

Notes: Training for tour guides

Introduction

Pilgrim guides are at the same time tour escorts, hiking guides and spiritual coaches.

Their activities include organizational tasks as well as physical guiding and competent accompaniment on various themes:

They are informed about the condition of the paths as well as about accommodation and other facilities on carefully selected and prepared routes, being competent on every terrain, in every season and under any weather condition.

They respect ecological contexts, as they are also mediators of responsible action in unspoilt landscapes.

As they are at the same time trainers, mental coaches and spiritual companions, they are requested to have high social, psychological and spiritual competence.

Learning Goal

Awareness of special duties and competences of pilgrim guides as well as of differences between pilgrim guides and tour escorts.

- Profile and specific tasks of pilgrim guides
- Personal and general competences
- The structure of a pilgrimage
- Comparison of pilgrim guides versus tour escorts



Guided Via Sacra pilgrimage, © Christa Englinger

Target groups

- Tour guides
- Tour operators who offer pilgrimage walks or tours

Content

All contents (6 modules) of the training course are recommended for tour guides and tour operators who have not attended a specific training (in Austria e.g. WIFI Reiseleiterausbildung, Diplomlehrgang Reiseleiter, or similar). For persons with a specific training or qualification all modules are recommended to refresh their knowledge and qualification, whereas there are certain modules, that could be skipped by experienced guides.



Before starting the training, it is recommended to study Modul 1 Chapter 2 (The role of pilgrim guides) to learn about the differences between tour guides and pilgrim guides.

Please find details to the relevance of modules and chapters below.

Following modules are important for tour guides who want to work with pilgrim groups:

- Modul 1 – Cultural heritage and identity, spirituality
 - special focus on chapters Role of pilgrim guide, Psychology of walking, Experience churches spiritually
 - all chapters are recommended for guides without training, with little experience or to refresh the knowledge
- Modul 2 – Psychological skills, pedagogics
 - special focus on chapters Deceleration and Impulse
 - chapters Group dynamics and Conflict management recommended for guides without training, with little experience or to refresh the knowledge
- Modul 3 – Theory and practice of pilgrimage
 - special focus on Preparation of a pilgrimage, pedagogy for people with disabilities, pilgrimage for elderly, Storytelling
 - all chapters are recommended for guides without training, with little experience or to refresh the knowledge
- Modul 4 – Sustainability, Sustainable Travel
 - special focus on Sustainable tourism, Careful handling of touristic resources, Creating sustainable pilgrim packages
 - all chapters are recommended for guides without training, with little experience or to refresh the knowledge
- Modul 5 – Technical practice
 - special focus on: Emergency management, Necessary equipment, Navigation Apps
 - all chapters are recommended for guides without training, with little experience or to refresh the knowledge
- Modul 6 – Planning, Preparation, Networking
 - trained and experienced guides should be familiar with all contents, however the module is recommended for refreshing the knowledge



Experiencing churches spiritually, © Christa Englinger



Romea Strata, showing the way, © Christa Englinger

More Information

www.train2EUPilgrimage.eu

In order to check the next available trainings please contact Forum KEB:

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