



Career Focus - Tourism - Tour Guide

Dear Alumni, TUCSIN students & Staff

In this week's issue you will learn all about on of the most excited careers. To become a tour guide, you'll first need to figure out if this career is right for you. If you're looking for a career where you can spend all day in a cubicle, then this career probably won't be your first choice. If you do however, want a career where you get to visit exotic, historic or famous locales and have tourists hanging off of your every word, then this is what you should do for a living.

Good luck to those of you who are taking class tests or exams. Don't let pressure get a hold of you; stand strong with focus and calmness. All the best !

- Martina

What is a Tour Guide ?

Tour guides escort groups of tourists on bus or minibus trips and provide them with factual and interesting information about the sights they see. A group of tourists has probably previously been on several guided tours, so a guide's presentation has to be dynamic to hold their interest.

Tour guides may be allocated half-day sight-seeing tours or longer tours, in which case the guide will be responsible for ensuring adherence to the tour itinerary. They also need to provide tourists with information regarding currency, drinking water, restaurants and tipping, and should always be able to deal with enquiries from their tour groups.

Other tasks required of tour guides may include: meeting members of a tour on arrival and making introductions; coordinating pre-arranged accommodation and transport, and make sure that tour members are comfortable; attending to such problems as booking errors and amendments, lost luggage and treating illness or providing first aid.

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Being a tour guide is often physically demanding. During a tour, guides must be available at all times to answer questions and sort out problems. Manual work such as loading or unloading baggage or other equipment may be required. Tour guides are often required to spend time away from home, especially those fulfilling the role of Tour Manager.



Type of Tourism guides & characteristics



Tour guides may specialise in the following areas:

Adventure Guide who requires guiding skills plus specialist recreational skills such as white water rafting, hiking or mountaineering

Bilingual Guide who offers interpretation of language as well as guiding skills

Guide Coordinator who is usually one who has had experience as a guide and now supervises, coordinates and trains guides

Indigenous Guide who conducts tours with a special cultural emphasis and which requires a deep understanding of their culture

Local Guide who specializes in a particular city or region

Nature-based and Eco-tour Guide who conducts day or extended tours and requires guiding skills and specialist environmental knowledge

Site Guide who may work, for example, in museums, cultural centres, theme parks and sporting facilities
Tour guides need to keep abreast of all new developments in the country; thus, constant reading and updating of knowledge is of vital importance.

Satisfying Aspects

- taking tourists to different places of interest
- working with and meeting new and interesting people all the time
- opportunities to travel

Demanding aspects

- dealing with difficult, uncooperative and over-demanding tourists can be irritating and frustrating
- the stress and pressure to ensure that all passengers are safe and satisfied
- being away from home for long periods



The **Tourist Guides' Association of Namibia (TAN)** is a non-profit organisation made up of independent guides, drivers and associated members.

TAN was founded in 1994 and has its headquarters in the Namibian capital Windhoek.

Our vision is to develop TAN of Namibia in a suitable and acceptable manner, so that it will contribute to the improvement of life for many Namibians and also get the involvement of local communities and previously disadvantaged groups .

Reference : <http://www.tan-namibia.org/en/tan/tan-welcomes-you>

Requirements & Training

Requirements

A tour guide should:

- have good communication skills;
- have an excellent knowledge of Namibia's places of interest, its geography, its unique history, politics and flora and fauna;
- have broad general knowledge;
- have organisational skills;
- enjoy working with people;
- be able to control groups of people and deal with unexpected situations;
- physically strong and have good health and stamina
- be neat and appropriately dressed at all times
- not have a criminal record

School Subjects

Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate

Compulsory Subjects: English

Recommended Subjects: Languages, History, Geography

Training

Most tour operators provide in-service training by an experienced tourist guide.

In order to register as a tourist guide a person must have successfully completed an appropriate training course or courses with a accredited trainer.

Namibian Academy for Tourism and Hospitality (NATH)

Tourism is increasingly becoming one of the most important industries in Namibia. The Namibian Government realizes the importance of tourism for the future economic development of Namibia and stresses the importance of quality training as a pre-requisite to realize the full potential of tourism.

NATH offer practical training for tourist guides. — (NATH)

Tourist guides must be registered with the Namibia Tourism board and be assessed by this body for the purpose of granting a license. Licenses are granted on three levels:

- for a particular city only
- for a wider region
- countrywide

Where to study?

BA Tourism—Univ of Namibia ; Diploma: N.Dip: Tourism Management or Travel & Tourism - UNISA, DUT, CPUT, CUT, UJ, TUT, VUT.

National Guiding Certificate - NATH

Employer


A few large tour operators employ tourist guides on a permanent basis, but the work is seasonal and the majority of tourist guides work on a freelance basis.

Food for thought:

NAMIBIA

10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW

NICKNAMED 'THE GEM OF AFRICA', NAMIBIA REMAINS A LARGELY UNTAPPED, DAZZLINGLY BEAUTIFUL HUB OF ADVENTURE. HERE, WE HAVE UNEARTHED SOME OF THE RARER FACTS IT HAS TO OFFER. SO HOP ON A BIG RUGGED JEEP AND JOIN US FOR THE RIDE.



- NAMIBIA IS HOME TO THE LARGEST SINGLE PIECE OF METEOR ON EARTH. IT WEIGHS 66 TONNES.
- NAMIBIA'S LAND MASS IS THE EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF SPAIN AND GERMANY COMBINED. 823,290 km².
- IT HAS A POPULATION OF AROUND 2 MILLION, THE SAME AS PARIS.
- IT IS HOME TO THE OLDEST DESERT IN THE WORLD. 43 MILLION YEARS OLD TODAY!
- IT HAS THE SECOND LOWEST POPULATION DENSITY IN THE WORLD. 1ST MONGOLIA, 2ND NAMIBIA, 3RD SURINAME.
- IT HAS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF CHEETAHS IN THE WORLD.
- IT IS HOME TO THE HIGHEST SAND DUNE IN THE WORLD. 800 FEET.
- THE LARGEST NAMIBIAN TRIBE IS THE OVAMBO TRIBE, WHICH CONTAINS AROUND 1,500,000 PEOPLE. (1 dot = 300,000).
- 80% OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS MADE UP OF DESERT.

if your **ATTENTION** is divided by **ADDED** DISTRACTIONS, **multiply** YOUR **mental** TRACTION BY DOING A BIT OF SIMPLE **SUBTRACTION!**

Ref: www.visual.ly/10-things-you-didn't-know-about-namibia

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