



WFTGA

World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations

www.wftga.org

info@wftga.org

WFTGA – Common Questions Answered.

1. Who are members?

- Tourist Guide Associations, Individual Tourist Guides (where there is no association) and Affiliates (Tour Operators, Universities etc)

2. How much does it cost?

- Membership is based on the World Bank criteria for wealth – this means that the poorer countries pay less and the richer ones pay more. EXBO has the power to vary the membership dues to assist members with financial issues

3. Who represents the members?

- The WFTGA Executive Board (EXBO) is elected by the delegates (country representatives) at the biennial Convention:
- The Executive Board are unpaid volunteers and are all professional tourist guides
- The Area Representatives are appointed by EXBO and are also unpaid professional tourist guides who help the EXBO around the world

4. What are the benefits for members?

- Links to www.wftga.org which means clients can find tourist guides anywhere. It gives another profile on search engines and allows us to showcase what we are doing through "Guidelines Internetion@a1 - the web based magazine and news events.
- Listing on Viator.com – an international booking service for tourist guides – checked by WFTGA for licenses and qualifications
- Use **International Tourist Guide Day – ITGD** - as a marketing event for their own members
- Members receive the **Cultur Card**, which together with their ID or membership card gives discounts in hotels and visitor attractions around the world.
- Join our Facebook pages with all its opportunities for networking and potential tour bookings
- Guides can attend WFTGA Training events and the biennial Convention to develop their professional skills, network and find out more about tourist guiding around the world
- Guides can become International Tourist Guide Trainers
- Member Associations can host the biennial Convention which raises the profile of the guides in the host country and can bring financial surplus
- Guides in the emerging countries can apply for a Jane Orde Scholarship to attend the Convention and our Training events
- Through WFTGA – affiliate membership of United Nations World Tourism Organisation, UNWTO – get opportunities for cooperation in their own territory



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- Through WFTGA – in operational relations with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO – find opportunities for cooperation in their own country

5. What does the WFTGA do?

- Markets tourist guides around the world: through the website and presentations; by attending the World Travel Market - WTM, IMEX and other Travel Fairs worldwide; with our mailings and brochures.
- Raises the profile of tourist guides through contacts with international organisations such as UNESCO, UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and governments and authorities.
- On occasion, member associations can be invited to represent us at tourism events in their own country and thus raise their profile as well.
- Liaises with other organisations such as Federation of European Tourist Guides Associations (FEG), International Tour Managers Association (IATM), South East Asia Tourist Guide Federation and Arab Tourist Guide Federation.
- Organises and promotes the biennial Convention with the host country.
- Encourages best practice for tourist guides through our training courses around the world.
- Promotes EN /ISO standards for tourist guide trainers around the world.
- Supports members in national and international issues e.g. illegal or unqualified guiding, authority or government issues, qualification and training.
- Publicises International Tourist Guide Day (ITGD) to raise the profile of our members and the tourist guide profession.
- Creates the Cultour Card Programme for reduced access for its members.
- Publishes and distributes useful booklets and other publications for tourist guides.
- Acts as a global forum for tourist guides.
- Administers the Jane Orde Scholarship.

6. Who decides where the Convention will take place?

- Bidding countries present at the previous Convention to the delegates (country representatives).
- Delegates vote for the next location – each country has one vote.

7. What does the logo mean?

The hands of friendship and guidance joining across the world

8. Who's Who in WFTGA?

- President: Felicitas Wressnig, Austria
- Vice President: Wilja Siebe, Netherlands



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- Treasurer: Patricia Blain, Scotland, UK
- Secretary: Esther Banike, USA
- Members: Maria Aristidou, Cyprus; Lakshmi S. Priya, India; Roger R. Rajah, Malaysia

9. How can I be involved?

- Look at the website regularly to find out what's new: www.wftga.org
- Contribute to Guidelines [Internetion@!](mailto:Internetion@)
- Help with International Tourist Guide Day
- Volunteer to assist with anything that interests you
- Join our Face Book Page
- Join the forum: Guideapedia
- **Attend the next Convention in Prague, Czech Republic in January 2015**

Felicitas Wressnig

WFTGA President

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