

PATH TO CERTIFICATION

Achieving GSTC (Global Sustainable Tourism Council) certification for your organization involves several steps and a commitment to sustainable practices. Here's a roadmap to guide you through the process:

Step 1: Understanding GSTC Criteria

- Familiarize yourself with the GSTC criteria. Understand the four pillars of sustainability: effective sustainability planning, maximizing social and economic benefits for the local community, enhancing cultural heritage, and reducing negative impacts on the environment.

Step 2: Internal Assessment

- Conduct an internal sustainability assessment to identify your organization's current practices, strengths, and areas for improvement.
- Create a sustainability team or designate a sustainability coordinator to lead the certification efforts.

Step 3: Develop a Sustainability Policy and Action Plan

- Develop a comprehensive sustainability policy outlining your commitment to sustainable practices.
- Create an action plan detailing specific steps and initiatives to meet GSTC criteria. This could include energy conservation, waste reduction, community engagement programs, etc.

Step 4: Implement Sustainable Practices

- Implement the initiatives outlined in your action plan. This may involve staff training, operational changes, and collaborations with local communities and suppliers.
- Monitor and measure your progress regularly. Keep records of your sustainability efforts and their impact.

Step 5: Engage Stakeholders

- Involve your staff, guests, suppliers, and local community in your sustainability efforts. Raise awareness and encourage participation.
- Collaborate with local NGOs, community groups, or environmental organizations for joint projects.

Step 6: Documentation Preparation

- Prepare all necessary documentation, including policies, procedures, and records of your sustainable initiatives.
- Ensure you have evidence to support your compliance with GSTC criteria. This could include energy bills, waste disposal records, community engagement reports, etc.

Step 7: Pre-Assessment

- We can perform a Pre-Assessment where we can identify any gaps in your practices before the official certification audit. This will give your organization the chance to improve on any possible gaps prior to the certification audit.

Step 8: Choose a Certification Body

- Select a reputable certification body like RoyalCert to conduct the official audit. Ensure they are accredited by GSTC.
- Communicate with the certification body, provide them with necessary documentation, and schedule the audit.

Step 9: Official Certification Audit

RoyalCert will conduct an on-site audit to assess your organization's compliance with GSTC criteria. Be prepared to demonstrate your sustainable practices during this audit which is conducted in two stages. The first step is the Documentation Review followed by onsite certification audit. The first stage can also be an input for further improvement of the organization's documentation prior to stage two certification audit.

Step 10: Post-Audit Follow-up

- Address any findings or recommendations from the audit promptly.
- Once all requirements are met, and any findings have been resolved, you will receive your GSTC certification

Step 11: Promote Your Certification

- Promote your GSTC certification in your marketing materials, website, and communication with guests and partners.
- Continue your sustainable efforts and consider regular assessments to maintain and improve your sustainability practices.



Why Choose RoyalCert?

Instilling **Confidence** since 1996

At RoyalCert®, we take pride in being a leading international registrar that has been instilling confidence through our exceptional accredited certification, training, inspection, and testing services since 1996. With a global presence in over 40 countries and a growing reach, our mission is to ensure sustainable growth for both our customers and ourselves. Our vast network of +1,700 skilled professionals spread across five continents brings us closer to our clients making supporting them in their journey towards compliance and more sustainable business practices more efficient and accessible. Furthermore, their expertise and dedication ensure that RoyalCert's services uphold the highest quality standards, making a positive impact on businesses worldwide.



NEXT STEP

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To Learn More

: +49 69 257 12981

: info@royalcert.com

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