

Tourist Guiding

The work

This is a very specialised field that requires in-depth study and assessment of a particular area. In South Africa, guides are registered with SA Tourism for each province – they may operate only in the area in which they have been trained and for which they have been registered.

There are three main categories of guide: those who work at a particular site, those who work in a region and those who work nationally.

There are several areas of specialisation available to tourist guides in South Africa:

- nature;
- nature (dangerous game areas);
- cultural;
- adventure (mountaineering);
- adventure (fly-fishing);
- adventure (pro-paddling).

The person

You must be at least 23 years of age. If you have an interest in general knowledge, a love of history and knowledge of fauna, flora and cultures, this may be the career for you. You must also have good English communication skills and an additional language would be an advantage. Patience and tolerance are key, as hours are long and you may be called on to deal with anything from a leaking tap to lost luggage.

Appropriate national qualifications and learnerships

Qualification	Learnership	NQF level
National Certificate in Tourism: Guiding	National Certificate in Tourism: Guiding	2
National Certificate in Tourism: Guiding	National Certificate in Tourism: Guiding	4

