



EcoGuide Australia Program

Your Opportunity to Deliver an Unforgettable Experience

What is the most effective way to:

- To advertise your commitment to genuine eco experiences?
- To network with tour companies and other guides all across Australia?
- To access job vacancies and list work wanted on a highly visited website?
- To improve your skills to a nationally recognised standard?

The EcoGuide Australia program provides a credential, endorsing the recipient as a guide who will deliver an authentic, environmentally responsible, and professional ecotourism experience. The EcoGuide Program also provides guides with a cost effective and convenient advantage in being able to attain both EcoGuide and the national *Guides of Australia* (GOA) accreditation in one application.

About the EcoGuide Australia Program

The EcoGuide Australia Certification Program was originally developed out of a pilot program driven by Australia's Guides and the tourism industry. Ecotourism Australia manages the EcoGuide Program, backed by the expertise of its management team. We also maintain a team of independent EcoGuide Assessors who will examine your initial EcoGuide application. Ecotourism

Australia is a not for profit organisation that manages the EcoGuide Program on a self funding policy.

How the EcoGuide Program will benefit you:

- Certified EcoGuides gain the advantage of an industry credential and pathway to a nationally recognised formal qualification that will provide a competitive edge
- Tourism Operators gain a sound method of recognising quality guides, a benchmark for training purposes and a greater product appeal by employing and promoting the use of bona fide EcoGuides
- Visitors gain a guarantee of guides who are committed to providing quality nature tourism experiences in a safe, culturally sensitive and environmentally sustainable manner
- Training Providers gain a benchmark of best practice eco guiding
- Protected Area Managers have the ability to identify and employ staff with appropriate training and qualifications when reviewing permit applications in sensitive areas
- Environmental benefits flow from improved guiding practices that lead to fewer negative environmental and cultural impacts

By becoming an EcoGuide, you will also automatically become a member of Ecotourism Australia which entitles you to a host of benefits.

Eligibility

To be eligible all you need to have is a minimum of 12 months relevant work experience as a tour guide or a recognised and approved guiding qualification (Certificate III Tourism Tour Guiding) or other relevant qualification and a minimum of 3 months relevant work experience as a tour guide. To apply for certification, you will need to purchase a copy of the EcoGuide application document at a cost of \$45.00 by ordering on the via the Ecotourism Australia website or by phoning our head office.

Costs and Certification period.

To become an EcoGuide, there is also a once only assessment fee and a modest annual fee. The initial once only assessment fee is \$125 and is based on cost recovery. The annual fee is renewable each year at a cost of \$165.00 which includes Individual Membership of Ecotourism Australia.

Certified Guides Receive:

- A package containing an EcoGuide Australia cloth sew on badge, ID card and Certificate.
- Access to reduced cost training materials and Guiding equipment
- EcoGuide listing in the Green Travel Directory
- Listing in the Ecotourism Australia EcoGuide & Members Search Page to assist in networking opportunities
- Access to Eco-Jobs page on the Ecotourism Australia website whereby you can list job vacancies and listings of work wanted/services required
- Receipt and contribution to Ecotourism Australia's EcoBytes newsletters covering issues influencing sustainable tourism
- Member discount to Ecotourism Australia's Annual National Conference where we have many inspiring local and international guest speakers
- Full voting rights within the organisation such as nominating and selecting board members annually
- Opportunities to provide input to the development of plans and programs related to ecotourism
- Opportunities to contribute to the development of more effective licensing systems for operating in protected areas, and opportunities to advertise, sponsor and align with the Association for improved positioning

For more information, visit: www.ecotourism.org.au/ecoguide.asp and www.GOA.org.au

Or contact Kristie Gray on 07 3252 1530

