

Course Code	Course Name	Credits
26BY107	ECOTOURISM	04

### Course Objectives

- Make the students to opt various ecotourism programs in the self-employment stream
- Make the students aware of the usefulness and entrepreneurship opportunities of ecotourism in the conservation of natural resources.
- To examine the role of ecotourism in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.
- Help the students to assess various ecotourism programs.

### Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course it is intended that a student will be able to:

- Understand the principles, context, and practices of scientific ecotourism, forming a strong conceptual foundation.
- Analyze key issues related to the sustainable use and management of ecotourism destinations in real-world contexts.
- Apply the elements of effective interpretation to communicate scientific concepts clearly and engagingly to diverse audiences.
- Critically evaluate current ecotourism practices and develop practical insights through engagement with industry partners..

### Unit 1 - Introduction to Ecotourism (12 Hrs.)

Definition, concept, history, relevance, scope, and importance of ecotourism. Key principles and characteristics: nature-based tourism, interpretation, environmental sustainability, contribution to conservation, benefits to local communities, cultural respect, visitor satisfaction, and responsible marketing.

### Unit 2 – Components and Terms of Ecotourism (12 Hrs.)

Components of ecotourism: Travel, tourism industry, biodiversity, local communities, cultural diversity, natural resources, environmental awareness, interpretation, stakeholders, and capacity building. Important terms: adventure tourism, certification, commercialization chain, cultural tourism, canopy walkway, conservation enterprises, ecosystem, ecotourism activities, products, resources, services, endemism, ecolabelling, geotourism, greenwashing, sustainable development, sustainable tourism, and leakages.

### Unit 3 - Ecotourism Resources in India and Northeast India (12 Hrs.)

Major ecosystems, vegetation types, and tourism zones in India and Northeast India. Festivals and cultural events, famous destinations, sightseeing, historical monuments, museums, temples, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, hill stations, waterfalls, rivers, wildlife and bird watching sites, agricultural and rural tourism, tribal areas, tribal museums, tribal arts, handicrafts, traditional medicine, archaeological sites, sacred groves, and mountains.

### Unit 4 – Forms of Ecotourism in India and Northeast India (12 Hrs.)

Eco-regions and eco-destinations. Waterfalls and natural attractions of Northeast India. Eco travel, eco trips, and guidelines (dos and don'ts). Community-based ecotourism, role of NGOs, and potential of ecotourism in Northeast India.

### Unit 5 - Ecotourism Planning and Livelihood Security (12 Hrs.)

Objectives, strategies, planning, activity design, target groups, opportunities, and capacity building. Positive and negative impacts, strengths and weaknesses, benefits, stakeholders, linkages, and economics of ecotourism. Carrying capacity, auditing, facilities, green report card, management issues, and contribution of ecotourism to biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and livelihood security of local people.

### Reference Books:

1. Ashton, P., & Ashton, R. E. (2012). *Ecotourism: Sustainable Nature and Conservation Based Tourism*. Krieger Publishing.
2. Bhatt, S., & Liyakhat, S. (2008). *Ecotourism Development in India: Communities, Capital and Conservation*. Cambridge University Press.
3. A K Bhattacharya, 2005. *Ecotourism and Livelihoods*. Concept Publ. company, New Delhi.
4. Fennell, D. A. (2020). *Ecotourism* (5th ed.). Routledge.
5. Weaver, D. (2008). *Ecotourism*. Wiley.
6. Sinha, A. (2023). *Ecotourism: A Sustainable Development Perspective in India*. In A Basic Overview of Environment and Sustainable Development (Vol. 2).
7. Verma, R. (2024). *Ecotourism in Northeast India: An Approach for Sustainable Development*. International Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Administration, 4(2), 1–15.