

The Guide Lecturer Profile

Work Experience

At the end of his high school, Dharmin followed specialized courses such as , Effective Speaking and Communication Skills, Training of Trainers, Tour Guide Lecturer's Course, Wildlife Conservation & Management (Smithsonian) and course studies in Cultural Tourism at the University of Kelaniya.

He started his Career as an Executive Trainee in an Engineering firm manufacturing Tea Machinery, visiting Tea Estates for installation of new machinery, having also handled all their advertising work inclusive of photographing, designing and preparing catalogues etc, ending his career as a senior Manager handling the Green factory in Kahawatte, Work shop and Fibre Mills at Matara , Agricultural Complex at Wellawaya and fully automated Rice Mills in Giritale.

Since there was a boom in Tourism in 1982, he left this firm and freelanced as a Tour Guide offering his services to many leading Tour Operators and handled Tours and Excursions for the Cruise Ship "Canbera" Adubon Society of Portland, USA, MV 'Minerva' Swan Hellenic Cruises and many wildlife and Nature Tours. In the meantime, Dharmin did a television documentary with the BBC TV and gained a very good experience in the Art of making Films. He also did five episodes for Virgin Holidays promotions, a documentary for GM TV, UK and on Nature conservation for VRT, a Belgium TV. In 1991, he went to Germany to follow a course in Photo Journalism at The International Institute for Journalists in Berlin and was awarded a Diploma and the first price.

In 1981 Dharmin conducted the only Island wide 'Sea Turtle Survey' with a National Geographic Film maker from Madras, Crocodile Bank and Snake Park, covering the entire coastline of Sri Lanka. As a Nature photographer, he provided materials for Exhibitions for the Dept of Wildlife Conservation and also for the Dept of Coast conservation. He also held a photographic exhibition on the Sinharaja Rain Forest. In 1982, the first ever Mammal Trapping and Bird Ringing programme was carried out in Sinharaja for an NGO "March for Conservation" based at the University of Colombo. He also worked as a volunteer in most Forest and Nature Reserves in the island, Bird Ringing with Field Ornithology Group such as Kumana, Yala, Buttala, etc. He also participated in E.I.A.'s at Randenigala, Rantembe, and Kothmale Reservoirs and was technically assisting the Wild boar Survey for the University of Cambridge/ Gerald Durrell Trust. He was a member of the team of the Wild Elephant Survey in the Mahaweli Basin Region for the Smithsonian Institute.

He has worked as a freelance guide for companies representing , Swan Hellenic Cruises, P & O Lines, Bales World Wide, Exodus, Explore, Sovereign Holidays, Cricketer Holidays, Virgin Holidays, First Choice, Travel Bag, Thomas Cook , TUI, CTS Horizon, FOX, and Titan. He has visited Kew, Wakehurst Place, Hampton Court, Bath, Stratford upon Avon, Natural History / V & A Museums, The Tower, St Paul's, Canterbury Cathedral and other places of Interest with a view to not only enhance his knowledge but to also evaluate and make comparisons that would help him to relate effectively to the British clientele.

He is a life member of the Field Ornithology Group Sri Lanka. Life Member of the Archeological Society Sri Lanka. Life member of Tree Society , Life member of National Trust, Life Member of Tourist Guide Institute, Board member of Responsible Tourism Partnership, affiliated to the Travel Foundation, UK.

Member of the environmental Journalist Forum and the Vice President of "Friends of Stepping Stones" Foundation, a Montessori Project for Tsunami affected Children in Galle, with "Bamse" Swedish Aid .

In his part time, Dharmin has written several articles to the Newspapers on Tsunami titled "Tsunami shocks still echoing" on Boxing Day- The Island 2005 "Virgin rape and boomerang of Nature"- The Island 17th April 2005 and an article titled "Unfriendly Plastics" which was not published due to the negative impact it would have had on Small scale Plastic Industries.

Mr. Dharmin Samarajeewa currently is the Vice President of the Sri Lanka Institute of National Tourist Guide Lecturers, providing In house training and capacity building for Tour Guides and also organizing Seminars for them to enhance their knowledge. He is also a member of the Tourist Board team of Inspectors visiting Home Stay Units. Recently he was involved in Training of Trackers & Jeep Drivers at Udawalawe National park on Effective Guiding Techniques and Body language for the Department of Wild Life.

Dharmin takes numerous guiding assignments from Hawk Travels and exclusively handled the Nature and Ornithology Tours for the luxury Liner Cruise ship Mv. Minerva of Swan Hellenic Cruises apart from his expertise in the historical, Architectural, Photographic, Archeological & Cultural tours.

Dharmin has handled many Bird watching tours from Britain, Taiwan, USA (Audubon) and a Nature Group of University of Japan under Professor Koyama.(Revised hand book to the Flora of Ceylon, fame)

This Expert Guide will continue to remain, Bodaiju Tours Ltd, number one choice for nature and Kind.

Very truly,

Mr. Dharmin Samarajeewa
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