



CERTIFIED NATURALIST COURSE



Skill India
कौशल भारत - कुशल भारत



कौशल विकास और
उद्यमशीलता मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
SKILL DEVELOPMENT
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
सत्यमेव जयते



THSC
TOURISM & HOSPITALITY
SKILL COUNCIL



NCVET
कौशल गुणवत्ता प्रगति

THE
Naturalist[®]
SCHOOL

TRAINING PROVIDER

Certified NaturalistTM

Transform Your Passion for Nature into a Professional Career

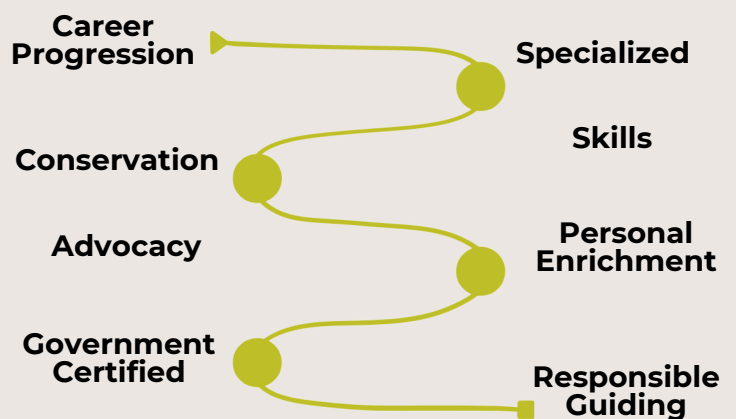
The **Certified Naturalist (CNAT) Course** aims at developing naturalists who deliver an authentic, environmentally responsible and professional guest experience.



The Certified Naturalist (CNAT) Course develops skilled professionals who can deliver authentic, environmentally responsible, and engaging guest experiences.

Participants strengthen their understanding of the eco-tourism industry, build expertise in guiding principles, and refine skills in interpretation, safety, risk management, and group leadership. The curriculum provides in-depth knowledge of natural history, tracks and signs, geology, and hands-on, immersive interpretive methods

Course Benefits



Who is this Course for?

- Individuals seeking careers as resident/freelance naturalists, wildlife interpreters, safari guides, nature educators, or natural history communicators
- Nature professionals with experience looking to upskill and recertify in the field

Professional Pathway

The Certified Naturalist (CNAT) Course provides individuals with the foundational skills and specialized knowledge needed to excel in eco-tourism, environmental education, and nature interpretation.

Beyond offering a straightforward career path, this program allows those passionate about the environment to align personal values with professional aspirations.

One of the key advantages of the CNAT Course is its alignment with recognized industry standards. Accredited by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) and affiliated with the Tourism and Hospitality Skills Council (THSC), the qualification earns graduates' widespread credibility and enhanced employability in the eco-tourism and conservation sectors.

Upon completion, participants can pursue roles as nature guides, safari guides, wildlife interpreters, or educators, confident in the widespread respect these certifications command.



Diverse Career Opportunities

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- Freelance guiding: Lead wildlife tours, nature walks, and specialized expeditions.
- Conservation Professional: Work with environmental NGOs and wildlife organizations.
- Ecotourism experts: Manage or operate sustainable tourism ventures.
- Ecopreneur: Launch your own environmentally conscious business venture.

In today's world, where sustainability and conservation are gaining importance worldwide, The Naturalist School's certification distinguishes you as a skilled professional ready to make a meaningful environmental impact. Our graduates contribute to positive change while building successful careers in nature conservation and interpretation.

Accreditation & Affiliations

While India's eco-tourism market continues to grow, structured educational pathways for nature guides and naturalists have been notably absent. No formal, credible mainstream programs existed for those aspiring to become nature guides, safari guides, or naturalists. This gap has now been bridged through pioneering initiatives by government agencies, industry bodies, and training providers, creating new opportunities for aspiring professionals.

Job roles of Naturalists and Nature Guides are now officially established under the MSDE Skill India Scheme and published in the National Qualification Register.

The Qualification Packs (QP) managed by the Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council (THSC) ensure curriculum standards are industry driven

The Naturalist School (TNS), in partnership with the **Tourism and Hospitality Skills Council (THSC)**, has developed Qualification Packs (QPs) aligned with the National Occupational Standards (NOS). This curriculum is further integrated with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) of the University Grants Commission (UGC), enabling students to seamlessly transfer credits toward other courses of study—potentially culminating in a B. Voc degree.

The Naturalist School offers the ONLY Accredited Naturalist Certification Course in India today.



This Qualification Pack has been developed under the 'Skill India' scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), as the apex body, validates all Qualification Packs and eligibility criteria through Sectoral Skill Councils (SSC), ensuring the highest standards of professional training.

Change makers

Eco-tourism in India plays a vital role in fostering sustainable development, conserving biodiversity, empowering local communities, and raising environmental awareness. By enabling visitors to experience both natural and cultural treasures, eco-tourism ensures that these valuable resources are preserved for future generations.

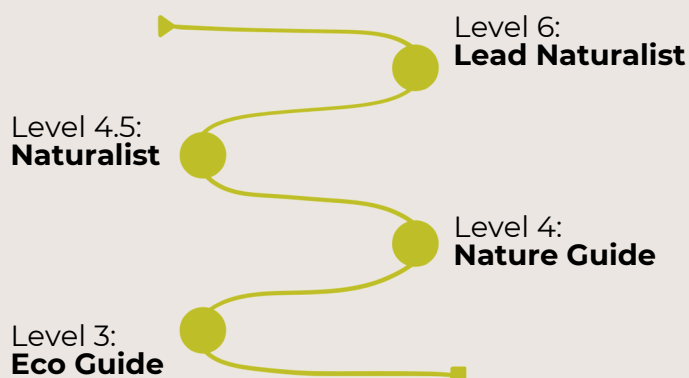
Its key principles include minimizing environmental impact, supporting local communities, and providing educational and interpretive experiences. Eco-tourism strives to balance tourism activities with the conservation of natural resources, biodiversity, and cultural heritage.



Naturalists & Nature Guides

Naturalists and Nature Guides are at the heart of eco-tourism, acting as interpreters and educators for visitors. Their expertise helps travellers connect with the natural environment and fosters a deeper appreciation for conservation principles.

Through their guidance, individuals can explore and enjoy a destination's natural beauty and cultural richness in a responsible way—actively contributing to both conservation efforts and sustainable development.



* Each level signifies a progressive mastery of guiding and interpretive skills, empowering individuals to drive positive change in eco-tourism.

Certified Trainers & Training Centre

Training Provider

The Naturalist School

Our team includes **Skill India Certified Master Trainers**, **subject-matter experts**, and educators from diverse fields such as forestry, wildlife, nature education, risk management, tourism, and hospitality.

Through a blend of knowledge-based learning and experiential methodologies, we empower participants to develop holistically and gain confidence.

We also provide robust educational resources to help students unlock their potential and upgrade their skills for the eco-tourism industry.

Moreover, participants have the opportunity to engage in on-the-job training (OJT) at partner eco-resorts and visitor centres, ensuring they are fully job-ready upon course completion.

We bring together educational resources to help students unlock their potential and upskill them for the ecotourism industry.



Assessment Framework

A **THSC-certified assessor** conducts examinations in three parts: theory, viva, and practical tests. Assessment protocols include comprehensive video documentation and technology-based testing.

As per Skill India regulations, candidates must achieve at least 70% in the overall score to successfully pass the evaluation.

Accredited Training Centre - NCOE

Established in collaboration with the Karnataka Forest Department in March 2022, **India's first Naturalist Centre of Excellence (NCOE)** stands as a beacon for nature education and naturalist training.

Located on a sprawling 40-acre campus, NCOE is equipped for residential courses, featuring hostels, a library, laboratories, athletic facilities, and ample field areas to deliver immersive learning experiences.

Naturalist™
Centre Of Excellence



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Methodology

“The Naturalist School” is a pioneering capacity-building initiative designed to bridge the skills gap in eco-tourism through blended learning programs and courses. We aim to cultivate a robust pool of qualified professionals ready to lead in this vibrant and growing sector.

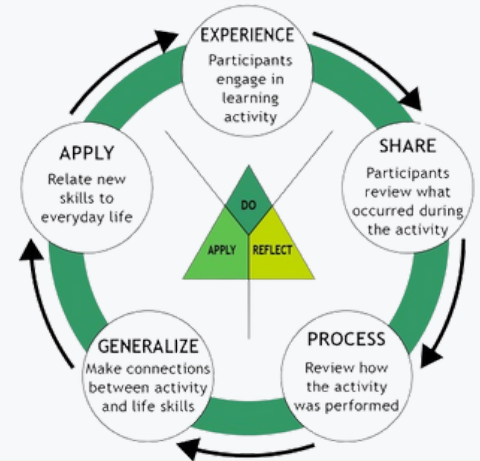
“Learning is in Our Nature” is a formal study program that equips individuals with theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and hands-on experience in wildlife and nature interpretation. Our approach to learning is rooted in experiential methods, ensuring students not only gain insights but also apply them in real-world scenarios.

Fieldtrips
Narratives
Conducting Experiments
Simulations
Games
Storytelling
Focused Imaging
Field Observations
Role Playing
Model Building

Key components of our methodology include:

- Classroom sessions
- Virtual learning opportunities
- Hands-on practice
- Guest lectures by industry experts
- Games and simulations
- Video and documentary screenings
- Group discussions
- Interactive case studies and role-plays
- Formative & summative assessments

By focusing on engaging, iterative exercises, we help participants deepen their understanding and confidently put their learning into practice



Curriculum & Outcomes



Course Curriculum



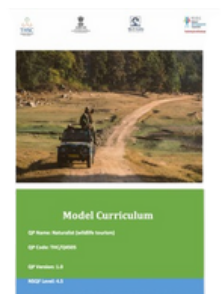
Course Outcomes Certified Naturalist™

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- Be ready to conduct a nature experience confidently.
- Prepare for a relevant nature activity (Safari, Nature Trail, etc.) based on guest expectations and suitability.
- Provide and collect pre-trip information from guests and colleagues.
- Conduct informative, holistic, and fun nature experiences.
- Achieve customer satisfaction with care and comfort.
- Manage people with physical challenges and disabilities.
- Ensure the guests follow the dos and don'ts based on governing body rules.
- Enforce all ethical tourism practices firmly whether or not implemented by a governing body.
- Understand local culture and sensitivities of local partners.
- Get an understanding of the vast biodiversity of Indian flora and fauna.
- Create interest and love towards nature.
- Provide only accurate information backed with sound knowledge about nature and wildlife.
- Know the ways of living a sustainable lifestyle.
- Contribute to conservation through small changes in travel and lifestyles - do your bit.
- Assess risk and handle emergencies.
- Become a Red-Cross certified Senior Professional First Aid provider.

The primary role of a trained Naturalist is to organize and conduct nature activities—such as walks and safaris—in an ethical, responsible manner across diverse locations. Naturalists guide guests with varying interests, expanding their appreciation for the environment and inspiring them to adopt more sustainable lifestyles.

[Click here for the detailed curriculum](#)



Timelines

Course Timelines

Total Time: 750 hours which includes

Residential: 300 hours (6 weeks)

Online: 200 hours (4 weeks) &

OJT (On-the-Job-Training): 250 hours (4 weeks)

Schedule: 12th April to 19th July 2025

Week 1 - 4: Residential, in person, in Bangalore

Week 5 - 8: Online Projects and Assignments

Week 9 - 12: OJT at various partner locations in the country

Week 13 - 14: Residential (Assessment + Certification) and the Way Forward

This structured schedule ensures an immersive blend of in-person instruction, interactive online study, and practical field experience—equipping participants with the comprehensive skill set required to excel as Certified Naturalists

THE
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Limited slots available for financial support

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All contributions to The Naturalist School are exempt from IT under section 80G of IT Act of India

