

New guide courses through THE SVALBARDGUIDE EDUCATION



In 1998 Svalbard Tourist Board developed a set of courses aimed for front personnel and guides and tour leaders who were to be working actively in Longyearbyen or with field operations all over Svalbard, also called *Guide- og turlederopplæringen for Svalbard, (GTO)*. The guide education programme included a system for authorisation of guides that have the right combination of attained courses, guiding experience and a recommendation from a third party. As per today there have been given 101 authorisations within the categories Svalbard Guide Longyearbyen, Svalbard Guide Daytrips Summer, Svalbard Guide Daytrips Winter, Svalbard Guide Field Summer and Svalbard Guide Field Winter.

Late 2007 Svalbard Tourist Board initiated a revision of GTO. A contribution from The Svalbard Environmental Fund has made the work possible and we are proud to present a new and ameliorated version of the *GTO*.

In close cooperation with UNIS we can now offer training for existing and future guides and front staff through efficient and comprised courses. Self study and web based learning is central in the new model, but we have at the same time chosen to focus on practical training through the field courses both summer and winter. A number of the field activities in Svalbard take place in and on glaciers thus we are confident that offering a glacier course, meeting requirements of *Norsk Fjellsporforum*, will be greeted with local enthusiasm. To us it has been important to including those guides and tour leaders who are not Norwegian spoken; The new *Svalbard Guide Education* is therefore offered in English.

To ensure optimal learning conditions we have decided to operate with requirements to both minimum and maximum number of participants. In the case of more applicants than available spaces employees from within Svalbard Tourist Board members will be prioritised.

Svalbard Guide Education will arrange the following courses this year:

Module 1 (basic Svalbard knowledge)	June 15th and 16th
Module 2 (safety and shooting)	June 17th
Module 3 (field course summer)	June 18th and 19th
Module 4 (glacier course)	June 23rd till June 28th