



# CERTIFIED NATURALIST (CNAT)



**Skill India**  
कौशल भारत - कुशल भारत



कौशल विकास और  
उद्यमशीलता मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
SKILL DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



**THSC**  
TOURISM & HOSPITALITY  
SKILL COUNCIL



कौशल गुणवत्ता प्रगति

TRAINING PROVIDER

**THE  
Naturalist<sup>®</sup>  
SCHOOL**

# Certified Naturalist<sup>TM</sup>

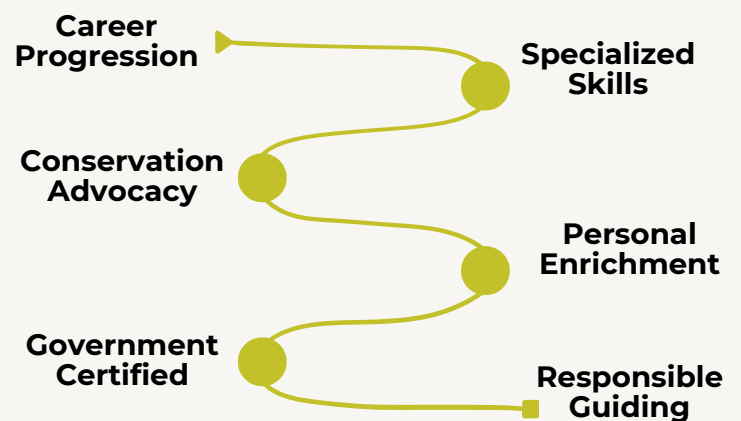
The **Certified Naturalist (CNAT) Course** aims at developing naturalists who deliver an authentic, environmentally responsible and professional guest experience.



The course will build on generic guiding skills including knowledge of the ecotourism industry; roles and responsibilities of a guide; interpretation skills; safety and risk management; group management; developing and delivering ecotour activities; and on in-depth content knowledge in natural history, tracks & signs, geology, interpretation, etc.

The Course is meant for individuals who are looking at careers as a resident/ freelance naturalist, wildlife interpreter, safari guide, nature based educator and natural history communicator - upskilling in these roles with recertification.

## Course Benefits



[APPLY NOW](#)

# Change makers

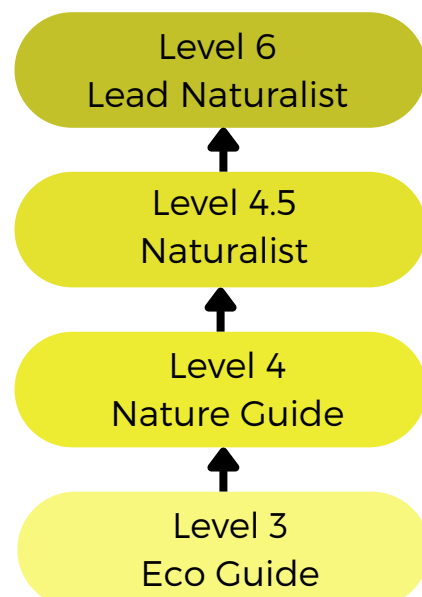
**Ecotourism in India plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable development, conserving biodiversity, empowering local communities and raising environmental awareness. It allows visitors to experience the natural and cultural treasures of the country while ensuring their preservation for future generations.**

The key principles of ecotourism include minimizing the negative impact on the environment, supporting local communities, and providing educational and interpretive experiences for visitors. It aims to create a balance between tourism activities and the preservation of natural resources, biodiversity and cultural heritage.



## Naturalists & Nature Guides

Naturalists and Nature Guides play a crucial role in ecotourism as they serve as interpreters and educators, connecting visitors to the natural environment and promoting conservation principles. They offer a unique and responsible way for individuals to explore and appreciate the natural beauty and cultural diversity of a destination, while actively contributing to its conservation and sustainable development.



# Accreditation & Affiliations

Despite a consistently growing market for ecotourism activities, India had very few opportunities for structured learning in this area. There had been no formal credible mainstream educational pathways to pursue a career as nature guides, safari guides or naturalists. The timely pioneering leadership initiatives by Govt agencies, Industry bodies & Training providers has bridged this gap and has changed the future for all prospective candidates.

“ 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)** have created Qualification packs (QP) aligned to the National Occupational Standards (NOS), The Curriculum is also aligned with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) of the UGC allowing students to easily transfer credits to any course of study or even leading up to a B.Voc degree.

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



The Government of India, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under the 'Skill India' scheme initiated the development of this QP. The recently constituted apex body NCVET now approves all Qualification Packs & eligibility criteria through the Sectoral Skill Councils (SSC).



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# Certified Trainers & Training Centre

Training Provider

## The Naturalist School

Our team comprises of **Skill India Certified Master Trainer** with experienced and Subject Matter Experts and Educators from across the country in the domain of Forestry, Wildlife, Nature Education, Risk Management, Tourism and Hospitality Sectors.

Our holistic training methodology combines knowledge and experiential learning with creative expression to help the participants achieve an **all-round transformation** and gain confidence in what they do. We bring together educational resources to help students unlock their potential and upskill them for the ecotourism industry.

Participants are further offered opportunities for on-the-job-training (OJT) at partner eco-resorts and visitor centres to be job ready.



## Assessment

The assessment is conducted by a **THSC certified assessor** in three sections - theory, viva and practicals. The assessment protocols require comprehensive video documentation and access to technology-based examinations.

As per Skill India norms, every candidate should score a minimum of 70% of the aggregate marks to be successful.

## Accredited Training Centre NCOE

### India's 1st Naturalist Centre of Excellence

**(NCOE)** in partnership with the Karnataka Forest Department launched in March 2022 is poised to be a lighthouse for Nature Education & Naturalist Training. Set on a 40 Acre campus the Centre is equipped to conduct residential courses with extensive facilities and infrastructure incl. hostels, library, lab, sport and field areas.

**Naturalist**<sup>TM</sup>  
Centre Of Excellence



# Curriculum & Outcomes

## Course Curriculum



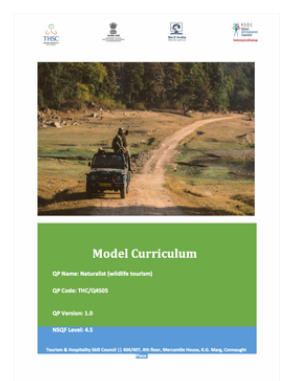
## Course Outcomes

### Certified Naturalist<sup>™</sup>

Be ready to confidently conduct a nature experience · Prepare for a relevant nature activity (Safari, Nature Trail) suitable to guest expectations · 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 disabilities · Ensure the guests follow the do's and don'ts, based on governing body rules · Enforce firmly all ethical tourism practices whether or not implemented by 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

The primary role of a trained Naturalist is to confidently conduct nature activities like walks and safaris in an ethical and responsible manner at a variety of sites. They lead guests who can have a wide range of interests. Beyond guiding, they strive to broaden interests and encourage guests to adopt sustainable lifestyles.

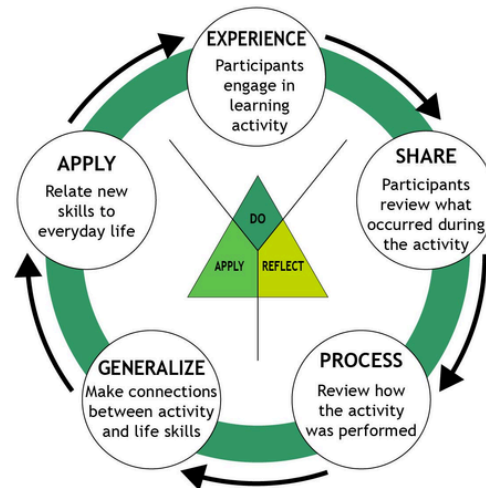
[Click here for the detailed curriculum.](#)



# Methodology & Timelines

## Course Methodology

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



## Course Timelines Certified Naturalist<sup>®</sup>

APPLY

Total Time: 750 hours includes Residential: 250 hours, Online: 250 hours & OJT: 250 hours  
Total Duration: 16 weeks includes Residential: 6 weeks, Online: 4 weeks & OJT: 6 weeks

### Schedule: 25 May to 15 Sept 2024

Week 01 - 04: Residential, in person, in Bangalore

Week 05 -08: Online Projects and Assignments

Week 09 - 14: OJT at various locations in the country

Week 15 - 16: Residential (Assessment + Certification) and the Way Forward



**Suggested contribution towards the Course to support one candidate is INR 1,25,000/-**

*Contribution covers Tuition, Participant Kit, Course Material, Accommodation & Food (6 weeks),  
Field trip (12 days), Online coaching, OJT/Apprenticeship stipend, Govt. Certification*

**The Naturalist School is a Foundation and all proceeds are exempt from IT under section 80G of the Indian IT Act**



THE  
**Naturalist**  
SCHOOL

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