COURSE OUTLINE

Before the season: weather, risk and navigation

A four-hour preparation outline for guides: two hours on weather, one on sustainability and risk, and one on maps and compass work. Based on the English course plan of 18 May 2024.

2024 outline / English edition 1.0

Edited learning material / September 2026

Weather and the mountain day

The two-hour meteorology block begins with temperature, humidity, pressure and wind. It continues through atmospheric circulation, fronts, cloud types and precipitation before introducing forecasts. The source connects charts, satellite imagery and weather models to trekking plans.

Local phenomena include mountain winds and differences between the Issyk Kul area and higher terrain. The closing topics are weather-related risk and emergency planning. The outline names these subjects but does not supply a complete lesson or operational protocol.

Facilitator preparation: select a forecast, a route map and observations from the same place and date. Ask participants to distinguish what they observed from what the forecast predicts.

Sustainability and risk review

The one-hour sustainability and risk block lists Travelife, guide-manual updates, pre-departure documents, mountain and activity risks, general country risks, minimum safety standards, contingency plans and first-aid equipment.

The source's risk-review headings are: date of assessment or review; hazard; how the hazard could cause harm; who might be harmed; and preventative measures or controls. Use these headings to review an actual programme with the responsible team. The mention of Travelife is a topic in the source, not a new certification claim.

Facilitator preparation: bring the current guide manual and the current risk assessment for the activity. Mark any unresolved item for the responsible person to review before departure.

Map and compass practice

The one-hour cartography block has four parts: scales and map types, reading a map, using a compass, and practical tests. Its place at the end of the day gives participants an opportunity to work with the material after discussing weather and risk.

Prepare the map and compass exercise to match the participants' experience. The outline does not specify an assessment standard or confer a qualification. The separate topographic reference and mountain-guide curriculum provide further material for planning.

Facilitator preparation: choose one map and state what the participant should demonstrate. Debrief the exercise by asking which information came from the map, the compass and observation.

SOURCE RECORD

Sources and edition

Adapted from Nomad's Land's Plan de cours théorique pour guide avant saison 2024, an English outline dated 18 May 2024. The four hours describe the source programme, not a promise of competence. This is a facilitator outline, not a complete course. Old venue details are omitted; practice prompts are editorial additions.

Source documents

Plan de cours théorique pour guide avant saison 2024