



Biosphere Guide Training Information - 2025

Thank you for showing an interest in our Biosphere Guides training course.

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere have developed a suite of innovative ecotourism initiatives: Biosphere Experiences which preserve local, natural and cultural assets and generate economic value; Scotland's UNESCO Trail which has been developed in partnership with VisitScotland, bringing together 13 UNESCO designations; a Visitor Charter and Sustainable Events Charter; and a signature Biosphere Guides programme. Together, these create excellent opportunities for guides in the region to connect visitors to the fantastic natural and cultural offering we have in our Biosphere. Our certified Biosphere Guides are unique in their ability to lead individual and group activities whilst providing an enriched local interpretation of the region's natural and cultural highlights and hidden gems.

Application

We have limited places available on the course (maximum 12 places), so applicants must be able to attend the full 2 days, should be passionate about the local area, and have a genuine interest in wanting to provide guiding experiences in it. Ideally applicants should be aspiring to develop a guiding business or are active in the community/sustainable tourism sectors. Priority will be given to those who live in the Biosphere. This will help us to decide who is able to attend if we have too many applicants. The deadline to send in your application is 28th March 2025 at 5pm.

To apply please tell us:

Your name, address and contact details.

Why you want to attend, your area of interest - what you are passionate about in the local area that you feel you would have potential to be developed into a guided experience (up to side of A4).

Send your response to Jenna Cains jenna@gsabiosphere.org.uk

Biosphere Guiding - Course Structure

This course will consist of two full training days preceded by an online introductory session, date TBD between trainer and trainees. Location; St John's Town of Dalry Town Hall, DG7 3SW, D&G.

SESSION 1: Sunday, April 27th 2025; Introduction / Life of a Guide

- Arrival / Introductions / Aims and Objectives / Learning Outcomes
- Overview of the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere
- Roles and Responsibilities of a Guide
- Life of a Guide (health and safety, accreditations, range of places to work, CPD opportunities, resources etc.)
- Outdoor segment; Guiding skills on foot / by bike / on the tour bus
- *Approx. 5-7pm social / networking / food & story sharing*

SESSION 2: Monday, April 28th 2025; Leave No Trace / Natural and Cultural Interpretation

- Leave No Trace Eco-Training (indoors and outdoors, additional certification)
- Customers and customer journey enhancement strategies
- Tour itinerary design
- Natural and cultural interpretation in the Scottish landscape; *Practical interpretation session (outdoors)*: each participant to plan and lead a short (5 minutes) active and/or interpretive session to the group on a chosen topic, incorporating their learning from the course and previous experience/knowledge (local knowledge sharing).
- Reflection on topics covered and personal journeys / Revisit Aims and Objectives / Course Feedback Awarding of certificates.
- Finish.