industry training advisory board, guiding and tourism/ecotourism associations, and of course the guides themselves!

From 2017 the EcoGuide Certification program has been operated by Savannah Guides, linking it to more nature-based Tour Guides and Operators.

The EcoGuide Certification Program is an assessment and certification credential endorsing the recipient as an individual who will deliver an authentic and professional ecotourism experience with recognition of the importance of sustainable tourism.

EcoGuides are leaders, inspiring their guests and industry contacts to pursue sustainable practices through their exemplary professional technique and interpretation.

BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION

The EcoGuide Certification Program provides a range of benefits to nature and ecotourism stakeholders.

BENEFITS TO NATURE AND ECOTOUR GUIDES

- A recognised industry qualification
- A baseline benchmark to measure performance against best practice nature and/or eco guiding standards
- An opportunity to promote guiding services as genuine nature/ecotourism
- A defined competitive edge for better job opportunities
- Access to resources, professional development events and networking opportunities

BENEFITS TO NATURE AND ECOTOURISM OPERATORS

- A simple method to recognise and recruit quality guides
- A benchmark to manage guide performance against best practice
- An opportunity to promote experiences as best practice nature and/or eco guiding
- A mechanism to rank and progress staff with an associated performance system
- Minimised environmental and cultural impacts and increased client satisfaction

BENEFITS TO PROTECTED AREA MANAGERS

- Improved guiding practices with minimised environmental impacts
- Guides as role models to ensure good environmental and culturally appropriate behaviour
- Guides committed to a partnership providing front-line defence in environmentally sensitive areas
- Ability to identify operators employing staff with appropriate training and qualifications when reviewing permit applications in sensitive areas
- A framework of standards applicable to interpretive rangers

BENEFITS TO NATURE AND ECOTOURISM GUESTS

- An assurance that guides are committed to providing quality nature or ecotourism experiences in a safe, culturally sensitive and environmentally sustainable manner

BENEFITS TO THE ENVIRONMENT

- Guides providing interpretation and behaviours that inspire guests' conservation ethic
- Innovative conservation outcomes for the environment including hands on projects and dialogue

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR CERTIFICATION?

To be eligible for certification, Guides must meet the minimum criteria of either:

- Relevant work experience as a Tour Guide for at least 12 months' full time (approximately 1200 hours) or
- A nationally recognised guiding qualification (eg: Certificate III Tourism (Guiding), Certificate IV in Tourism (Guiding), Certificate IV Outdoor Recreation, Certificate IV in Tourism (Natural and Cultural Heritage) or an equivalent ecotourism-based qualification and relevant work experience as a Tour Guide for at least 3 months' full time (approximately 300 hours).

The Guide must have gained the work experience component within the past 5 years.

Anyone who meets these minimum requirements can apply for certification, regardless of their current or previous employment status. Commercial guides, interpretive National Park Rangers and volunteers are equally eligible as long as the basic eligibility requirements are met.

NOTE: The work experience may be paid or unpaid. A substantial part of the work experience should be in a position that includes guided tours or interpretive activities and delivering guided experiences. The work experience may be in any sector of the tourism industry and tours may be in the public, commercial or not-for profit sector.

The EcoGuide Certification program has been designed so that it is equally relevant and accessible to guides with AND without formal education / qualifications.

STEPS IN APPLYING FOR ECOGUIDE CERTIFICATION

STEP 1

Contact Savannah Guides to receive an EcoGuide Application Form.

Visit: <http://savannah-guides.com.au/professional-development/ecoguide/>
or Visit: <https://www.ecotourism.org.au/our-certification-programs/eco-certification-5/>
or Email: info@savannah-guides.com.au

STEP 2

Complete the EcoGuide Application Form and pay the applicable Application Fee (see below):

No Guiding Qualifications	\$130
Certificate III or Above	\$130
Savannah Guide	\$100
Wet Tropics Tour Guide	\$100
Kakadu / Uluru Guide	\$100
GOA / PTGAA Accreditation	\$100

STEP 3

Email your completed EcoGuide Application Form, along with copies of your Resume, Qualifications, Accreditations, First Aid Certificate to info@savannah-guides.com.au

STEP 4

You will receive a Tax Invoice (receipt) and your Editable PDF EcoGuide Workbook via email. You now have 12 months to complete the Workbook and your Guiding Assessment.

STEP 5

Email or Post your completed Workbook to info@savannah-guides.com.au
PO Box 33
SMITHFIELD QLD 4878

STEP 6

Your Workbook will be assessed.

If you are successful, a Guiding Assessment will be arranged. See details in STEP 7. Once this is successfully completed you will receive your EcoGuide Certification.

If you are unsuccessful Savannah Guides will provide the necessary assistance to help you in working towards being successful in gaining your Certification.

STEP 7

On successful completion of your Workbook you may be required to complete a Guiding Assessment (see below):

No Guiding Qualifications	Required
Certificate III or Above	Required
Savannah Guide	Not Required
Wet Tropics Tour Guide	Not Required
Kakadu / Uluru Guide	Required
GOA / PTGAA Accreditation	Not Required

If you are required to perform a Guiding Assessment, you must first submit an Activity Plan prior to your Guiding Assessment. The Activity Plan should include:

- Location of Tour
- Duration of Tour
- Type of Tour
- Guest Profile (nationalities, ages, group type, interests etc)
- Tour Theme / Main Take-Home Message
- Introductory Commentary Points
- Main Tour Commentary Topics
- Concluding Commentary Points
- Risk / Safety Factors and Instructions to Guests
- Possible Problems and Contingencies
- Props and Why they are Used
- Feedback Mechanisms for Guide

Your Guiding Assessment will require you to demonstrate your competency in:

- Interpretation Skills
- Safety Awareness
- Group Management Skills
- Minimal Impact Guiding

STEP 8

If you are successful at your Guiding Assessment you will receive your EcoGuide Certification!

You will receive an Invoice for your Annual Fee. Once you have paid this Invoice you will receive:

- Your EcoGuide Certificate
- One EcoGuide Uniform Pin-On Badge (additional badges are available for \$15 each)
- An electronic copy of your EcoGuide Certificate
- An electronic copy of the EcoGuide Logo for your use

STEP 9

Complete the annual renewal process and pay your Annual Fee each year to maintain your Certification.

No Guiding Qualifications	\$99
Certificate III or Above	\$99
Savannah Guide	\$77
Wet Tropics Tour Guide	\$99
Kakadu / Uluru Guide	\$99
GOA / PTGAA Accreditation	\$99



EcoGuide Application Form

Please complete the following details:

Name: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Private Postal Address: _____

Town/City: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Private Mobile: _____ Alt Phone: _____

Private Email: _____
(Personal email addresses are preferable in case you change employers)

Where did you hear about EcoGuide? _____

Where are you currently guiding?

Organisation Name and Location: _____

Website: _____

Type of Tour / Activity: _____

Please attach the following documents to this Application Form:

- Your Resume, including Tour Guiding and related Experience
- Copies of any Certificates and / or Qualifications related to Tour Guiding
- Copy of Current First Aid Certificate including CPR

Contact Details of Two Referees:

Referee 1

Name: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Alt Phone: _____

Email: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Referee 2

Name: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Alt Phone: _____

Email: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

I understand that Savannah Guides will contact my Referees regarding my suitability for EcoGuide Certification.

EcoGuide Application Fees apply as follows *(please tick the box applicable to you):*

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No Guiding Qualifications | \$130 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Certificate III in Guiding or Above | \$130 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Savannah Guide | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wet Tropics Tour Guide | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Kakadu or Uluru Guide | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GOA / PTGAA Accreditation | \$100 |

Please pay your Application Fee by Visa or Mastercard

Card Number: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Cardholders Name: _____

Expiry Date: _____ / _____ CVV Code (3 digits): _____

or EFT (Please use your Surname as your Reference):

Savannah Guides Limited
Bank: Westpac
BSB: 034-167
Account No: 47-1141

We will email your Tax Invoice and details of your Assessment Requirements including the appropriate EcoGuide Workbook for you to complete.

You have twelve months to complete all elements of the EcoGuide Application:

- Your Workbook/s
- Guiding Experience
- Guiding Qualifications (if applicable)
- First Aid Certificate/s
- Guiding Assessment

Applicant's Signature: _____

For further information please contact:

Email: info@savannah-guides.com.au
Tel: 0408 772 513