



GREEN FLAG TRAILS

Accredited & Responsible Trails



Great Trails all over the world

ABOUT



Green Flag Trails is a global system for assessing the responsible management of trails. All criteria that are relevant to responsible trail management are recorded and evaluated using a standardized procedure. The GFT system can be used for self-assessment, serves as a guideline for improvement and is the basis for certification by accredited auditors.

VISION



Great trails all over the world.

MISSION



We establish the worldwide standard for the evaluation of the responsible management of trails and empower trail managers to improve and promote them.

THE LEADING SYSTEM IN THE WORLD



With the relaunch of the Green Flag Trail (GFT) system in 2025, we have created the world's only trail assessment system for evaluating all necessary criteria relating to trails. This replaces the previous GFT Version 1, which only covered sustainability issues. The new system now also includes all criteria from all existing trail assessment systems worldwide, which primarily evaluate the user experience. This makes GFT the world's leading and most comprehensive system.

WHO IT IS FOR



Green Flag Trails is for any trail or trail network looking to enhance its credibility. Regardless of the activities on the trails, the system is suitable for:

- ▶ Trail managers and maintenance teams
- ▶ Regional trail authorities and parks agencies
- ▶ Sustainable tourism bodies and trail organizations
- ▶ Communities that want to showcase their trails on a world stage

BENEFITS OF GREEN FLAG TRAILS



By earning Green Flag Trails certification, trail managers and organizations will:

- ▶ Be recognized as among the best-managed trails globally
- ▶ Benefit from an independent, credible evaluation of trail quality
- ▶ Position their trail as a trusted destination for tour operators and travelers
- ▶ Strengthen local communities with sustainable trail tourism
- ▶ Access a network of professionals for continuous learning and support
- ▶ Improve trails' visibility through the World Trails Network and its partners
- ▶ Get International benchmarking with the leading trails of the World
- ▶ Utilize accurate trail data for marketing purposes

THE TWO LEVELS OF GFT



Level 1:

Self Assessment

The trail assessment system will be offered as a transparent and standardized tool so that trail organizations can assess their own work. The structure will also be suitable for integration into software platforms.

Level 2

Audit based
Certification

The trail assessment system is developed by the WTN and made available to third parties. These trail assessors can carry out the trail assessments for certification if they are certified by the WTN.

5 GROUPS OF CRITERIA





Trail Management

Trail management is efficiently organized and takes responsibility for the interests of all stakeholders, such as landowners, the local economy, nature conservation and trail users.





Trail Design & Features



The trail has been designed in the best possible way taking into account the trail idea and the target group. The trails offer plenty of attractions and views. The uniqueness of the landscape and the local culture can be experienced.



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Information & Safety

The trail route is clearly defined. Detailed and validated information about the trail exists and comprehensively describes the experience, requirements and hazards for the user. Navigation along the trail is easy, even in difficult conditions.



Environmental Responsibility



Trails are built with low erosion, little interference with nature and using natural materials. Visitors are well guided to avoid overcrowding and to protect nature. There is public transportation, toilets and a waste system.



Heritage & Community Impact

The cultural sites are preserved and enhanced. Traditions of the local population are preserved and brought to life. Added value is created for the local economy under fair working conditions without damaging nature.

TRAIL RATING SCORES



Trails must achieve a **minimum score of 70** in each area to become certified!



Green Flag Trails Criteria	Indikator	Score
Trail Management		100
Trail Design & Features		82
Information & Safety		56
Environmental Responsibility		94
Heritage and Community Impact		79

The assessment of many trail-specific indicators results in a score for 5 different areas.

See Scorecard

TRAIL RATING SCORECARD



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Current Score

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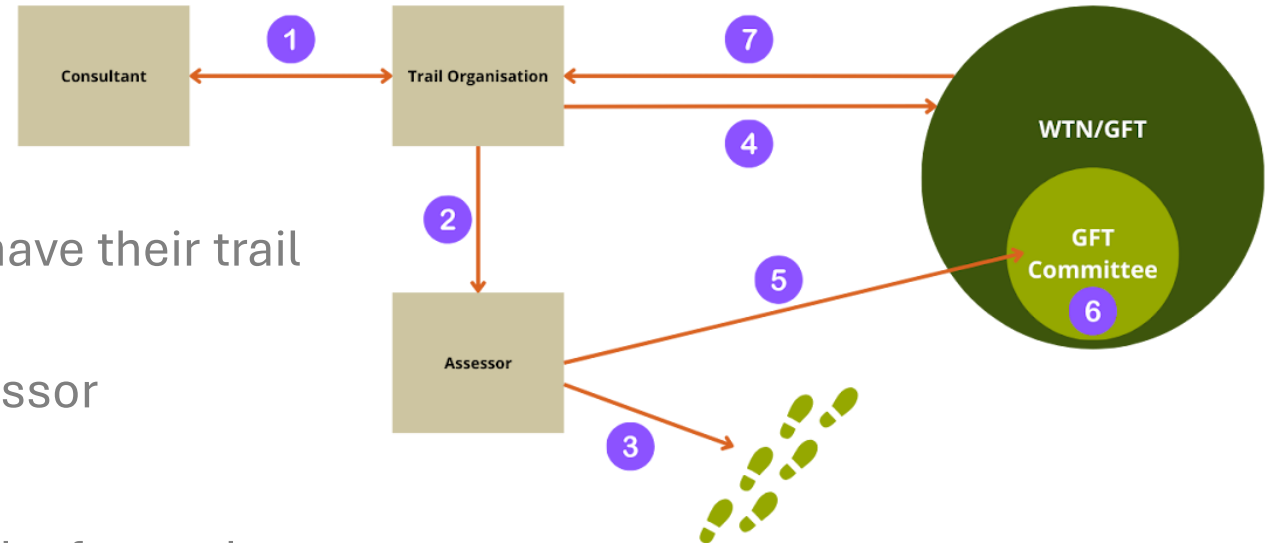
79

HOW TO APPLY



STEPS:

1. The Trail organization (Client) works to have their trail GFT ready
2. The Trail organization contacts the Assessor
3. The Assessor assesses the trail
4. The Trail organization applies and pays the fee to the WTN
5. The assessor submits the assessment to the GFT team
6. The GFT team checks the assessment for obvious correctness and approves or not
7. If approved the GFT team issues the certification for 2 years





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