

CERTIFIED TOUR GUIDE COURSE (TO GUIDE TOURISTS AND ISRAELIS)

X-Cool School of Extreme Tourism

Tel. 09-8639395

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Internet site

www.x-cool.co.il

Course coordinator: Mr. Hughie Auman

Date of opening: October, 2012

Aim of program: To train Ministry of Tourism certified tour guides for incoming and internal tourism.

Target population: Those interested in guiding Israelis or tourists in Israel, those who love hiking and wish to enrich their knowledge about Israel, graduates of courses in Land of Israel studies, Archaeology, History, Bible, Geology, Geography, speakers of foreign languages.

Subjects taught in the course: The course familiarizes students with all the tourism and hiking sites in Israel. Subjects taught are related to the Land of Israel and the State of Israel. These include: the History of Israel, Archaeology, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Ethnography, Geography, Art, Architecture, Israeli Society and Economy, Flora and Fauna, Ecology and Environmental Issues. The course also familiarizes students with the tourism industry, organizing and planning tour routes and the methodology of guiding.

Teaching Staff: The staff includes the best lecturers and active tour guides in Israel, among them academic teachers who combine teaching with guiding in the field, experts from the tourism industry and veteran tour guides.

Methodology and practice guiding: Students in the course will acquire methodological tools, instructional and lecture skills, how to stand before an audience, interpersonal

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communication skills and group management, as well as the ability to develop creative guide aids.

Scope of course in hours: The curriculum includes about 600 academic hours and 80 days of tours.

Tour days: Tuesdays, from 6:30am until the evening hours. During the course there will be about five “campuses” (study camps of 2-4 consecutive days) that include accommodations.

Academic studies: Will be held on Fridays from 8am to 2pm at the Zinman College at the Wingate Institute.

Departure for tours to the north: 6:30am from the Central Train Station (Arlosorov St.) in Tel Aviv.

Departure for tours to the south, Jerusalem and the Judean Desert: 6:30 am from the Zinman College at Wingate, with pick-up stops in Tel Aviv.

Course recognition: The course is recognized for use by **Discharged Soldiers (Deposit)**; it is recognized by the **Teachers’ Inservice Funds**; the **Retirement Departments of the IDF and the Israel Police**, police funds, the **Ministry of Absorption** and the **Bituach Leumi (Social Security)**.

Academic points: Graduates of the tour guide course can receive credit for up to 30 points (credits) towards B.A. studies at Haifa University in the departments of: Geography, Land of Israel Studies, General History and Archaeology, subject to university acceptance conditions and fulfillment of departmental academic obligations. In addition, some of the course subjects are recognized by other academic institutions.

Ministry of Tourism Requirements for a Tour Guide License

Criteria for acceptance to the tour guide course:

- a. Matriculation diploma. Candidates above age 30 who do not have a matriculation diploma can submit authorization of having completed 12 years of study. Those who have not completed 12 years of study will be required to score at least 550 on the inter-university psychometric exam. Borderline cases will be submitted to a Ministry of Tourism committee for special cases.

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- b. Meeting selection committee tests with a Passing grade.

Requirements for receiving a Tour Guide License

A Tour Guide License will be issued to those who submit confirmation of having met the following conditions:

- a. Resident of Israel, as stated in the Population Registry Law, 1965
 - b. At least 21 years old
 - c. Israel Police authorization, to be submitted (at the candidate's request to the police) directly to the appropriate authority (as designated in the Tourism Services Regulations (Tour Guides) 1967) attesting to the fact that the candidate has no criminal record for any crime bearing moral turpitude.
 - d. Earned a "Tour Guide Course Graduate" certificate from a recognized institution
 - e. Passing a written and oral licensing test given by the Ministry of Tourism.
3. Proper mastery of the Hebrew language.
4. Ability to express themselves properly orally
5. Successfully passing an acceptance committee interview composed of representatives of the Ministry of Tourism, tour guides and the course coordinator.
6. Candidates must be citizens of Israel or residents of Israel with Permanent or Temporary Resident status as determined by the Population Registry Law, 1965.
7. Police certificate attesting to a lack of a criminal record. The course coordinator will submit a request for all students accepted to the course.
8. Knowledge of foreign languages is not a precondition for acceptance to the course! Those wishing to guide in foreign languages will be tested orally in their language of choice at institutes authorized to do so by the Ministry of Tourism. **During the 2012 academic year the X-Cool School for Extreme Tourism will offer a course in spoken English for those interested in guiding tourists in English, and in preparation for the tests required to receive a Tour Guide License.**

Course acceptance committee: A personal acceptance interview will be conducted for each course candidate by the X-Cool School for Extreme Tourism staff. During the interview candidates will be asked to present a short example of guiding. The interview is intended to test candidates' suitability to the tour guiding profession.

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Opening date of course: October 2012

Course duration: Two years

Cost of course: NIS 24,900

Ministry of Tourism Licensing Tests: Those completing all their course obligations can take the licensing tests of the Ministry of Tourism.

Certificates awarded to course graduates:

1. **Certificate of Completion:** Those fulfilling all course obligations will be awarded a certificate as "Graduate of a Tour Guide Course" issued by the Zinman College at the Wingate Institute.
2. **Tour Guide License** – Those successfully passing the Ministry of Tourism licensing tests (written and oral) will be awarded a **National Tour Guide License** issued by the Ministry of Tourism.
3. **Student card:** Course students are entitled to student cards from the Zinman College at the Wingate Institute (issued by the Student Council of the Zinman College at Wingate).

Consultations: Candidates are invited to arrange an appointment to consult personally with one of our staff members. Contact our offices at 09-8639263 or send an email to:

shiriaw@wincol.ac.il

Registration process:

1. Complete the registration form for the X-Cool School for Extreme Tourism at the Zinman College at Wingate, for the 2012 academic year.
2. Complete a Ministry of Tourism questionnaire.
3. Pay the registration fee of NIS 290.
4. Submit the required documents + two passport sized pictures
5. Submit documentation of education: these must be submitted during the registration stage.

Acceptance Conditions for the Course as Set Down by the Ministry of Tourism

1. Full matriculation diploma
2. For candidates age 30 and over – authorization of 12 years of study
3. For candidates with no matriculation diploma, a University Psychometric Test score of at least 550

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Those who attended educational institutions abroad are required to receive authorization of the Ministry of Education for their education certificates. The Ministry of Tourism does not accept certificates from foreign countries that are not translated and authorized by the Ministry of Education.

With Best Wishes,

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