

NOMAD GUIDE SCHOOL – LEARNING POLICIES & TRAINING STRUCTURE

1. Learning Philosophy

At Nomad Guide School (NGS), we believe in experiential learning — where theory meets the wilderness. Our approach blends academic knowledge, practical field experience, and ethical guiding principles to create well-rounded professional safari guides. We promote self-discipline, teamwork, environmental stewardship, and respect for Botswana's diverse ecosystems and cultures.

2. Course Structure

Our courses are structured to balance classroom learning with extensive field exposure.

- Nature Guide Course (14–28 days) Focuses on ecology, wildlife behavior, ecosystems, geology, astronomy, and interpretation skills.
- Walking & Weapon Handling (Trails Guide) Course (14–28 days) Concentrates on advanced bushcraft, animal encounters, tracking, navigation, and safe weapon handling.

Modular Flexibility: Each course can be taken as a full 28-day program or split into two 14-day modules to accommodate busy professionals or flexible students.

3. Theory Components

Our classroom sessions cover essential theoretical subjects that build a strong foundation for professional guiding.

Core Topics Include:

- Ecology and Conservation
- Geology and Landforms
- Plants and Biomes of Botswana
- Animal Behaviour & Adaptation
- Birds and Mammals Identification
- Weather & Climate
- Astronomy
- Taxonomy & Interpretation
- Safety, Guiding Ethics
- Fish
- Arthropods

4. Theory Lessons Resources

Students have access to:

- Field manuals and guidebooks
- Nomad digital resources (maps, charts, species lists)
- Group discussions and multimedia presentations
- Guest lectures by conservation professionals

All theoretical content aligns with the Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) and FGASA standards to ensure relevance and quality.

5. Method of Learning

Our methodology emphasizes:

- Classroom Learning: Structured lectures and group discussions
- Field-Based Practical: Daily field drives and bush walks
- Peer Learning: Collaborative observation and analysis
- Instructor Mentorship: Personal feedback and performance guidance
- Self-Study: Independent review sessions using provided materials
- This holistic approach ensures that students develop both academic understanding and hands-on guiding skills.

6. Practical Component

Nomad's practical training takes place across Botswana's most iconic wilderness areas — including Moremi Game Reserve, Khwai, Nxai Pan, and Savuti. Students apply theory directly in the field through:

- Game drives and walking safaris
- Bird and mammal identification exercises
- Track and sign interpretation
- Survival, navigation, and firearm handling
- Guest hosting and hospitality scenarios
- Each student's progress is continuously evaluated through observation, logbooks, and instructor feedback.

7. Grievance & Appeal Policies

Nomad Guide School (NGS) upholds fairness, respect, and transparency in all training matters. If a student experiences a grievance regarding instruction, assessment, or general conduct, the following process applies:

1. Report the concern verbally to the instructor.
2. If unresolved, submit a written complaint to the Training Director within 7 days.
3. The Director reviews and responds within 14 days.
4. Appeals may be escalated to the Academic Committee for final resolution.
5. Confidentiality and impartiality are guaranteed throughout the process.

8. Assessment, Appeal Policies & Procedures

All students are assessed through:

- Written tests and oral presentations
- Practical field evaluations
- Continuous assessment and final evaluations

If a student disputes an assessment outcome:

- Submit an appeal form within 5 working days of receiving results.
- The course instructor reviews and discusses the concern with the student.
- If not resolved, the appeal is forwarded to the Director for re-evaluation.
- Final outcomes are communicated in writing within 10 working days.
- Our goal is to maintain integrity, transparency, and fairness in all assessments.

9. Practical Resources & Learning Methods

Nomad Guide School (NGS) provides:

- Fully equipped safari vehicles
- Firearms and safety gear (for Trails Guide)
- Field guides, maps, and compasses
- Learning tents, mobile classrooms, and outdoor study areas
- Access to Wi-Fi learning resources and digital reading materials
- Students are encouraged to bring personal notebooks, cameras, and field gear to enhance their learning experience.

10. General Overview

Nomad Guide School (NGS) offers a dynamic, mobile learning environment set within Botswana's wild landscapes. Our programs are designed for aspiring safari guides, conservationists, and nature enthusiasts seeking professional, accredited training.

We pride ourselves on:

- ✓ Small group learning
- ✓ Highly qualified instructors
- ✓ Mobile field campuses
- ✓ Accredited, competency-based curriculum
- ✓ Immersive bush experience

Nomad Guide School (NGS) – “Where Nature Becomes the Classroom.”