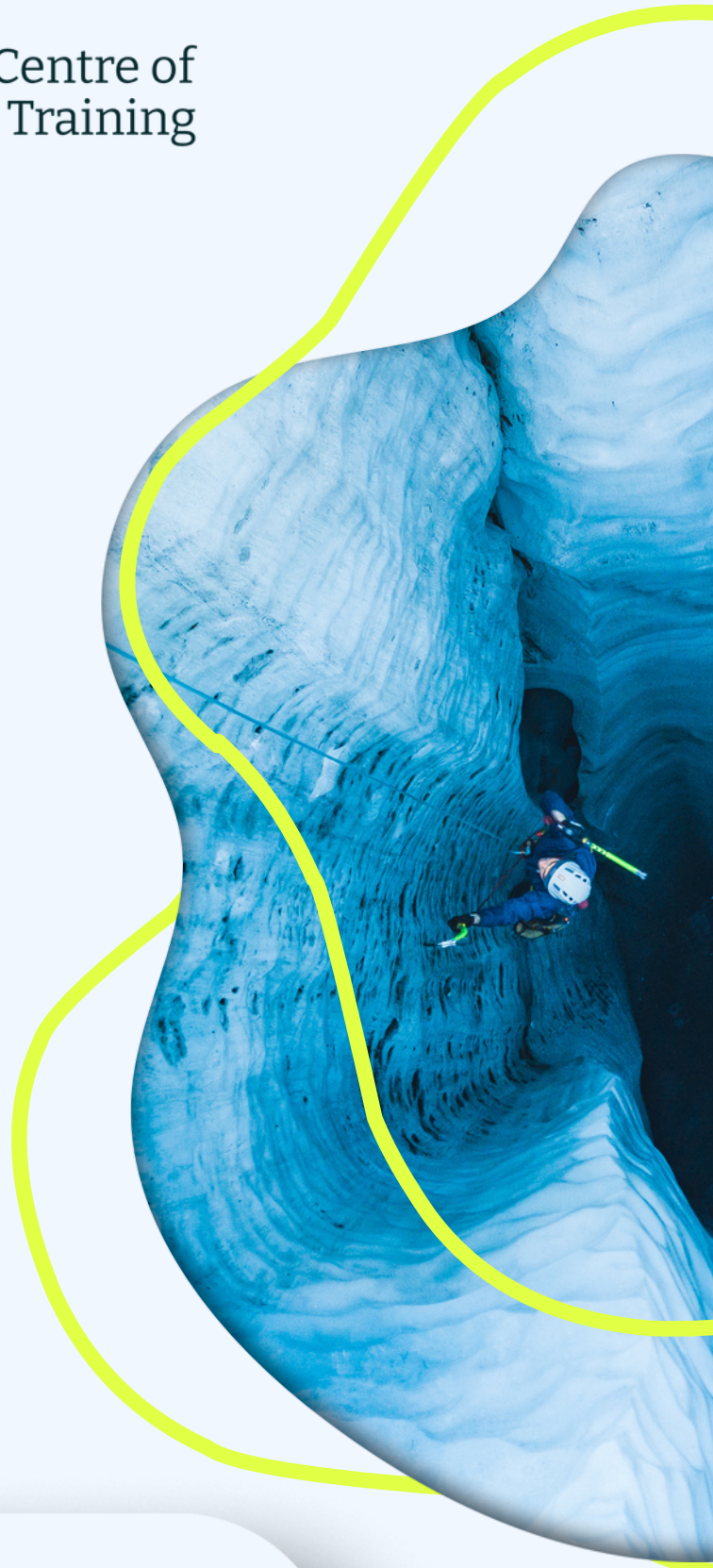




European Centre of
Adventure Training

ECAT Adventure Guide Training Programs



European Centre of Adventure Training
www.ecat-edu.com
2026

Presented to

Presented by

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The **ECAT Adventure Guide Training program** transforms outdoor enthusiasts into certified adventure leaders through comprehensive training across three European countries, Germany - Switzerland - Iceland. Our immersive programs combine technical skills development, leadership training, and industry certifications across multiple environments and seasons. Choose between our:

- **9-Month Comprehensive Program** (Starting Sept 2026) A complete journey through all aspects of adventure leadership, combining mountain, winter, and water skills with professional development and adventure tourism business.
- **4-Month Compact Pilot Program** (Starting Feb 2026) An intensive version of our full program, offering essential certifications and hands-on experience at a reduced rate for our inaugural cohort.

KEY PROGRAM FEATURES

Our program stands out through its unique combination of practical experience and professional development:

- **Hands-on Training:** Experience three distinct European environments, from the German Alps to Icelandic glaciers
- **Industry-recognized Certifications:** Earn multiple international certifications valued by employers
- **Small Group Learning:** Small student groups per cohort ensure personalized attention
- **Professional Mentorship:** Learn from certified mountain guides and industry experts
- **Business Skills Development:** Gain practical knowledge in marketing, risk management, and business operations



INCLUDED CERTIFICATIONS

Graduates earn a comprehensive portfolio of certifications that qualify them for professional roles worldwide. These credentials, issued in partnership with international governing bodies:

- **Wilderness First Responder (WFR)**: Standard 80-hour medical certification for remote environments (Certifying Body: Wilderness Medical Associates).
- **White Water Rescue Technician (WRT-PRO)**: Professional whitewater rescue certification for Class III environments (Certifying Body: Rescue3 Europe).
- **IRF White Water Kayak Guide Level 2 & 3**: Professional certification for commercial kayak guiding in Class II-III rivers (Certifying Body: International Rafting Federation).
- **IRF White Water Raft Guide Level 2 & 3**: Professional certification for commercial raft operations in Class II-III rivers (Certifying Body: International Rafting Federation).
- **IRF White Water Guide Level 2 & 3**: Professional certification for commercial small craft guides in Class II-III rivers (Certifying Body: International Rafting Federation).
- **BCAB Sea Kayak Award***: Foundational sea kayaking certification for coastal environments (Certifying Body: British Canoeing Awarding Body).
- **BCAB Sea Kayak Safety and Rescue***: Professional safety and rescue certification for sea kayaking (Certifying Body: British Canoeing Awarding Body).
- **ECAT Avalanche Safety for Outdoor Guides**: Professional-level avalanche risk management certification (Certifying Body: ECAT International Guide Certification Board).
- **AIMG Hard Ice 1**: Certification for glacier walks and ice climbing on hard ice areas (Certifying Body: Association of Icelandic Mountain Guides).
- **ECAT Via Ferrata Assistant Guide***: Entry-level via ferrata guiding qualification in non-alpine terrain (Certifying Body: ECAT Educational & Certification Board).
- **ECAT Top Rope Instructor**: Certification for supervising top rope climbing (Certifying Body: European Centre of Adventure Training).

*not included in 4-month pilot program

Please visit our website for a detailed course catalogue:

www.ecat-edu.com/outdoor-adventure-guide-certification



PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Our curriculum follows a structured progression through different environments and skill sets:

9-Month Program Timeline:

- **Fall Block - Germany, Garmisch-Partenkirchen:** (Mid-Sept to Mid-Nov) Focus on foundational skills, rock climbing, and mountaineering in the Bavarian, Austrian & Italian Alps
- **Winter Block - Switzerland, Villars-sur-Ollon:** (Mid-Jan to Mid-March) Develop winter sport expertise, avalanche safety, and ice climbing skills
- **Spring Block - Iceland, Reykjavik & various locations:** (Mid-April to Early June) Master glacier travel, water sports, and expedition leadership



TUITION & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We're committed to making our program accessible to passionate candidates:

4-month Pilot Adventure Guide Program (Feb 2025 start)

- Program Tuition: 10760€
 - Regular rate 13450€ - 20% exclusive pilot program offer
- Early Application Discount: 5% reduction for applications before Oct 31, 2025
- Registration Fee: €250 (non-refundable, applied toward total tuition)

Full 9-month Adventure Guide Program

- Program Tuition: 21175€
- Registration Fee: €450 (non-refundable, applied toward total tuition)
- Early Application Discount: 10% reduction for applications before December 31, 2025
- Payment Plans: Choose between:
 - Full payment (5% discount)
 - Quarterly installments
 - Monthly payments (small administrative fee applies)

Scholarships Available!

- Diversity in Adventure Tourism Grant
- Sustainability Leadership Award
- Career Transition Award
- Financial Need Grant

If you think
adventure is
dangerous, try
routine. It's
lethal.

~Paulo Coelho

ECAT



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

We seek motivated individuals who demonstrate:

- Age Requirement: Minimum 18 years
- Language Skills: B1 level English proficiency (IELTS 5.5+, TOEFL 72+, or equivalent)
- Physical Preparation: Ability to participate in strenuous outdoor activities
- Swimming Competency: Intermediate-level swimming ability required
- Winter Sports: Basic skiing ability preferred (can be discussed individually)
- Previous Experience: No specific outdoor experience required, but enthusiasm essential



VISA INFORMATION

EU passport holders face no specific entry requirements for program participation in all three program locations (Germany, Switzerland, and Iceland).

For non-EU citizens, we recommend applying for a German National Visa (Type D) for long-term stays up to one year. This visa permits stays of up to 90 days within any 180-day period in other Schengen countries, covering the program portions in Switzerland and Iceland.

Since visa regulations vary by nationality and program duration, we strongly advise:

1. Consulting the German embassy in your home country
2. Verifying specific requirements for your nationality
3. Beginning the application process at least 3 months before program start

For initial visa requirement information, visit the German Federal Foreign Office's Visa Navigator: <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service/visa-navigator-2489244>

Canadian & U.S. citizens: A simplified visa application process applies.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

Your program fee covers comprehensive training and essential equipment:

- Instruction: All technical training and certification courses
- Equipment: Field equipment and technical gear for program activities
- Transportation: All program-related travel during training blocks
- Accommodation: Housing during field-based courses
- Support: Career guidance and industry networking opportunities

ADDITIONAL COSTS

- Personal equipment and clothing
- Accommodation during non-field periods during courses
- Meals during field courses
- Travel to/from program locations
- Personal health insurance

Mountains are
not stadiums
where I satisfy
my ambition to
achieve, they
are the
cathedrals
where I
practice my
religion.

~Anatoli
Boukreev

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APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1: Initial Contact

- Review program requirements
- Discuss program fit with us - schedule an information session (phone/online/in-person)

Step 2: Formal Application

- Submit completed application form online (<https://www.ecat-edu.com/apply-now>)
- Provide all required documentation (email to: info@ecat-edu.com):
 - a. Current CV/resume
 - b. Statement of purpose (400 words max)
 - c. Medical form (will be requested once all other admission requirements are met)
 - d. English proficiency evidence (only if English is not your first language, provide proof of B1 language certificate)
 - e. Short summary of your outdoor adventure sport experience and copy of outdoor related certification (if available)
 - f. Two reference contacts (can be work or academic related)
 - g. Copy of a valid passport

Step 3: Interview

- After reviewing the required documentation we will arrange (if still necessary) a personal interview (online or in-person)

Step 4: Acceptance

- Receive acceptance decision
- Pay registration fee
- Complete & submit medical form
- Arrange payment schedule
- Start visa application process (if applicable)
- Submit proof of health insurance

PROGRAM COMPARISON



ECAT - Adventure Guide Training Programs 2026/2027

	Full 9-month Adventure Guide Program	Pilot Adventure Guide Program	
Program Start	From Sept 2026	From Feb 2026	
Program End	To May 2027	To May/June 2026	
Schedule Overview	• First Field Course Block: <i>Germany (Sep-Nov, 2026)</i> • Second Field Course Block: <i>Switzerland (Jan-Feb/Mar, 2026)</i> • Third Field Course Block: <i>Iceland (Mar-May, 2027)</i> Appr. 2-3 weeks between each course block to travel, practice, online work, etc.		
Program Fees	21.175,00 €	Regular fee: 13.450€ -30% <i>Exclusive Pilot Program Offer:</i> 9.415 €	
Registration fee	450 €* *deductible from program fees	250 €* *deductible from program fees	
Payment options	One-time, quarterly or monthly in advance	One-time, quarterly or semi-annually in advance	

Course listing

Foundational Courses

(x: not offered in pilot)

- FD-101 Wilderness First Aid
- FD-102 Navigation
- FD-103 Weather Forecasting
- FD-104 Leadership
- FD-105 Instructional Skills
- FD-106 Environmental Systems
- FD-107 Outdoor Ethics & Sustainability

✓

✓

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X

X

Outdoor Activity Skills - Mountain

- MT201 - Backcountry Travel Basics
- MT202 - Rock Climbing
- MT203 - Mountaineering
- MT204 - Glacier Skills
- MT205 - Via Ferrata

✓

✓

✓

✓

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✓

✓

✓

✓

X

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Outdoor Activity Skills - Winter

• WN301 - Winter Camping	✓	✓
• WN302 - Snow & Avalanche Safety	✓	✓
• WN303 - Skitouring**	✓	✓
• WN304 - Ice Climbing	✓	X
• WN305 - Skiing/Snow Boarding	✓	X

** participation in WN303 depends on students skiing or snowboarding skills (program fee will be adjusted accordingly)

Outdoor Activity Skills - Water

• WS-401 Whitewater Rescue Technician	✓	✓
• WS-402 Rafting	✓	✓
• WS-403 Whitewater Kayaking/ Pack Rafting	✓	X
• WS-404 Sea Kayaking	✓	X

Professional Development Skills

• BS-501 Outdoor Photo-/ Videography	✓	X
• BS-502 Freelance Guide Start Up Essentials	✓	✓
• BS-503 Digital Marketing & Self Promotion	✓	X

Please visit our website for more detailed information about courses / www.ecat-edu.com



CONTACT

info@ecat-edu.com

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