



**POLAR
TOURISM**
Guides Association
guiding guiding

POLAR TOURISM QUALIFICATION

Lead a Journey in Technical Terrain

DEFINITIONS:

- Scope:** Outlines who the certificate is for.
- Element:** Outlines the overall **skill set** to be taught.
- Range:** The **specific skills** to be examined. An examination **may or may not** include all of the range items. It is at the discretion of the assessor if the assessee shows confidence and ease in other range items as to whether they examine them or not.
- Prerequisites:** >30 days leading to the level of the Scope, > 80 personal days operating in Scope terrain, current Wilderness First Responder award or equivalent, PTQ Radio and Comms, PTQ Snow and Ice Crack Awareness, PTQ Navigation/GPS Skills, (Polar Bear Endorsement if working Arctic).
- RCC:** Logged experience and endorsement, Currency in any recognised international award scheme that covers this material (UIAA, AAGM, MLTU, NZOIA). See **RCC** and **Cross-credit** matrices.

SCOPE:

Lead a Hike in Technical Terrain is for field staff/guides who may be in charge of leading single or multi-day hikes in polar terrain that may include, snow-free glaciers, outwash plains, beach and sub tidal zones, mountains and passes or on sea-ice. Knowledge of polar camping, weather forecasting, utilizing alpine equipment for safety and simple rope assistance and confidence techniques, and making route choices in potentially hazardous terrain are essential. Journeys may involve snow or ice travel with snow shoes or crampons and ice axes. This PTQ does not include roped glacier/crevasse travel and is a minimum requirement for longer or multi-day journeys in unknown terrain or untraveled routes.

- Special Notes:*
- i A pre-requisite day is defined as greater than 5 hours in length*
 - ii The advanced first aid requirement for this PTQ is any wilderness emergency care that is minimum 40 hour program.*

ELEMENTS & PERFORMANCE CRITERIA:

Element 1 – Plan and prepare for a hike.

- 1.1 Deliver a written plan for a multiday journey that is suitable for polar tourism** (this is a paper exercise and is not expected for every hike. It is aimed at testing planning concepts).
Range: Aims, objectives and purpose of the trip, estimated distances and times, emergency and alternative routes, risk/hazard identification and management strategies, any consent or access issues, weather information, intentions, communications and emergency procedures.
- 1.2 Personally prepare for a journey (>4 hours).**
Range: Suitable attire for the conditions, spare crucial clothing for self and clients, navigation device or strategy, knowledge of expected conditions on that particular route on that day, sunscreen, radio carried in a suitable manner, first aid kit suitable for the purpose.
- 1.3 Brief clients on an intended journey.**
Range: Introduction, appropriate voice, language and body language, teaching/visual aids, demonstrations, learning moments, evaluation of learning, engaging clients in positive experience which encourages enthusiasm and interest.

Element 2 – Lead, teach and safely manage a group in a given polar environment.

- 2.1 Effective management of the group.**
Range: Pacing, stepping, rest stops, disclosure and explanation of potential dangers, route selection with regards to geography and movement around wildlife, keeping the group together, a system for accounting for everyone, establishing rapport, use of a leadership style appropriate to the group and support staff accompanying, situational management of hazards and wildlife encounters.
- 2.2 Efficient and confident personal movement in a range of different polar terrain.**
Range: May include but are not limited to: sea ice, slippery beach rocks, snow, dry glacial ice, mud, talus, tussock, rocky and broken ground.
- 2.3 Demonstrate the use of, and can describe the advantages and limitations of different methods of communication suitable for use on a polar environment hike.**
Range: Radio, cellphone, GPS tracker, PLB and SAT phone, intentions form.
- 2.4 Demonstrate the use and/or construction of an emergency shelter.**
Range: Suitable for surviving a night in adverse weather conditions (wind and rain), group shelter, snow cave, wind wall.
- 2.5 Demonstrate and explain safe travel practices in and around polar waterways.**
Range: Alpine streams open or snow covered, glacial streams and gutters, outwash plains, undercut ice edges on coastline, sea-ice.

- 2.6 Demonstrate strategies to collect local condition information.**
Range: Real-time weather information for a given area, snow and/or avalanche conditions, crack and crevasse status, tide conditions
- 2.7 Demonstrate use of technical equipment.**
Range: Rope and slings, improvised harnesses, hand line, belaying without fixed anchors, snow shoes, crampons, ice axe.
- 2.8 Instruct the use of snow shoes, crampons and ice axe.**
Range: Suitable site, skills progression suitable to the clients and terrain.
- 2.9 Demonstrate knowledge of, and role model, accepted tourism practices.**
Range: IAATO/AECO site guidelines, local area rules and laws including access issues and protocols, Leave No Trace.
- 2.10 Demonstrate knowledge of crisis management strategies and priorities on a longer journey.**

Element 3 – Interpret cultural and environmental surroundings.

- 3.1 Provide engaging, informative and interpretive information.**
Range: Natural and cultural history, physical geography, local flora and fauna, appropriate voice for conditions, group management for learning moments.

Element 4 – Rescue and Crisis Management.

- 3.1 Discuss options and strategies for managing a crisis or rescue in given terrain.**
Range: Sea-ice rescue, general strategy for managing a remote crisis.

DATE:	REVIEWERS:
3/12/16	Graham Charles et al
16/10/16	Graham Charles et al
1/4/17	Graham Charles, Phil Wickens
8/5/17	PTGA Board
10/10/17	GC, EB, KR input for final prior to posting

Polar Bear Behavior & Deterrent Endorsement

SCOPE:

This endorsement is for guides who may be leading or supporting any operations in polar bear terrain. It can be a stand-alone endorsement if the guide is not experienced enough to be sole charge of a hike or landing, or it can be added to PTQs Lead a Hike and Zodiac Operations as a useful endorsement for northern operations. PTGA does not currently write or manage polar bear training but on review of the Prerequisites and/or RCC will add an endorsement to a guides carnet.

RCC:

Firearms license from home country and/or accepted company training program (verified) on non-lethal deterrent options, firearm handling, polar bear behavior, >5 excursions understudying relevant group management in polar bear terrain, AECO Field Staff test