



Boat Operation & Safety



Certification

Graduates receive DTA Short Course Certificate



Duration

2 days (16 hours)

Course Description

The Boat Operation & Safety course is a comprehensive two-day short learning course designed to prepare field staff and boat operators for safe, efficient, and professional boating activities in wilderness and safari lodge environments. The course combines theory with high-impact practical instruction in boat safety, guest briefing, emergency procedures, mechanical troubleshooting, dangerous game encounters, and routine engine care. Participants gain the technical knowledge and situational awareness needed to perform daily boat operations confidently while upholding safety standards, guest satisfaction, and conservation ethics.

Course Outcome

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify and explain the anatomy and components of a boat
- Conduct thorough pre-launch safety, risk, and maintenance checks
- Prepare and deliver a structured guest safety briefing and maintain professional boat presentation
- Operate boats at safe speeds, respecting wildlife, other boats, and environmental standards
- Trim boats effectively and understand cavitation and ventilation principles
- Respond confidently to dangerous wildlife encounters, including hippos and elephants
- Communicate with radio protocols and give right-of-way, overtaking, and channel etiquette
- Handle comfort stop planning and guest safety with discretion and awareness
- Troubleshoot mechanical faults and demonstrate emergency handling procedures
- Perform post-trip checks, including cleaning, lubrication, and battery inspection
- Conduct routine and post-submersion engine maintenance, including spark plugs, fuel lines, and impeller service
- Use and maintain required safety equipment, including lifejackets, extinguishers, radios, toolkits, and first-aid supplies

Topics Covered

- Boat Anatomy & Operating Systems
- Risk Management & Pre-Launch Inspection
- Safety Equipment & Legal Requirements
- Guest Briefings & Onboard Conduct Protocols
- Boat Handling, Speed Control, and Safe Navigation
- Boat Trim, Cavitation, and Propeller Ventilation
- Dangerous Game Behavior & Ethical Wildlife Approaches
- Radio Use, Navigational Etiquette & Comfort Stop Protocol
- Mechanical Faults, Emergency Procedures & First Aid
- Fire Safety: Extinguishers, Causes, and Suppression Methods
- Post-Trip Cleaning & Boat Presentation
- Engine Maintenance, Fuel System Care, and Submersion Recovery
- Routine Service Intervals and Checklist Planning



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