



EWES

EUROPEAN WILDERNESS
EDUCATION SCHOOL



WILDERNESS GUIDE LEVEL 2 ARCTIC SPECIALIZATION

January 9th-16th, 2026 — Pyrenees, Spain
February 6th-26th, 2026 — Arctic, Sweden

www.ewes.earth



ABOUT EWES

We are a wilderness guide training school led by a passionate team of highly experienced and qualified instructors. Our core values include personal growth, respect for people and nature, self-awareness, proactivity, and learning through experience.

At EWES, we believe that learning is a lifelong journey for both instructors and students. We value progressive improvement over rigid evaluations, focusing on cultivating awareness and a positive attitude as the true foundations of success.

Our training blends the hard skills needed to live and work in the wilderness with the soft skills required to create meaningful and memorable experiences for others. Participants develop competencies in wilderness expeditions, survival techniques, wildlife observation, interpretive guiding, and hospitality, while also fostering personal growth and a deeper reconnection with nature.

We are part of a growing international network built on professional collaboration and genuine human connections. Would you like to join us on this exciting journey?

The EWES Team



WILDERNESS GUIDE LEVEL 2 – ARCTIC SPECIALIZATION

The Wilderness Guide Level 2 – Arctic Specialization is an advanced, intensive training program for professional guides ready to push their skills, resilience, and leadership to the limit. Designed for those who aspire to operate confidently in polar and sub-polar environments, this course takes you into Arctic mountains, through Nordic terrain, and across the vast expanses of sea ice.

Delivered in a single annual edition, the program combines **28 days of field training** with **online learning sessions**, ensuring participants arrive equipped and ready to make the most of their time in the Arctic. The field component is divided into three modules: **Winter Safety & Rescue** in the Pyrenees, focused on developing advanced safety and rescue techniques in winter conditions; **Arctic Mountain Environments** in Sarek National Park; and **Sea Ice Environments** on the Baltic Sea, both conducted as real Arctic expeditions where participants apply, enhance, and expand their skills while continuing to learn in authentic field conditions.

Throughout the training, you will refine your expedition leadership skills, practice winter travel techniques with skis, pulkas, and snowshoes, and gain the technical expertise to navigate and guide safely in some of the most challenging environments on Earth. From glacier travel and crevasse rescue to risk assessment on sea ice, the program will equip you with the ability to **plan, lead, and adapt in real Arctic conditions**. You will also learn to evaluate ice and avalanche hazards, interpret polar weather systems, and manage the wellbeing of a group under prolonged exposure to extreme cold.

Expect unpredictable weather, long travel days, physical exertion, and the mental demands of leading in remote, unforgiving landscapes. But also expect the reward of operating in breathtaking Arctic settings, the **companionship of working alongside other experienced guides**, and the confidence that comes from knowing you can perform at the highest professional standard.

Upon completion, you will receive the **Wilderness Guide Level 2 – Arctic Specialization Certificate**, recognized by the Wilderness Guides Association (WGA) and issued by the European Wilderness Education School (EWES). This certification is both a recognition of your competence and a gateway to joining an international network of Arctic and wilderness professionals.





LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1 Learn to lead multi-day expeditions in Arctic mountain and sea ice environments with effective decision-making and clear communication.
- 2 Build resilience, adaptability, and ethical responsibility while leading and collaborating effectively in multi-guide expedition settings.
- 3 Acquire the skills to plan, organize, and execute complex Arctic expeditions, integrating logistics, route design, resource management, and contingency planning for changing conditions.
- 4 Identify, evaluate, and mitigate hazards such as unstable ice, avalanche terrain, and extreme cold, implementing preventive strategies and on-site safety protocols to minimize risk.
- 5 Train in advanced rescue operations, including crevasse extraction, avalanche response, and emergency evacuation, applying both technical systems and coordinated team procedures.
- 6 Develop technical competence in glacier travel, sea ice navigation, roped progression with pulkas, and advanced winter camping techniques.
- 7 Gain expertise in selecting, adapting, and maintaining Arctic-specific clothing and equipment for operational readiness.
- 8 Develop knowledge of Arctic flora, fauna, and cultural awareness to operate respectfully and responsibly in diverse environments.
- 9 Understand and apply international and local regulations relevant to professional Arctic guiding.
- 10 Strengthen business development skills and expand your professional network within the Arctic guiding industry.





TRAINING LOCATIONS



MODULE 2: ARCTIC MOUNTAINS ENVIRONMENTS



MODULE 3: SEA ICE ENVIRONMENTS



MODULE 1: WINTER SAFETY & RESCUE



Parc Natural Alt Pirineu, Spain



Refugi La Pleta del Prat, Tavascan

- Mountain refuge with shared dormitories, meal services, and direct access to mountain terrain



www.refugiplotadelprat.net



MODULE 2: ARCTIC MOUNTAINS ENVIRONMENTS



Stora Sjöfallet & Sarek National Parks, Sweden



Stora Sjöfallet Mountain Lodge, Stora Sjöfallet

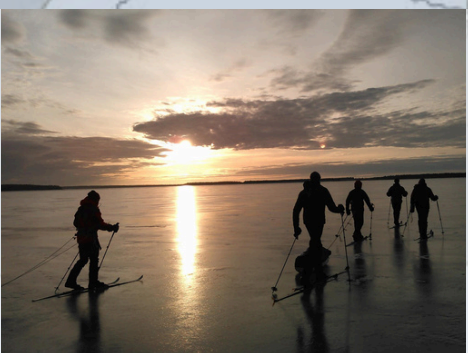
- Cabin accommodation with kitchen facilities, and access to Arctic mountain terrain



www.storasjofallet.com



MODULE 1: WINTER SAFETY & RESCUE



MODULE 3: SEA ICE ENVIRONMENTS



Baltic Sea, Luleå



First Camp Arcus, Luleå

- Cabin accommodation with kitchen facilities, and easy coastal access to fast sea ice



www.firstcamp.se/destinationer/arcus-lulea

IMPORTANT NOTE: Accommodation costs are not included in the course fee. The listed training base locations are where all course activities will take place during the official training days, but participants may choose their preferred accommodation type and comfort level within these locations. Please also note that training locations may be subject to change due to weather conditions, local regulations, permits, or unforeseen circumstances. In such cases, we will always strive to provide the best possible experience, ensuring safety and quality throughout the training.



TRAINING STRUCTRE

ONLINE SESSIONS

Live online classes that support participants throughout the program. Sessions will introduce the course, set expectations, prepare for field modules, and provide space for reflection and leadership development.

Dates: TBD

Key content:

- Kick-off & program overview
- Leadership development
- Expedition planning, logistics & organisation

MODULE 1: WINTER SAFETY & RESCUE

8 days of winter training to build the technical safety foundations for Arctic guiding.

Start: 09 January 2026 (Meeting at midday)

End: 16 January 2026 (Ending at midday)

Overnights: 7 nights at the base location (Refugi Pleta del Prat)

Key content

- Safety equipment & communications
- Avalanche theory & rescue techniques
- Ropework, knots, snow & ice anchors
- Glacier travel & roped systems
- Crevasse rescue (self & partner)
- Ice safety, travel & rescue techniques
- Expedition planning for Arctic environments





TRAINING STRUCTRE

MODULE 2: ARCTIC MOUNTAINS ENVIRONMENTS

After two days of preparation, we will spend 8 days in the Arctic mountains, applying and expanding the skills from Module 1 in real expedition conditions.

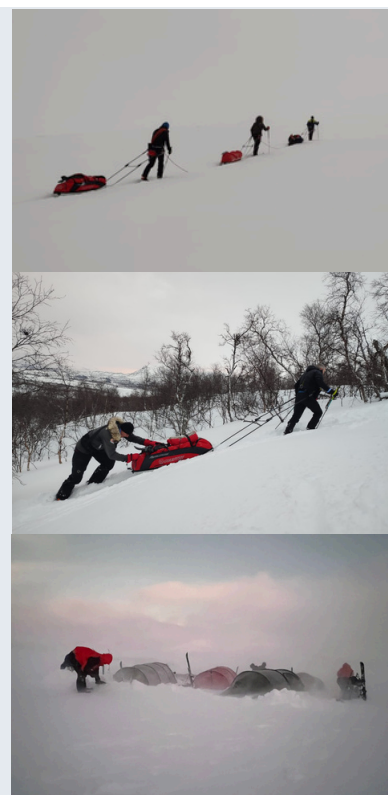
Start: 06 February 2026 (arrival at midday)

End: 15 February 2026 (finish at midday)

Overnights: First 2 nights at the base location (Stora Sjöfallet Mountain Lodge) and 7 nights on the mountains

Key content:

- Avalanche and crevasse rescue scenarios
- Group progression & management
- Navigation and travel in challenging snow-covered terrain
- Winter camp setup & multi-day living on arctic mountains
- Risk assessment and hazard management in arctic mountains



MODULE 3: SEA ICE ENVIRONMENTS

After two days of preparation, we'll set out on a 7-day expedition over frozen waters, focusing on safe travel, group management, and adaptability in dynamic sea ice conditions.

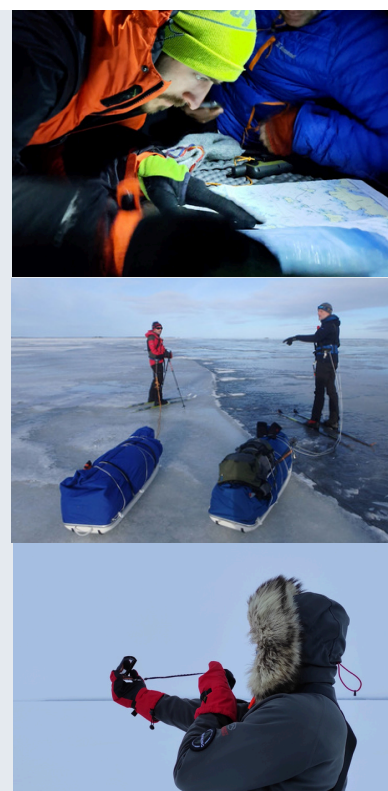
Start: 17 February 2026 (arrival at midday)

End: 26 February 2026 (finish at midday)

Overnights: First two nights and last night at the base location (First Camp Arcus, Luleå), and 6 nights on the sea ice

Key content:

- Travel techniques for frozen waters with skis and pulkas
- Sea ice navigation and route finding
- Open-water crossings & ice break-through response
- Winter camp setup and multi-day living on sea ice
- Adapting to changing ice and weather





TRAINING DETAILS



Language of course:
English



Minimum requirements:
Strong motivation, physically in shape, level B2 of English,



Minimum/maximum of participants:
5/8



Total Training Time:
28 days on the field + online sessions



Inscription deadline:
15 of October, 2025



Included:

- Personal interview and evaluation
- Online Sessions
- M1 - Winter Safety & Rescue
- M2 - Arctic Mountains Environments
- M3 - Sea Ice Environments
- Highly qualified and experienced instructors
- WG2 certificate (After completing the training)



Not included:

- Lodging (Estimated 800€-1000€)
- Personal equipment (see next two pages)
- Personal expenses if any
- Travel and local transport (Flights, car rental, transfers, etc.)
- Food
- Personal accident insurance (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)

TRAINING INVESTMENT: 5.490€

(10% discount for EWES former learners)

Access requirements

- **Proven guiding experience** (Must have experience in one or more of the following roles)
 - Mountain Guide
 - Wilderness Guide
 - Other relevant outdoor guiding experience (e.g., Nature Guide, Climbing Guide, etc.)
- **Relevant certification or training** (Must hold at least one of the following qualifications)
 - EWES Wilderness Guide Level 1 + Cold Environments Module
 - International Mountain Guide (UIMLA) or High Mountain Guide (UIAGM)
 - Other professional outdoor guiding certification
- **Demonstrated personal experience and having your own equipment**
 - Minimum of 5 consecutive nights sleeping in winter conditions
 - At least one trek of 7 consecutive days in a backcountry area
 - Personal equipment suitable for extreme and winter arctic conditions (See next two pages)

Note: All applicants may complete a registration form including access requirements. After this, a pre-course interview may be scheduled to confirm readiness for the program.



TRAINING EQUIPMENT

Personal equipment required:

Clothing system (Layered)

- Outer layer: Windproof/waterproof trousers and jacket
- Insulation layer: Down jacket / Arctic parka
- Mid layer: Synthetic/wool fleece jackets, sweaters, and pants
- Thermal layer: Synthetic/wool top and pants
- Head: Beanie, balaclava, wind mask, buff, sunglasses, ski goggles
- Hands: Oversized outer insulated mittens, midweight insulated gloves, wool liner gloves
- Feet: Thin liner socks (synthetic/wool) and thick wool socks
- Winter boots (Module 1): Comfortable winter boots, compatible with snowshoes.
- Polar boots (Module 2 & 3): Extreme cold-weather boots with removable liners, compatible with Nordic touring skis and snowshoes.

Travel Equipment

- Nordic touring skis with skins
- Ski poles
- Snowshoes
- Pulka with rigid system and rope system
- Pulka harness
- Pulka bag
- Duffle bag or organisation bags for pulka
- Backpack with rain cover (for daily walks from basecamp) + dry bags

Shelter & Camping Gear

- Winter tent with snow pegs and ice screw (for sea ice camping)
- Tent brush
- Sleeping system suitable for expected temperatures: sleeping bag, foam mat, inflatable mat
- Pee bottle
- Tarp (recommended 3×3 m) and paracord



TRAINING EQUIPMENT

Personal equipment required:

Safety Gear

- Climbing Harness
- Glacier travel & rescue rope
- 4x locking HMS carabiners and 6x non-locking carabiners
- 2x pulleys
- Ascender (e.g., Micro Traxion, Ropeman) - OPTIONAL
- 6 mm / 5 mm cord for prusik knots
- Slings (various: 60 cm, 120 cm)
- 3x Ice screws (varied lengths)
- Snow anchors (recommended)
- Avalanche kit: beacon (DVA), probe, snow shovel

Navigation

- Compass
- GPS
- Maps

Cooking & Hydration

- Drinks containers: Nalgene bottles, thermos flasks, etc.
- Fuel stove, fuel containers and fuel
- Pot, cutlery, plate, mug

Electronics

- Headlamp with spare batteries
- Power bank

Other Essentials

- Personal repair kit (Including item for tent, skis, pulk, etc.)
- Survival kit
- Emergency whistle

Medical & Personal Care

- First aid kit
- Personal medication
- Personal hygiene & selfcare kit



MEET THE TEAM



Josetxu Estebanez (UIAGM - IPGA - WGA 3)

Safety & Arctic Mountains Instructor/Rescue Specialist

With over 30 years as a professional mountain and sea rescuer, as well as a high mountain guide, Josetxu has led expeditions across some of the most demanding environments on the planet. His career spans Arctic journeys to the North Pole, high-altitude ascents in the Andes and Himalaya, and technical climbs throughout the Alps. Renowned for his expertise in glacier travel, crevasse rescue, and remote expedition leadership, he brings decades of hands-on rescue experience in extreme conditions to every training.



José Naranjo (IPGA)

Sea Ice Instructor/Polar Guide

As a polar expeditionary person, José Naranjo has a long and awarded experience. He has won the Spanish Geographic Society Award. Lots of expeditions carried out by him from the TransGreenland 2001 an expedition that crossed Greenland from the south to the north in total autonomy with a sled hauled by giant kites, TransBaltic 2003 expedition, Penny Icecap 2009 and crossing of the route North Pole Geographical to Canada after having skied for 40 days in a row on the frozen Arctic Ocean.



MEET THE TEAM



Peter Blokland (WGA 2)

Leadership Instructor / Leadership Specialist

After working for twenty-five years, Peter thought it was time to reinvent himself. That is easy to say, but it turned out to be quite an expedition. The solution actually lay in less is more. This gave him the idea of not being connected to anything other than himself and nature for 30 days. This is where he discovered the power of calmness, space and slowing down to reconnect before speeding up. Now he works as a guide at work and a guide in nature and share his experience. What it has brought him is peace, joy and a more valuable life. For himself and for his environment. Peter Blokland, together with Yvonne have five lovely children.



Henk-Jan Geel (IPGA - WGA 2)

Expedition Planning Instructor / Polar Guide

Henk-Jan Geel is an expedition leader, IPGA Polar Guide and WGA1 Guide. He owns Arctic Adventures, an expedition company through which they take people with no specific experience on adventures in the cold. He's trained as an Emergency First Responder and Wilderness First Responder, and he has background in the Dutch Special Forces (Korps Commandotroepen). He's been organizing Arctic expeditions for over twenty years, including four crossings of the Greenland icecap. He also served as Basecamp Manager for both North Pole Expeditions and Ocean Rowing crossings. So he know his way around the extremes.



WE ARE

Creating experiences of
**Being and
learning** in
nature

We believe all life on earth is connected.

We are one. . . we are nature.

We are **co-creating** a world in which all beings are connected to everyone and everything.

We do this by creating experiences of **being and learning** in nature and inspiring to lead and live from that wisdom.

The experience of our guides and experts allow us to explore to the edge within a **caring and empowering environment** and the best safety standards framework.

After fifteen years **learning, growing and evolving**,
EWES has transformed into an intentional community of purpose driven, committed, passionate individuals who thrive in the knowledge, a continuous pursuit for genuine growth and evolution targeting **health, awareness**, and most of all joy for life.

Dare to join us on that wonderful journey



The EWES Wilderness Guide Training program is accredited by the Wilderness Guides Association (WGA) and is supported by ETEVA and ICEMP, professional mountain sports schools accredited by Spain's Ministry of Education, as complementary training for professional mountain guides.

www.ewes.earth