

VENTURE



FORTH
international



Year at Guide School 2024

Experience adventure like never before.

Who is Venture Forth?

Venture Forth is the leading specialist in accredited training and legal guiding in the African adventure industry.

Based in beautiful Cape Town, on the southern tip of Africa since 1994, we have qualified more guides than anyone else in Africa.



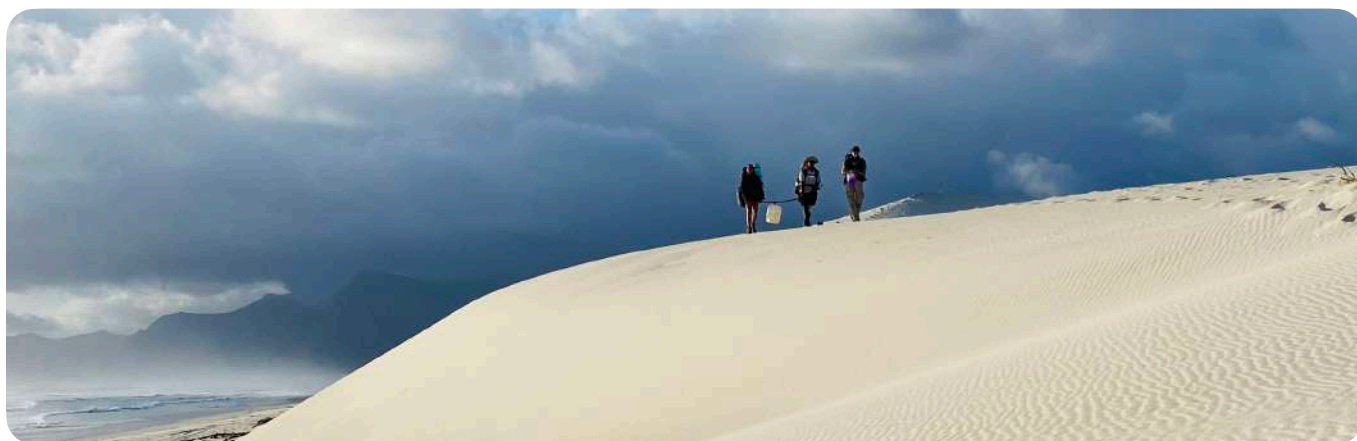
Year@GuideSchool

Our **Year@GuideSchool** Programme is a comprehensive 'career-in-a-box' solution for anyone wanting to enter the adventure and tourism industry as a highly skilled and qualified guide.

The programme is also perfect for those looking to find themselves through experiencing a year of extreme adventures.

Paddling out on the ocean, building snow caves high up in the mountains to survive, abseiling down multiple waterfalls — these are just a few of the thrilling and enriching adventures available.

In our programme, you will rub shoulders with and be trained by some of the most respected and experienced adventure guides, paramedics, doctors, subject matter experts, and business owners in the adventure industry. .





Things you need to know

- The course will be based in Cape Town, but will involve travelling around the country.
- The programme, although immensely fun, is a serious professional career and character development course. It will be hard work, long hours and physically demanding.
- Whether your goal is to become an Adventure Guide or simply learn exciting and useful technical skills for recreational purposes, you'll be expected to conduct yourself in a professional, disciplined manner.
- This programme includes an accredited qualification, which is possible to fail. Certification requires commitment, hard work, and study.
- You need to be willing and healthy at the start of the programme.
- You need to commit to the whole programme and process. There are no half measures.
- You do not have to be fit to join Year@GuideSchool, but you will become fit as you embark on adventure after adventure, building new skills and creating life-changing experiences.
- The exposure to industry experts and representatives will not only empower you with the experience they pass on to you, but also give you direct recruitment possibilities — a feature that separates the Year@GuideSchool programme from regular training institutions as well as gap year initiatives.



What do you get for your time and money?

- Training from the most experienced instructors in the industry with a combined experience of over 100 years in the South African and international adventure guiding world.
- The most comprehensive and highest quality programme of its sort on the market, both locally and internationally.
- The widest range of adventure guiding skills and scope of practice in a single programme.
- A 'career-in-a-box' training solution.
- Seeing and experiencing the best in South African adventure activities and tourism.



- Direct personal exposure to some of the best employers and adventure companies in South Africa, with the opportunity to experience working for them and gaining possible employment prospects for the future.
- Advice on international qualifications and opportunities.
- Extensive personal activity experience.
- Additional, optional add-on training and assessment opportunities.
- Access to professional wholesale prices when purchasing personal outdoor clothing and equipment for your new career.

- Not becoming merely a number or getting lost in the crowd, as often happens in large universities or gap years.
- The exclusivity of being one of the select few to complete this programme — we have a limited intake of only 12 persons per year as we want to give our students extensive personal attention and assistance.
- Personal career development advice, career-path planning, and support.
- The perfect opportunity to find out who you are as a person.



What is in the Year@GuideSchool Programme?

Phase I, starting 16 January



1. Introduction & orientation
2. Training courses
3. Logbook set-up & planned adventures
4. In-house work experience with Venture Forth
5. Training around the Western Cape

Easter holiday break (approximately one week)

Phase 2:



1. Training courses
2. Exposure to other tourism/adventure companies
3. Adventures to meet logbook requirements
4. Formative assessments

Winter holiday break (approximately 10 days in July)

Phase 3:



1. Winter expeditions
2. Adventure road trip
3. Work experience
4. Summative training interventions

Spring holiday break (approximately one week)

Phase 4:



1. Final work experience with Venture Forth & other providers
2. Career guidance
3. Registration with the Department of Tourism (optional)
4. Course ends mid-December

Off days and breaks:

There will be some weekdays and weekends given off during each phase. Some parts of the programme are dependent on weather and seasonal access. A more detailed programme will be available for planning holidays.

What will you learn, and which short courses will you attend?

Foundation course:

1. Generic Adventure Site Guide – NQF Level 4 – 60 Credits

SAQA Registered Unit standards included:

- 335803 – Research and design a guided experience at a prominent tourism site
- 335801 – Conduct a tourist guiding activity
- 262320 – Manage and organise groups
- 262317 – Lead participants through an outdoor recreation and adventure activity
- 262305 – Plan and implement minimum environmental impact practices
- 262246 – Set up and operate a camping site
- 255914 – Minimise and manage safety and emergency incidents
- 246740 – Care for customers
- 335816 – Conduct a guided adventure experience

Elective Adventure Guiding Skills and Unit Standards:

2. Mountain Guiding (Accredited by CATHSSETA)

- Off-trail, overnight mountain walking guide
- Abseil Guide: Levels 1 and 2
- Single-Pitch Rock Climbing Guide
- Non-technical Canyoneering Guide
- Technical Single-Pitch Canyoneering Guide

3. Overland and 4x4 Skills

- 4x4 Operations: Basic and Advanced (Accredited by TETA)
- Defensive Driver Training
- Heavy-Duty Drivers Licence (Optional Extra at Additional Cost)

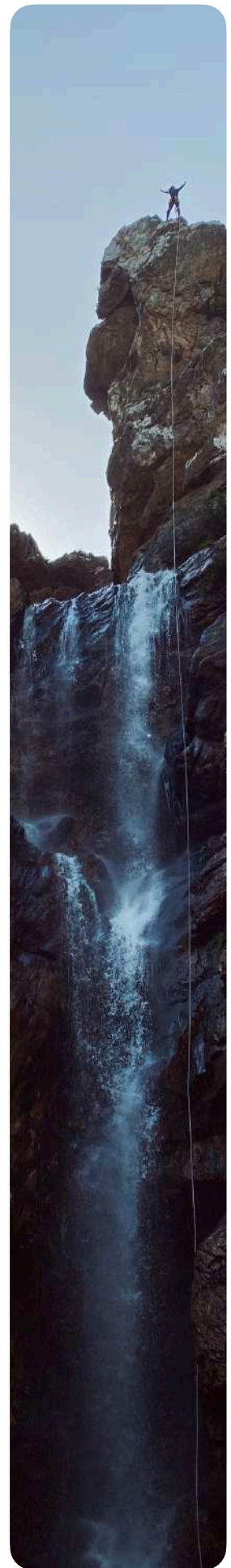
4. Paddling and River Guiding (Accredited by African Paddling Association & CATHSSETA)

- Flatwater Paddling Guide
- Sea Kayak Guide
- River Guide (Swift Water)



5. **Additional Technical Guiding Courses (Accredited by CATHSSETA)**
 - Zip-line Guide
 - High Ropes Challenge Course Guide
 - Mountain Bike & Cycle Touring Guide
6. **Additional Guiding Skills**
 - Nature interpretation for adventure guides
 - Basic photography and adventure filmmaking skills
 - Basic camp construction and maintenance skills
7. **Firearm Training (Accredited by PFTC & ITA)**
 - Legal aspects of the Firearms Control Act
 - Personal Firearms Competency for Handgun, Shotgun, and Manual Rifle
8. **Adventure-Based Learning Skills**
 - ABL Facilitator Training
 - Soft skills, group training and debriefing
 - Whole Brain Leadership
 - Water activities
 - Archery
 - Air rifle shooting
 - Challenge courses
 - Challenge games
9. **First Aid and Survival**
 - Wilderness First Responder (Accredited by Department of Labour & ECSI)
 - Tactical First Aid (Accredited by Department of Labour)
 - Incident management
 - Bush craft and survival
 - Self-defence for adventure guides
 - Urban and travel survival

These qualifications are not given away and there is no guarantee you will get them. They require hard work, written tests, logbooks, and practical assessments.



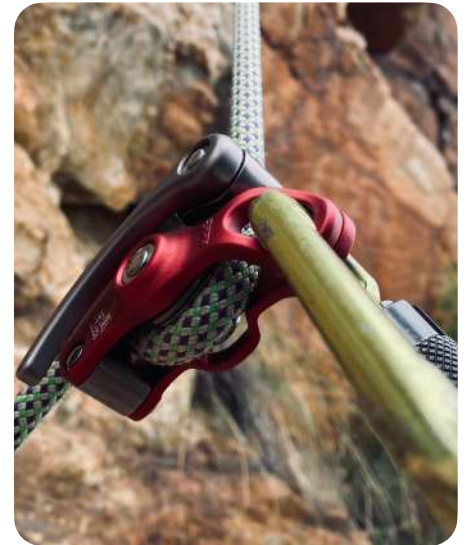
Where is the course based?

Venture Forth is based in Somerset West, close to Cape Town. The course will run from Somerset West and predominantly take place in the Western Cape. You will, however, visit different adventure operators and different areas of the country as part of the course. Students taking up residence will be based outside Somerset West, at a beautiful venue in Betty's Bay.



You will get to know the following areas well:

- Table Mountain and the Peninsula Mountain Areas
- Cederberg Wilderness Area
- Matroosberg
- Ceres
- The Hex River Mountains
- Kogelberg
- Grabouw, the Boland, and Du Toit's Kloof Mountains
- Langebaan and the West Coast
- Stanford, Hermanus, and the coastal area



You will visit the following areas:

- Groot Winterhoek Mountains, near Tulbagh
- Swellendam and the Langeberg
- Oudtshoorn and the Swartberg Mountains
- The Garden Route, Addo, and the Eastern Cape
- Parys and the Vaal River
- Gariep Dam
- Magaliesberg
- Drakensberg
- Magoebaskloof and the Wolkberg Area
- Clarens and surrounds



There will be a lot of traveling.

We will travel by road, train, foot, kayak, and air. In the process, will become comfortable with finding and booking accommodations across the country.

Where will you stay and what will you eat?

There are **two** options for this course: **Residential** and **non-residential**.

We do recommend the residential option as it benefits group cohesion and logistics. However, if you are based in and around Cape Town and Somerset West, and have your own reliable transport, you can be non-residential for the components based in Cape Town. You must however stay and travel with the group when we travel or are out on practical exercises.

Residential students will stay in Betty's Bay, as arranged by Venture Forth. The venue has strict rules and is an equipped self-catering facility. You will need to bring your own bedding and a set of house cutlery. You will cook and clean for yourself and provide your own meals when at the student venue. We will arrange a cooking and catering plan amongst the residential students once the programme starts.

When travelling and on practical exercises, you will mostly camp out on a self-catering basis. Venture Forth will provide suitable tents, mattresses, and cookware.

When on work experiences with actual clients or school groups, you will eat with the group and other staff if catering is part of the package. Venture Forth will provide certain meals during the training.

When at formal lectures at the Venture Forth offices, we provide some basics such as coffee, tea, and milk.





What equipment will I need?

When you sign up, we'll provide you with a comprehensive list of requirements.

Aside from your normal casual wear for class and travel you will need some other items on your adventures.

You will also be able to purchase equipment through Venture Forth at greatly reduced prices. Some of the brands we work with include the following: **First Ascent, Vango, Black Diamond, Singing Rock, Sea to Summit, GSI Outdoors, Beal, Jet Boil, Buff, Osprey, Condor, Hydroflask, Boreal, and La Sportiva.**

Bellow is an abbreviated list:

Clothing required		Equipment required		Venture Forth Provides	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good quality hiking boots	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large expedition backpack (65L)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tents
<input type="checkbox"/>	Running shoes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Day backpack (20-35L)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Camping mattresses
<input type="checkbox"/>	Velcro sandals	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sleeping bag	<input type="checkbox"/>	Camping stoves
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flip flops	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sleeping bag liner	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pot sets
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thick hiking socks	<input type="checkbox"/>	Torch and headlamp	<input type="checkbox"/>	All technical equipment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hiking long pants	<input type="checkbox"/>	Powerbank	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harness & helmet
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hiking shorts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel towel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Jackets
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swimming clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toiletries	<input type="checkbox"/>	Group equipment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Warm clothing for winter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cutlery	<input type="checkbox"/>	First Aid Kits
<input type="checkbox"/>	Waterproof jacket and trousers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bedding		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hat, cap and sunglasses	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knife or multitool		

Cost and payment options:

Total cost of the Year@GuideSchool programme: Residential: R165 500.00 per person
 Non-Residential: R133 000.00 per person

Option I

10% Discount for full payment on booking prior to 31 October 2023

Residential: R148 950.00 (save R16 550.00)
 Non-residential: R119 700.00 (save R13 300.00)



Option II

5% Discount for deposit and 2 x bulk payments

Registration fee: R5 000.00 on registration

Deposit: R25 000.00 by 31 October (residential)
 R10 000.00 by 31 October (non-residential)

Date: (on or before)	Residential	Non-residential
25 December 2023	R63 612.50	R55 675.00
27 June 2024	R63 612.50	R55 675.00
Total Paid:	R157 225.00	R126 350.00



Option III

Registration fee: R5 000.00 on registration

Deposit: R25 000.00 by 31 October 2023 (residential)

Date: (on or before)	Residential	Non-residential
25 December 2023	R33 875.50	R32 000.00
27 March 2024	R33 875.50	R32 000.00
27 June 2024	R33 875.50	R32 000.00
27 August 2024	R33 875.50	R32 000.00
Total Paid:	R165 500.00	R133 000.00



Included in the fees:

- CATHSSETA, TETA and other learner registration fees as applicable
- All tuition, textbooks, and course notes
- All assessment and moderation fees
- Permits, camping fees, and access fees
- Student card
- All travel associated with the course (approximately 20 000km)
- Cape Town accommodation for residential students (Betty's Bay)
- Meals and catering as indicated above
- Use of Venture Forth equipment as indicated on the list for the duration of the programme



Excluded from the fees:

- Travel to and from Cape Town for holidays and breaks and personal reasons
- Any food or meals aside from those indicated above
- Personal equipment and clothing as mentioned on the kit list
- Medical, rescue or travel insurance
- Medical fees or costs

About Venture Forth International

Based in beautiful Cape Town on the southern tip of Africa, Venture Forth was founded in 1994 as a specialised mountain guide service and an accredited mountaineering school.

Using our experience gained in the mountains across the world, we have expanded our adventure portfolio to include services such as corporate team building and youth outdoor education.

We pride ourselves on being a dynamic and professional company with the flexibility to serve our clients' adventure, travel, and training requirements with dedication and enthusiasm.

Whether you want to take a half-day hike up Table Mountain, start rock climbing, or go on a high-altitude expedition, we would like to meet you and make it a reality.

Your safety and enjoyment are our top priorities.

Venture Forth has a 100% safety record since its inception in 1994, and all our guides, instructors, and facilitators are highly qualified and experienced in their respective fields.

We like to believe that our products are so good because of the passionate and friendly outdoor people who make Venture Forth work. Our permanent and freelance staff all work to the same high standards and together we form a team with diverse skills, broad adventure experience, unequalled ability, and the highest qualifications.

All our guides are Registered Adventure Tourist Guides with the Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism, and all mountain guides and instructors hold qualifications in mountaineering from CATHSSETA and the SA Mountaineering Development & Training Trust (MDT). Venture Forth guides are all trained in first aid and rescue procedures, and most are qualified emergency care practitioners — providing you peace of mind on any adventure and for all eventualities.



Who is in charge of the Year@GuideSchool Programme?

Walther Meyer, founding partner and managing director of Venture Forth is the formal lead for this programme. He will be assisted by some of the best instructors in the industry.

Walt joined Venture Forth in 1997. He trained in the USA as a technical alpine leader on snow, rock, and ice before returning to SA to run Venture Forth. With over 30 years of personal mountaineering and adventure experience, Walt has climbed and guided in Southern and Eastern Africa, South America, the USA, and Canada, and is one of only three people in the country holding all available national qualifications in mountain guiding.

Walt is the most experienced trainer and assessor of adventure guides in South Africa. As a firm believer in the power of adventure, he is actively involved in the development of the adventure guiding and outdoor education industry.

He also spent many years on the road as an active volunteer for the government emergency services in the Western Cape and founded the first wilderness first aid training company in South Africa — Wild Medix.

Email: walt@ventureforth.co.za

Qualifications:

Mountaineering Guide (NQF7)
Rock Climbing Guide
Canyoneering Guide
Mountain Walking Guide
4x4 Overlanding Guide
Flatwater Paddling Guide
Tourist Guide Registration #: WC2921
MDT Mountain Walking Instructor
MDT Rock Climbing Instructor
Alpine Leader: Snow, Rock & Ice (American Alpine Institute)
CATHSSETA Registered Assessor 613/A/000076/2005
TETA Registered Assessor TETA-ASSR15-195
ETDP Trainer
PFTC Advanced Firearms Instructor
Emergency Care Practitioner - Intermediate
ITLS - Advanced Provider
Wilderness EMT-I
Wilderness First Responder Instructor
Code 14/EC Driving Licence
HBDI Facilitator

Contact Walt directly to discuss this programme or arrange a meeting:

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Email: walt@ventureforth.co.za

