

# 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.”