

Tour Guide Operator

A Tour Guide Operator is a person who plans and organizes informational tours of historic sites and other popular attractions. They must be able to answer specific questions about locations, their history, amenities, and artefacts. Effective communication skills are absolutely essential for a successful career in the industry. In addition, tour guides must be highly organized, punctual, and ethical. They must have exceptional time-management skills and be able to thoroughly research pertinent information. The ability to speak multiple languages, while not essential, is an asset for many tour guides. A tour guide's duty is dependent on their location and employer. There are several areas of specialization; there is the historical tour guide, the nature tour guide and the corporate tour guide. A tour guide operator usually works in the tourism industry as a freelancer or as a member of an organization.

Work Environment

As a tour guide operator you get to travel to various places. The environment you work in is entirely dependent on the type of tour guide you become; for example, a nature park tour guide might work outdoors all year round while a museum tour guide will be working indoors. Some tour guides may be employed on a seasonal or temporary basis working only in the summer months when tourism is at its peak.

How to Get Qualified

Typically, tour guides possess a minimum of a high school diploma educational background but this may vary depending on the type of tours one will be conducting. For a museum tour guide, a bachelor's degree in the area of the tour you will be conducting may be required.

Job Outlook

It is projected that the number of openings for tour guide operators is expected to fall below average over the next 5 years. However job opportunities may arise from persons leaving the occupation.