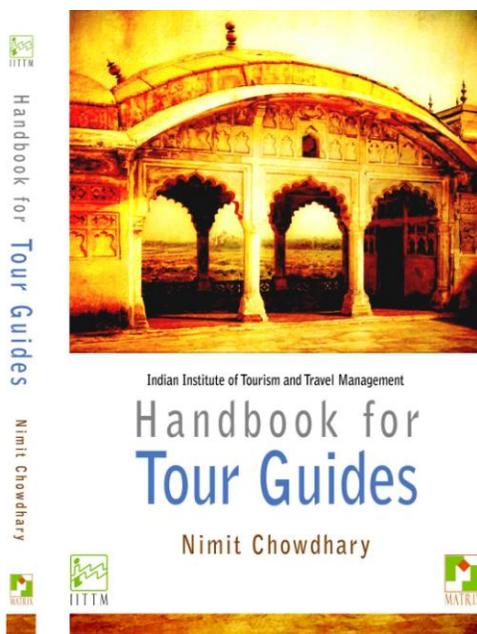


## Handbook for Tour Guides

Nimit Chowdhary, (Matrix Publishers, 2013; pp 238, \$ 7.95, Rs. 295 Soft cover;  
ISBN: 968 93 81320 13 6)



Nimit Chowdhary at Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior (India) has earned a reputation worldwide as an expert of tourist guide training. Nimit Chowdhary along with other faculty colleagues has been training tourist guides in different parts of India, which has allowed him insights into the nitty-gritty of tour guiding in different contexts and various settings.

The profession of tour guide is fundamental to the existence of tourism. Every time and everywhere when one talks of tourism or developing tourism, the first thing to attend is the supply of trained tour guides. Different government and private agencies interested in development of tourism organise tour guide training programmes. However, no quality training and reading material was available for the purpose. This is a long awaited book on the subject that learners have always asked for. Surprisingly, a book with clinical approach to tourist guiding was not available so far not only in India but in the entire world.

Another well known work is *The Professional Guide: Dynamics of Tour Guiding* by K.L Pond first published in 1992. While Pond's book takes an academic approach and deals with the context of tour guiding, theories and approaches, Nimit Chowdhary's book is an excellent work on practical tour guiding with most of the chapters offering practical tips to the readers who can readily apply them to practice.

The book is impregnated with excellent examples picked up as firsthand experience by the author. The reader connects very well to the interpretation to these examples. The 32 chapters of the book are divided into 4 sections. Section A

introduces the readers to the context of tourism, and role of tour guide therein. Section B is about preparing oneself to be a tourist guide. If an individual so decides chapter 5 on presenting one self and chapter six on cross cultural sensitivities will come handy.

Section C is a general prelude to tour guiding. Chapter 8 on Dynamics of Tour Guiding and chapter 10 on mechanics of tour guiding are real contributions. Such reading material didn't quite exist. Tour guiding in different scenarios is presented in Section D. This section is the heart of the book. Readers will find it extremely useful. Each chapter presents dos and don'ts tips and also guidelines on handling the typicality of the situation. Section E, deals with handling less desirable situations and preparations to be a responsible and informed tour guide. Last but not the least is the Section F that offers information about practical things that a tourist guide need to connect to.

In all, this is a ready reckoner for anyone who is interested in guiding tourists. Everyone in the tourist-guiding profession must own this book. In addition to the guides the book will also serve as a good text for undergraduate and postgraduate students of tourism who read tourist guiding, interpretation, escorting or tour handling as courses as part of their academic programmes.

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