International Trail Auditor Training Course - 2019

Trail Auditor Training and Certification of Kythera Island Trails using the Green Flag Trails System
International Trail Auditor Training Course - Kythera Island, Greece
4 - 11 October 2019

Kythera Hiking and the Kytherian Foundation for Culture and Development invites trail managers and trail specialists from across Europe to join the first International Green Flag Trails - Trail Auditor Training offered by the World Trails Network.

This training will be the first of its kind in Europe using a trail assessment system that is tested and applied in multiple countries.

OBJECTIVES & BENEFITS OF GREEN FLAG TRAIL TRAINING

What you will learn:
- The sustainability of all trails depends on the trail meeting its designated purpose, through effective design and ongoing maintenance. Trail Auditors develop the critical skill of being able to identify trail attributes and features that are essential to trail maintenance.
Kythera Island’s trails are an ideal location for learning first-hand how the system works, by completing an actual trail audit and trail certification process.

Understand the role trail auditing plays in the overall trail design process.

Learn how to enhance the tourism and communications opportunities linked to your trails through an international system that helps ensure the safety and responsible management of your trails.

Learn in a group environment that encourages critical thinking to further develop the system.

Receive recognition as a certified trail auditor using the Green Flag Trails System.

TANGIBLE NEED
Why accredited trails are essential:
When a tourist or local resident wishes to hike a trail one of the first questions they ask is:

“Is it the right trail for me?” or “Will I be able to complete the trail and will I enjoy it?”

followed by: “Is the trail well managed and can I walk it safely?”

Green Flag Trails is an international trail auditing system delivered by the World Trails Network, the system works towards assisting trail users to make informed decisions about trails, resulting in more satisfied trail users who are able to choose a trail that is best suited to their needs and abilities.

OPPORTUNITY
Delivering quality trails
Many trails are finding that an external verification of their trail status, marketing materials and management updates, results in trail users being more confident to use the trail. This results in better trail management which is recognized, in fewer accidents, as the trail users are better matched the trail they are safely able to complete, and in more trail users using the trail, as the trail is accurately communicated for what type of trail it is.

A Green Flag Trail verified trail gives trail users, tourists and locals alike, the assurance that the trails are responsibly managed and meet stated standards and that all required information is available to make an informed decision about the trail.

COURSE DATES
4 - 11 October 2019
8 days of training and trail auditing in the field and completing an actual trail audit of Kythera Hiking trails.
COST

$350 per person

Includes:
- A 52% discount off standard rate for 8 day course, which is normally $680
- Accommodation on Kythera Island is included (7 nights, 8 days) Shared rooms (single room supplement at additional cost)
- Includes Breakfast & daytime tea and coffee breaks
- Transport on the Island to the different trails
- Printed course material and notes
- 2 Instructors, plus Kythera coordinators
- Celebratory Dinner

Excludes:
- Travel to Kythera Island from central Europe (estimated costs around $230 - $250 return)
- All lunches and 6 dinners
- Drinks
- Personal equipment and gear (Hiking gear, GPS, Smartphone, notebook)

REGISTRATION

Limited places available for this course means you should register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Places are by application.

>> Register here

CONTACT DETAILS

For logistics and travel related questions:
- Fivos Tsaravopoulos - Treasurer World Trails Network
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For training related questions:
- Leon Hugo - Founder, Green Flag Trails International
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT GREEN FLAG TRAILS

81% of non-hikers will either consider taking up hiking or definitely take up hiking if all trails were accredited.

64% of hikers will either consider going hiking more or definitely hike more if all trails were accredited.

Information needs:

- **Effort**: 5 days, 42km
- **Attractiveness**
- **Responsible management**
- **Accommodation & services**
- **Remoteness**

Information about safety, water availability, maps & directions and length and duration of the trail are critical.
BENEFITS OF THE GREEN FLAG TRAILS SYSTEM

1. Supports marketing for tourism – prestige for country – quality tourism products – adherence to responsible tourism.
2. Environmental conservation - natural heritage.
3. Sustainable trails - long term environmental quality for hikers to experience pristine nature.
4. Job creation – plan, build, maintain and assess (audit) trails. GF training includes basic construction info. Other jobs: booking, marketing, promotional material, maps, brochures, websites, transport, cleaners.
5. Legal assistance in case of mishaps / claims – GF does not guarantee 100% safety but at least has been given the opinion of a trained auditor to ensure that risk is being responsibly managed. Judge will confident that trail owner has acted responsibly by having the trail assessed.
6. Increase the marketing potential for larger range of hikers due to exact difficulty rating and the crucial information as to facilities provided and assurance of external objective check of promotional material.
7. Ensure hiking experience by hikers to be successful due to correct choice that can be made by hikers.
8. Value added at small investment.
9. The system is used with small adjustments to include cycling, horse, canoe, trail running.
GREEN FLAG TRAILS CERTIFICATION PROCESS

1. Trail manager/owner applies for certification
2. Auditors visit trail, clarifies objectives, audits trail, assess marketing material, etc.
3. Report submitted to trail owners
4. Complete essential trail improvements as indicated in the report
5. Auditor accepts proof of implementation
5a. If implementation unsatisfactory, no report will be submitted to GF National
6. Report submitted to GF National
7. GF National assess and submits to GF International Committee
8. Evaluation confirmed by GF International
9. Get ready to fly your Green Flag and receive certificate
10. After 2-3 years follow up audit

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