



Fact Sheet for Members of GOA Organisations

As a member of one of the above organisation or associations you will have heard that Guiding Organisations Australia has released a national tour guide accreditation called Guides of Australia. This accreditation aims at providing a skills benchmark for all tour guides in all sectors of the industry within Australia - regardless of title or employment status.

Guides of Australia uses the term Tour Guide to mean any person who leads or presents to a group of tourists, on an organised tour or activity of any length, regardless of their employment status.

Accreditation Criteria

In order to achieve Guides of Australia accreditation, Tour Guides must have sufficient experience in working as a Tour Guide, being either:

- 200 days experience as a Tour Guide over the guides career (or 100 days in the past year), OR
- A Certificate III in Tourism (Guiding) issued by a Registered Training Organisation, plus 30 days experience as a Tour Guide in the past year.

Tour Guides must also meet the following:

- Hold a current First Aid Certificate and current CPR
- Provide a positive reference from you employer or client
- Successfully demonstrate your guiding skills and knowledge to an independent evaluator during a Field Evaluation for which you must provide a written plan
- Agree to abide by the Australian Tour Guides Code of Practice
- Agree to abide by the Guide of Australia Accreditation Rules including ongoing professional development requirements

Cost

The GOA Organisations are split into 2 groups – those that currently provide assessment or evaluation as a requirement of membership and those that don't. Please consult your organisation if you are unsure. Your costs are as follows:

	1. Members of an organisation not providing assessment or evaluation	2. Members of an organisation that currently provides assessment or evaluation
On Application (sent in with your application submission)	\$75	\$50
On Evaluation (payable to the Evaluator)	\$50	\$50*
Total Fee for initial accreditation (including the first years annual fee)	\$125	\$100

*Those guides who are members of an organisation that currently provides assessment or evaluation may be exempt from an evaluation fee.

Guiding Organisations Australia

GOA is recognised by the Australian Government and by industry as the national organisation representing the interests of Australian Tour Guides. It is the peak body for tour guides and an

umbrella organisation made up of the leading Tour Guide Organisations and Associations throughout Australia. GOA has a long-term commitment to identifying required standards, encouraging training, promoting best practice and reducing unethical guiding practices. Its vision is:

To develop a universal and cooperative Tour Guiding network and standard in Australia that will be world's best practice.

By establishing Guides of Australia as a National Accreditation Program for all Tour Guides, Guiding Organisations Australia will be better able to achieve its objectives, to:

- *Provide a national forum to develop best practice and promote a high degree of professionalism for Tour Guides.*
- *Raise private, public and government awareness, locally and nationally, of the importance of the Tour Guide's role.*
- *Maintain cooperative relationships with related national, international, State and Territory tourism industry organisations.*

GOA continues to maintain and develop a network of tour guides, tour operators, regional tourism associations, state and territory tourism organisations, protected area managers, registered training organisations and other tourism related stakeholders. Your business or organisation could show its support for GOA by becoming an Associate Member.

GOA Website – www.goa.org.au

The GOA website is available to everyone. To access much of the site you will need to register with your valid email address and a password of your choice. You will then have full access to the site so remember your details for next time. The site contains:

- Details of Guides of Australia accreditation
- The Job Mart – Guides for Hire and Employment Opportunities
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Member details – GOA Organisations and GOA Associate Members and any industry discounts that have been offered to accredited guides
- Resources, Tips and Tracks
- Research Papers
- Legal Issues, and more.

Guides for Hire - If you are a contract/freelance guide we are able to advertise your skills and details on the website for no charge (normally \$1 per day). This site is used frequently by consumers and inbound operators who are looking for guides in specific regions. Contact the National Secretariat for more details. The website is constantly being updated so keep an eye it.

Further Information:

An Application Kit can be downloaded from the GOA website www.goa.org.au, or contact:

Suellen Taylor
National Secretariat
Ph: 1300 558 105
Email: goa@goa.org.au

This fact sheet is valid only for existing guiding members of GOA Organisations:

- Australian Tourism Development Association
- Ecotourism Australia – EcoGuide Program
- Institute of Australian Tour Guides
- International Association of Tour Managers
- Interpretation Australia Association
- Professional Tour Guides Association of Australia
- Savannah Guides Limited
- South Australian Tour Guides Association
- Tour Guides Western Australia