



Tomas Axén Haraldsson

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Born 1980-02-23

Married

Language skills

Swedish – native tongue

English - fluent

Arabic – basic conversation

French – basic conversation

Danish - fair

RESUME TOMAS AXÉN HARALDSSON

Eco tourism professional

Swedish upbringing, years of working in the wider Middle East region, academic degrees from Stockholm and extensive work experiences makes for an accomplished person and profile. I have worked with international development focused on eco tourism, intercultural understanding, youth co-operation and capacity building my whole adult life. Currently I am involved in Lebanon, Azerbaijan and in dialogue with more projects and organisations. UN assignment in November 2019.

Work experience

CO-FOUNDER AND PARTNER, GLOBAL IMPACT CONSULTING CURRENTLY

Me and my associate, Daniel Yttermalm, launched this consultancy in December 2017 to work with international development projects. It draws on our vast experience from working with eco tourism and cross-sector engagements in Uganda, Azerbaijan, Syria, the Maldives and other places in our former positions with the Red Cross, tour operators, bird conservation groups and youth projects. Read more about our services and expertise at www.global-impact.se

FREELANCE TOUR GUIDE, THE MIDDLE EAST

2008 - 2017

I worked with several European tour operators, conducting week long group trips to Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia and more. I planned the program, worked close with local partners and key people, wrote all documentation and web material. I am very experienced, comfortable and trusted in managing a group through Middle East towns and villages with very good feedback from both employers and customers.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, JORDAN/SYRIA

2010

During the fifth semester of my Middle East studies I did a period of internship with BirdLife International at their regional secretariat in Amman, Jordan. I spent a few weeks in the field in Syria with bird research at Sabkhat al-Jabbul and Palmyra. I lived with locals, used my Arabic skills and developed a good feel for the local contexts and government-civil relations.

TOUR REPRESENTATIVE, THE MEDITERRANEAN

2002 –2006

The years as a young tour representative in the Canary Islands, Crete and in Egypt are perhaps the most formative and strengthening in my life and on which I base much self reliance, resourcefulness and patience. Working closely with colleagues, clients and local partners in an international setting developed my leadership, servicemindedness, safety thinking, problem solving, knowledge and experience.

Education

STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY

AUGUST 2008 - MAY 2011

Bachelor of Arts (180ECTS) in Middle East Studies. Three years of politics, history, societies, culture and contemporary settings of the greater Middle East including the Caucasus.

STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY
Comparative religion A level, 30ECTS.

JANUARY - JUNE 2008

ÖREBRO UNIVERSITY
History A and B levels, 60ECTS.

AUGUST 2006 - JUNE 2007

TUI TOUR GUIDE TRAINING

JANUARY 2002

Two weeks of intensive intern training at the TUI headquarters in Stockholm. We were 20 out of 500 applicants that were allowed for the training and with overseas employment guaranteed. Hotel and service management, tour leading, complaints and group behaviour.

GRIMSLÖV ADULT EDUCATION

AUGUST 2000 - DECEMBER 2001

A three semester tourism program including service, tour guide training, resort management, eco tourism, nature/culture-oriented tourism. I did a two month internship with the youth volunteer travel bureau Go Explore and also two weeks on an Orca experience ship in arctic Norway.

LINDESKOLAN HIGH SCHOOL

AUGUST 1996 - JUNE 1999

Social sciences program with higher level languages in English and French.

Other merits

- * Project manager of the "Bird Camp" concept at Besh Barmag in Azerbaijan and in Lebanon, an international gathering for young people interested in mutual learning and bird conservation. I lead the work, gather sponsors, write articles and communicate the initiative. Interest from both Swedish Ambassadors, EU officials and Azerbaijani ministers. Since 2015 six camps have been arranged including 150+ youth from several countries. Read more on my personal web www.tomasharaldsson.se
- * Council member at the Ornithological Society of the Middle East, Caucasus & Central Asia (OSME) working with ornithological development, bird conservation and international efforts. My role as Youth Development Officer focuses mainly on how to involve and inspire young people across the region, promote our work, run the Facebook page, arrange events. I also founded the Facebook group Conservation Volunteers Network in 2011, aimed at promoting volunteer work with nature across the Middle East.
- * Board member for the Swedish organisation Centre for International Youth Exchange (CIU) during 2009-2011. CIU had during the period an office with six employees and an annual budget of 1-1.5 million euros.
- * Running a YouTube page on birding trips in the Middle East with some 25.000 viewings.