

GSDP CERTIFICATE COURSE ON ECOTOURISM **(Level 4-NSQF)**

Duration: 2 months (200 hours)

Ecotourism is the responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well being of the local people. Under this programme, a candidate beyond 12th class will be inculcated with basic skills to manage and certain ecotourists and maximize his or her ecotourism experience. This will be a basic course of 2 months. This course is designed to help youth ecotourism employment in various historical and natural sites of importance. The candidates are expected to have the following skills at the end of the basic course.

- ↳ To be employed as Nature guide, eco-tour guide
- ↳ To be employed in eco-resorts, Nature camps
- ↳ To recognize factors of the environment and their significance to ecotourism
- ↳ To be able to inculcate interest in ecotourism related entrepreneurship
- ↳ To be able to pursue alternative ecotourism activities like bird watching, butterfly watching, adventure tourism guides etc.

Syllabus Structure

1. Ecotourism (40 hrs)
2. Nature guide training (40 hrs)
3. Homestay Management and Marketing (40 hrs)
4. Tourism related entrepreneurship, Other Field work/visits, hands-on training (45 hours)
5. Basic Computer Skills and GIS Theory and Practical (35 hours)

Syllabus in details

1. Ecotourism (40 hrs) (Theory and field visits)

- ↳ Introduction to Tourism, definition, history and components
- ↳ Definition of Ecotourism,
- ↳ Benefits of Ecotourism
- ↳ Advantages and Disadvantages of Ecotourism
- ↳ Ecotourist Profile
- ↳ Various Fields of Ecotourism

Interpretive Services in Ecotourism

- ↪ Interpretation as a key element of ecotourism
- ↪ Interpretation techniques
- ↪ Sign design

Various Fields of Ecotourism

I. How to Identify a Potential Ecotourism area

- ↪ Basic Tourism Management Services:
 - i. Dealing with tourists (Interaction)
 - ii. Principles of Service and Hospitality Industry (hotels, homestays etc.)
 - iii. Ecofriendly practices in the Service Industry
 - iv. Social and Economic aspects
 - v. Concept of Balance of Payments
- ↪ Responsible Tourism & Responsible Hospitality
 - i. Role of tourist
 - ii. Role of host
 - iii. Role in waste management (especially plastic waste)
- ↪ Classification of the hospitality industry
 - i. Accommodation
 - ii. Food & beverage
 - iii. Transportation
 - iv. Travel Services
- ↪ Odisha as an Ecotourism Hub
 - i. Ecotourism in Odisha
 - ii. Ecotourism Zones
 - iii. How to identify potential sites
 - iv. Code of conduct for ecotourist
- ↪ Ecotourism potential in 30 districts and 36 eco-tourist sites
- ↪ Joint Forest Management Committee /Eco-development Committee (EDC)/ Ecoclubs

- ↪ Biodiversity Act and Rules
- ↪ Protection of Natural resources
- ↪ Field visit and practical exposure on various Ecotourism sites.

2. Nature guide training (40 hrs)(Theory and practical)

I. Capacity Building on Nature Guides

- What is a Guide?
- Role of a tourist guide and their functions
- Categories of tourist guides
- Introduction to Bio diversity
 - i. Biodiversity in Odisha
 - ii. Flora and fauna at different regions of Odisha
 - iii. Bio diversity at various regions in India (Brief Introduction)
- Good Interpretation
 - i. What is interpretation
 - ii. Principles of Interpretation
- Campsite management
 - i. Environmental aspects
 - ii. Physical aspects
 - iii. Management considerations
- Garbage and Trash Management
 - i. Biodegradable and non biodegradable waste
 - ii. Trash and inorganic waste
 - iii. Eco friendly bins
 - iv. Proper toilet tent
 - v. Pollution management
- Maintaining daily record of Visitors/Activities/Queries/ Feedback/ Observations / motivation on eco-ethic
- Field Visit and hands on training on nature guide by experts and resource persons.

II. Capacity Building For Trek Cook

- Introduction to Cookery, Aims and Objectives
 - i. Basic raw materials required.
 - ii. Essentials nutrients
 - iii. Hygiene and sanitation
- Waste and Trash Disposal
 - i. Biodegradable garbage
 - ii. Non biodegradable garbage
- Fuel and Energy use
 - i. Gas
 - ii. Liquid fuel
 - iii. Solid fuel
 - iv. Solar energy
 - v. Wind energy
- Field visit and practical exposure on cooking by experts and resource persons

3. Homestay Management (40 hrs)(Theory and practical)

A. Homestay management

1. Concept of tourism and basic terms in tourism

- Definition of tourism
- Inbound and outbound tourists
- Infrastructure needs for travelers

2. Ecotourism Basics

- Definition of ecotourism
- Negative ecotourism
- Ecotourism profile
- Administrative concerns
- Safety

3. Introduction to lodge, eco-lodge and homestay

- lodge, homestay and eco-lodge
- difference between hotel and homestay
- most important things in homestay
- why do tourists come to a homestay

4. Services

- Good service in homestay “good service means good business”

5. Setting up standards

- Requirements for standard bed-room
- Requirements for standard bath and toilet

6. Value for money

- Hospitality model

7. Welcoming and farewell

- check-in and check-out, welcome
- Details of traveler or guest
- Welcome by host of homestay

8. Attributes of homestay host

- check-out, farewell
- handling complaints

9. Hygiene and sanitation

10. Garbage disposal and waste management –reuse of plastics

B. Linguistic knowledge dissemination (local, English & Hindi)

C. Homestay construction (theory, field visits and practical)

1. Vernacular architecture
2. Rain Water harvesting
3. Natural/ traditional building architecture
4. Green building concepts
5. Concrete building and its disadvantages
6. Balance between natural and concrete architecture
7. Earth and bamboo architecture

8. Imbibing creativity for homestay building and construction
9. Hygiene and disadvantages of natural building
10. 10. Coherent relation between man & animals
11. Protection of eco-sensitive zone
12. Study on Ornithology, ethnology, wilderness, habitat preservation, migration habit, hatching, preventing wrong trafficking, animal welfare, preservation of local genetic diversity, amalgamation of traditional knowledge with eco-balance, photography

4. **Tourism related entrepreneurship, Other Field work/visits, hands-on training (45 hours)(Theory, Field visits and practical)**

- ↪ Introduction to bird watching, butterfly watching, naturalist,
- ↪ Introduction to adventure sports and activities related to ecotourism like rafting, paragliding, mountaineering, bungee jumping, zip lining
- ↪ Introduction to crafts and bamboo, mushroom cultivation, bee keeping, kitchen gardening
- ↪ Eco Products, Local products, local delicacies, handicrafts, visits to ecotourism entrepreneurs
- ↪ Introduction and visits to local resources (PBRs) along with indigenous traditional knowledge (ITK) and producing Tourism Merchandise
- ↪ Nature based products and festivals
- ↪ Heritage and History, cultural activities, rural areas
- ↪ Visits to various Protected Areas, Wetlands, Wildlife Sanctuaries, wetlands, nature trails
- ↪ Field visits and surveys for GRIDSS.
- ↪ First Aid knowledge

5. **Basic Computer Skills and GIS Theory and Practical (35 hours)**

- ↪ Fundamentals of Computer, MS Office, Internet and Email
- ↪ Introduction to Geographical Information Systems, GPS coordinate
- ↪ Introduction to Google Earth and GIS Software – [ArcGIS, QGIS and Google Earth].
- ↪ Use of Mobile Android applications in collecting data for mapping
- ↪ Open Street Maps (OSM).