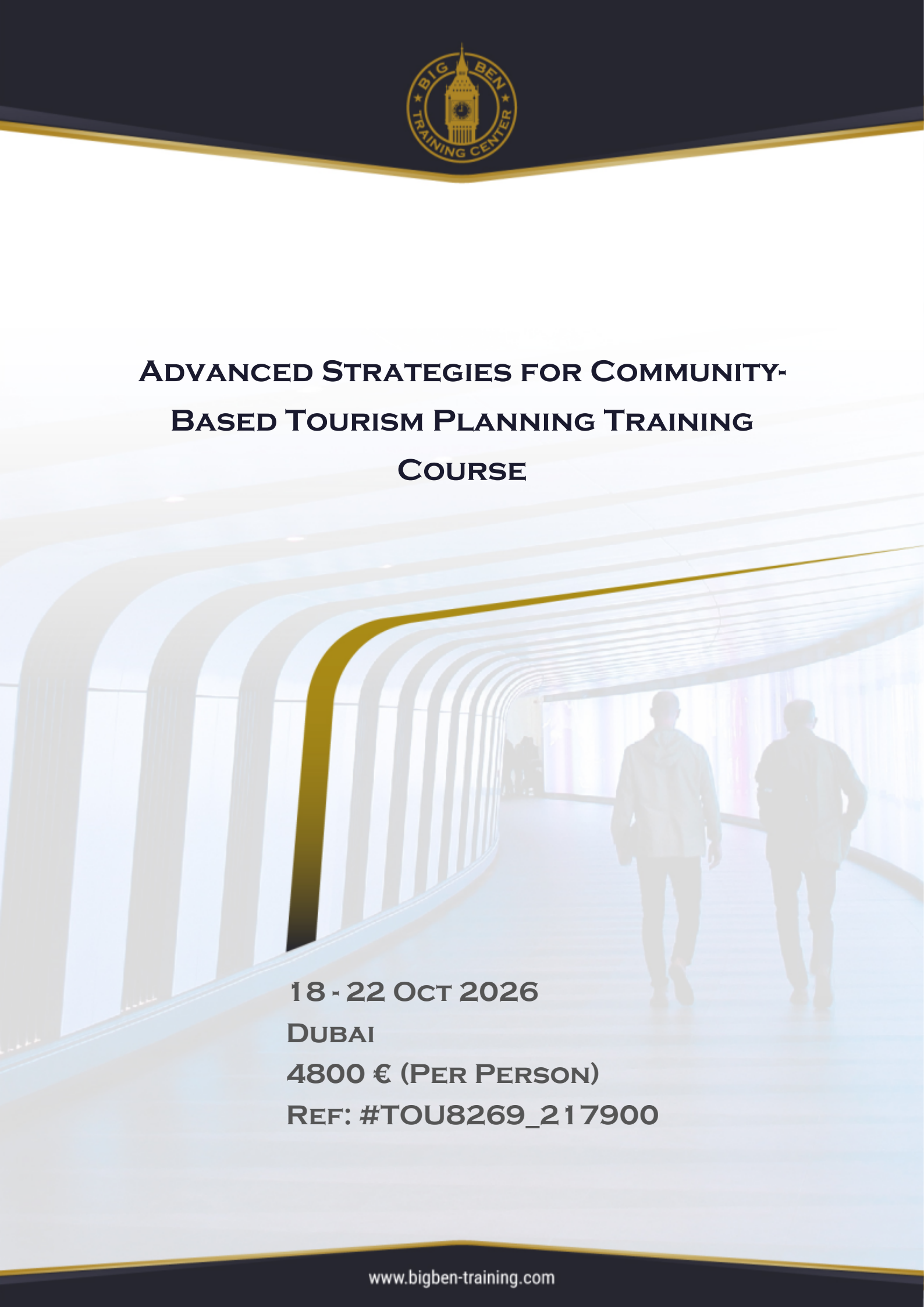
Advanced Strategies for Community-Based Tourism Planning Training Course



18 - 22 Oct 2026

Dubai

4800 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

Community-based tourism (CBT) represents a pivotal shift towards more equitable and sustainable travel practices, focusing on empowering local communities to manage their own tourism assets and experiences. This approach is not merely about providing unique cultural encounters but about fostering economic resilience, preserving heritage, and ensuring environmental stewardship. This is precisely the focus of the Advanced Strategies for Community-Based Tourism Planning Training Course offered by BIG BEN Training Center. This comprehensive program is designed to equip professionals with the strategic skills and practical knowledge required to successfully plan, develop, and manage CBT initiatives. Drawing from influential academic works such as "Tourism and Development" by Stephen L. J. Smith, the course explores the complexities of stakeholder engagement, governance models, and sustainable financing. Participants will delve into key topics including tourism policy formulation, community asset mapping, and the integration of digital tools for promotion and management. The curriculum is structured to provide a deep understanding of the socio-cultural dynamics inherent in CBT, teaching participants how to navigate challenges and leverage opportunities for long-term success. By the end of this course, professionals will have a mastery of community tourism planning and be able to create authentic, impactful, and sustainable tourism offerings that benefit all stakeholders.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Community development managers and leaders.
- Tourism and hospitality planners.
- Government officials in rural and urban development.
- Entrepreneurs and small business owners in the tourism sector.
- NGO and non-profit organization staff.
- Cultural heritage and environmental conservation specialists.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Tourism and hospitality.
- Rural and regional development.
- Government agencies and tourism boards.
- Cultural and heritage preservation.
- Environmental and conservation organizations.
- Social enterprises and community-based organizations.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Community Relations and Development.
- Strategic Planning.
- Tourism Marketing.
- Project Management.
- Sustainability and CSR.
- Public Policy and Governance.

Course Offerings:

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

- Design and implement a strategic community tourism plan.
- Analyze community assets and identify their potential for tourism.
- Develop effective governance structures for community-based tourism projects.
- Create sustainable financing models and secure funding for CBT initiatives.
- Formulate marketing and branding strategies that respect local culture.
- Engage and manage diverse stakeholders, including community members and government bodies.
- Measure the social, economic, and environmental impacts of CBT projects.

Course Methodology:

This training course employs a highly interactive and practical methodology designed to foster deep learning and skill application. The approach is centered on real-world scenarios and hands-on activities, ensuring that participants can immediately apply the concepts learned to their professional environments. The training incorporates a mix of engaging methods, including collaborative group work and in-depth case studies of successful and unsuccessful community-based tourism projects to highlight best practices and common pitfalls. Participants will engage in dynamic brainstorming sessions and role-playing exercises to simulate complex stakeholder management and negotiation scenarios. Course content is delivered through a combination of expert-led discussions, interactive workshops, and peer-to-peer feedback sessions. This comprehensive training approach, which includes practical exercises and reflection, is a hallmark of BIG BEN Training Center. The methodology is structured to cover essential topics such as community tourism planning, stakeholder management, and sustainable financing, reinforcing the learning with practical, actionable insights. By using a variety of teaching tools, the course ensures that participants are not just passive recipients of information but active participants in their own learning journey, capable of implementing sophisticated tourism development and management techniques in a way that is both effective and sustainable.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Community-Based Tourism

- Defining community-based tourism (CBT) and its principles.
- History and evolution of CBT.
- Socio-cultural and economic impacts of tourism on communities.
- Community asset mapping and resource assessment.
- Case studies of successful and failed CBT initiatives.
- Ethical considerations in tourism development.
- Developing a community needs assessment.

Unit Two: Strategic Planning and Governance

- Creating a strategic community tourism plan.
- Establishing effective governance models and legal frameworks.
- Stakeholder identification, analysis, and engagement.
- Building partnerships with local government and private sectors.
- Conflict resolution and community consensus building.
- Formulating tourism policy and regulations.
- Project management for community-led initiatives.

Unit Three: Sustainable Development and Financial Management

- Principles of sustainable tourism and the triple bottom line.
- Developing sustainable financial models for CBT.
- Grant writing, crowdfunding, and alternative funding sources.
- Pricing and revenue sharing mechanisms.
- Environmental impact assessment and mitigation.
- Cultural preservation and heritage management.
- Monitoring and evaluation of sustainability goals.

Unit Four: Marketing, Branding, and Technology

- Developing a community-driven brand identity.
- Marketing strategies for community-based tourism.
- Utilizing digital platforms and social media for promotion.
- Storytelling and narrative-based marketing.
- The role of technology in CBT.
- E-commerce and online booking systems.
- Crisis communication and reputation management.

Unit Five: Implementation and Long-Term Viability

- Operational management of CBT projects.
- Quality control and visitor experience management.
- Building local capacity through training and education.
- Measuring project success and impact assessment.
- Adaptive management and continuous improvement.
- Long-term sustainability planning.
- Scaling up successful initiatives.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

How can technology be leveraged to amplify the authentic voice of a community and ensure equitable economic benefits, rather than merely serving as a tool for external promotion?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course stands out by providing a robust, community-centric framework for tourism development that goes beyond conventional models. Unlike programs that may focus on large-scale commercial tourism, this training course is specifically designed for professionals dedicated to empowering local populations. It integrates strategic planning with a strong emphasis on grassroots engagement, financial sustainability, and cultural preservation. The curriculum's uniqueness lies in its practical approach to complex topics like stakeholder management and conflict resolution within a community context, using real-world case studies to illustrate best practices. Furthermore, it addresses the critical role of technology not just as a marketing tool, but as a vehicle for community empowerment and equitable benefit sharing. This course equips participants with the skills to develop tourism initiatives that are not only economically viable but also socially just and culturally resonant. By focusing on practical application and ethical considerations, BIG BEN Training Center ensures that professionals are prepared to lead impactful projects that contribute to the long-term well-being of communities and destinations.