

FGASA APPRENTICE TRAILS GUIDE & FGASA TRAILS GUIDE QUALIFICATIONS



Any guide wanting to become a FGASA Trails Guide, will need to follow the application procedure for working through the Apprentice Trails Guide programme.

The FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide is an individual who is in training (in an apprentice programme) to become a Trails Guide and will learn how to function as 2nd Rifle and later as 1st Rifle during the training phase.

The apprentice programme is a stepping stone in the process for a guide to attain a FGASA Trails Guide Qualification and is not qualified to conduct trails or walks in areas with dangerous game in absence of a FGASA Trails Guide (NQF4), Professional Trails Guide, or SKS (DG) Guide.

Apprentice Trails Guide NQF2 → **FGASA Trails Guide NQF4**

To become an Apprentice Trails Guide the following requirements are necessary:

- The FGASA Apprentice Field Guide (NQF2) or FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) or FGASA Professional Field Guide Qualification.
- First Aid Level 1 Certificate
- The FGASA Trails Guide theory exam
- The FGASA Advanced Rifle Handling (including all 3 PFTCs)
- Comply to all legal requirements (CATHSSETA & NDT) as well as all FGASA requirements



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Step 1: Log first 50 hours and 10 encounters

- Log a minimum of 50 hours on trail as observer led by a FGASA Trails Guide (NQF4), Professional Trails Guide, or SKS (DG) Guide. This can be in the work place during guiding based activities, during a FGASA Endorsed Trails Guide course, or during Wilderness or Backpacking Trails in areas where free-roaming dangerous game occur.
- Log a minimum of 10 encounters from at least three of the animal categories as observer on trail led by a FGASA Trails Guide (NQF4) or Professional Trails Guide or SKS (DG) Guide. This can be in the work place during guiding based activities, during a FGASA endorsed Apprentice Trails Guide course, or during Wilderness or Backpacking Trails in areas where free-roaming dangerous game occur.

Step 2: Mentor evaluation 10 hours

The apprentices must be mentored, coached and assessed over a minimum of 10 hours by the mentor to proceed.

This must include:

- 1st and 2nd Rifle brief and de-brief
- Dry fire rifle exercises with both rifles using the “Three Command System”
- Roles of the 1st and 2nd Rifle
- Situational awareness
- Rifle carry

Step 3: Submit mentor report electronically and complete ARH and theory exam

Once the mentor approves the applicant, a report is sent electronically to FGASA Head Office Standards Director. This will be recorded in the applicant’s logbook by the mentor. The FGASA Office will then issue a letter of approval to confirm that the apprentice has obtained the 2nd rifle status, has completed and passed ARH, and Theory exam. The apprentice status is then updated to that of an Apprentice Trails Guide, working towards FGASA Trails Guide.

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Step 4: Apprentice Trails Guide logs hours and encounters over 260 days of active guiding

Firstly

- ❖ As Apprentice Trails Guide, log a minimum of 50 hours on trail as 2nd Rifle led by a mentor (an approved FGASA Professional Trails Guide or SKS (DG) Guide). This can be in the work place during guiding based activities, during a FGASA endorsed course, or during Wilderness or Backpacking Trails in areas where free-roaming dangerous game occur.
- ❖ As Apprentice Trails Guide, log a minimum of 20 encounters with at least one encounter from each of the animal categories as 2nd Rifle on trail led by a mentor (an approved FGASA Professional Trails Guide or SKS (DG) Guide). This can be in the work place during guiding based activities, during a FGASA endorsed course, or during Wilderness or Backpacking Trails in areas where free-roaming dangerous game occur.

Secondly

- ❖ As Apprentice Trails Guide, log a minimum of 50 hours on trail as 1st Rifle with a mentor (an approved FGASA Professional Trails Guide or SKS (DG) Guide) as 2nd Rifle. This can be in the work place during guiding based activities, during a FGASA endorsed course, or during Wilderness or Backpacking Trails in areas where free-roaming dangerous game occur.
- ❖ As Apprentice Trails Guide, log a minimum of 20 encounters with at least one encounter from each of the animal categories as 1st Rifle on trail with a mentor (an approved FGASA Professional Trails Guide or SKS (DG) Guide) as 2nd Rifle. This can be in the work place during guiding based activities, during a FGASA endorsed course, or during Wilderness or Backpacking Trails in areas where free-roaming dangerous game occur.

Thirdly

- ❖ As Apprentice Trails Guide, log a minimum of 50 hours on trail as 1st Rifle with an approved FGASA Trails Guide (NQF4), Professional Trails Guide or SKS (DG) Guide as 2nd Rifle. This must be in the workplace during guiding based activities and **may not** be in a training context.
- ❖ Log a minimum of 10 encounters from at least three of the animal categories as 1st Rifle on trail with an approved FGASA Trails Guide (NQF4), Professional Trails Guide or SKS (DG) Guide as 2nd Rifle. This must be in the work place during guiding based activities and **may not** be in a training context.

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Step 5: Complete a FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide Practical Assessment (VPDA)

This is conducted by a FGASA Professional Trails Guide Assessor and is a multi-day walk spanning over a minimum of two full days (two morning and two afternoon walks) and a minimum of 10 hours on foot and must include at least two encounters with at least two different dangerous game categories. At least four categories of free-roaming dangerous game must be present in the area where the assessment takes place and the candidate must be assessed in the roles of both 1st and 2nd rifle with clients.

The assessor will make sure that you know what you will be assessed on so that you may prepare yourself for this assessment. (*Refer to the FGASA Trails Guide Learner workbook for details.*)

Payment for your practical assessment is made directly to the assessor and does not come via the FGASA office.

Once you have been declared competent for the FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide practical assessment you will have attained the FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide Certificate & VPDA

Step 6: Qualify as a FGASA Trails Guide

- ❖ Complete the FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Certificate

You will now be qualified as a **FGASA Field Guide / Trails Guide NQF4**

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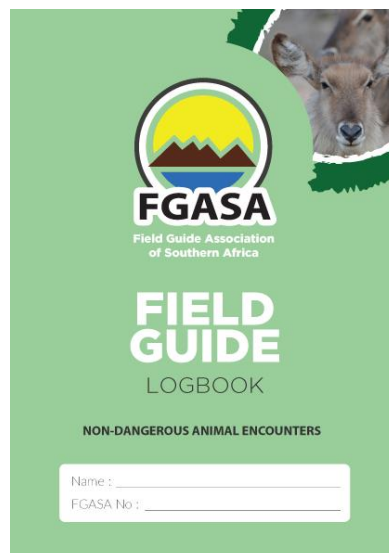


Logbooks

All dangerous animal encounters (Refer to the *FGASA definition of an encounter*) as a Participant Trails Guide, an Apprentice Trails Guide, 1st Rifle etc. must be recorded in the FGASA Dangerous Game Logbook.



Dangerous Game Logbook



Nature Guide logbook

Your other guiding experience (non-dangerous game encounters) should be recorded in the Green FGASA Nature Guide Logbook.

Dangerous Game encounters

The logged approaches to view potentially dangerous animals must include at least two species of the Big 5 and should include species from any of the following categories, preferably as many categories as possible:

- Elephant bull
- Elephant breeding herd
- Buffalo bull
- Buffalo breeding herd
- Lion & leopard
- White & black rhino
- Hippopotamus



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What is an encounter?

An encounter is to view an animal at a safe distance to ensure that the animal is not disturbed in such a way that it becomes dangerous to the guide and his/her guests. Respect for the animal must be shown at all times.

Please note:

- **An animal may not be provoked in any way to get a reaction. This is unacceptable.**
- **FGASA does NOT promote any form of enforced encounters.**
- The experience on foot cannot be carried out by driving a vehicle to a potentially dangerous animal and then getting out of the vehicle to approach this particular animal on foot. This is NOT an encounter.

The logged experience required must include walking without initially knowing the exact location of a dangerous animal, possibly tracking of the animal in question, approaching the animal taking into consideration all conservation, environmental and client factors, with safety in mind at all times.

View the animal and move away leaving the animal as it was found. Obviously if circumstances change and the animal becomes aware of the approaching humans, then the required action should be taken to ensure the safety of all.

The encounters on foot must be in the presence of a Mentor/ Professional Trails Guide.

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What learning materials do I need for the Apprentice Trails Guide Certificate?

The following learning materials are **compulsory**:

1. The Trails Guide Manual – Grant Hine
2. The Rifle Handling Manual – Grant Hine
3. The FGASA Trails Guide Learner study guide and workbooks
4. The FGASA Dangerous Game site guide Rifle Handling workbook



Recommended:

- DVD – Africa's Dangerous Game on Foot
- DVD Set - Preparing yourself for stopping the charge



Recommended books to improve your own knowledge:

- Mammals of southern Africa and their Tracks and Signs – Lee Gutteridge & Louis Liebenberg
- Field Guide to the Tracks & Signs – Chris & Mathilde Stuart
- Beat about the Bush (Mammals) – Trevor Carnaby
- Grasses & Grazers of Botswana and the surrounding Savanna – Veronica Roodt
- The behavior guide to African Mammals – Richard Estes

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IMPORTANT NOTICE ON ARH

The attainment of a FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide qualification is directly linked to the attainment of the FGASA Advanced Rifle Handling (ARH).



The ARH expires every three years and thus due to the link, so does the FGASA Trails Guide certificate expire.

If you work in other African countries and do not carry a rifle for guiding purposes, you will be awarded the VPDA Certificate (*which does not expire*). All FGASA Trails Guide, Professional Trails Guide and SKS(DG) Trails Guide certificates will have an expiry date based on when the ARH is due for renewal.

A new certificate will only be issued once the ARH competency is up to date through a renewal assessment.

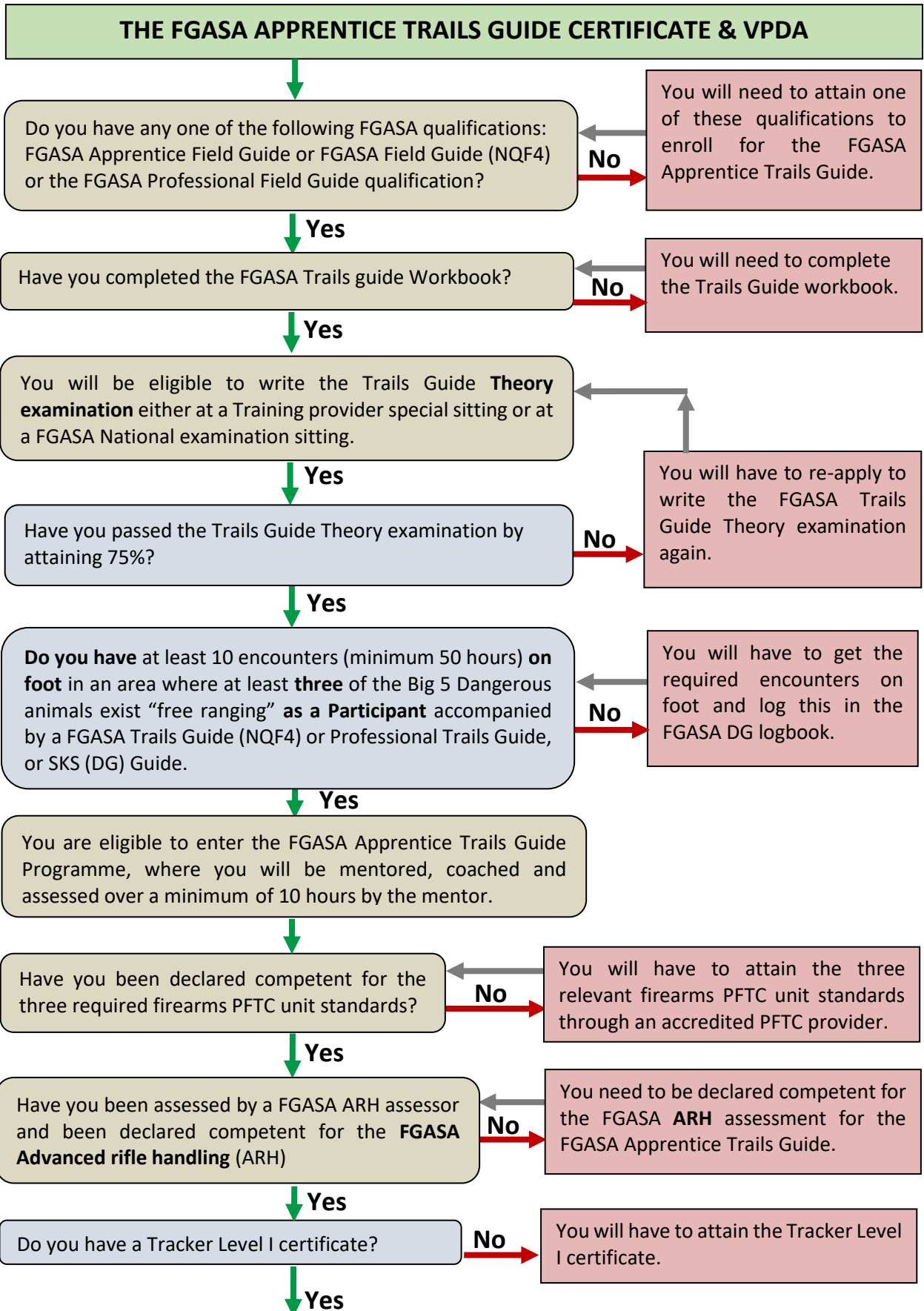
Before any ARH assessment can take place, you must have first attained the following PFTC unit standards (Professional Firearms Trainers Council) from an accredited PFTC training provider:



- Demonstrate knowledge of the Firearms Control Act 2000 (Act No 60 of 2000) applicable to possessing a rifle (Code:117705)
- Handle and Use a manually operated Rifle or Carbine (Code:119651)
- Handle and use a manually operated Rifle or Carbine for Business Purposes (Code: 123519)

These PFTC unit standards do not expire

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Have you logged a minimum of 50 hours + 20 encounters (with at least one encounter from each of the animal categories) on trail as 2nd Rifle led by a mentor (an approved FGASA Professional Trails Guide or SKS (DG) Guide)?

No → You will have to log a minimum of 50 hours + 20 encounters on trail as 2nd Rifle led by a mentor.

Yes

Have you logged a minimum of 50 hours + 20 encounters (with at least one encounter from each of the animal categories) on trail as 1st Rifle led by a mentor (an approved FGASA Professional Trails Guide or SKS (DG) Guide)?

No → You will have to log a minimum of 50 hours + 20 encounters on trail as 1st Rifle led by a mentor.

Yes

Have you logged a minimum of 50 hours + 10 encounters (with 10 encounters from at least three of the animal categories) on trail as 1st Rifle led by a mentor (an approved FGASA Professional Trails Guide or SKS (DG) Guide) in the work place?

No → You will have to log a minimum of 50 hours + 10 encounters on trail as 1st Rifle led by a mentor.

Yes

You are now eligible to complete a FGASA Trails Guide Practical Assessment (VPDA), conducted by a FGASA Professional Trails Guide Assessor. This is a multi-day walk spanning a minimum of two full days (two morning and two afternoon walks) and a minimum of 10 hours on foot. It must include at least two encounters with at least two different dangerous game categories. At least four categories of free-roaming dangerous game must be present in the area where the assessment takes place and the candidate must be assessed in the roles of both 1st and 2nd rifle.

You are now legal to walk as a **FGASA Apprentice Trails Guide** with VPDA.

THE FGASA TRAILS GUIDE CERTIFICATE

To obtain your FGASA TRAILS GUIDE QUALIFICATION you now need to complete your FGASA Field Guide (NQF4) Qualification.