



# LAURI GATES

TRIPSCHOOL CERTIFIED  
TOUR DIRECTOR/GUIDE

## CONTACT

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- 📍 Dallas/Fort Worth, TX
- ✈️ DFW or DAL



## CERTIFICATIONS

Tour Director Certification -  
**TripSchool** 2025 (Washington DC  
Bootcamp)

First Aid/CPR/AED - American Red  
Cross

## GUIDE LICENSES

Washington DC

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

Boating, antique shopping, historic  
courthouses and architecture,  
reading/book clubs, psychology/body  
language, escape games, dogs and as  
much live music as I can consume

## DESTINATION KNOWLEDGE

Washington DC/Williamsburg/Philadelphia/Boston (Tours led)  
New England Fall Foliage (Tours led)  
Savannah/Charleston/Deep South  
Texas - Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio (Tours led)  
Well-traveled throughout US Midwest/South, Music Cities

## DESTINATION TRAINING

TripSchool Tour Director Bootcamp - Washington DC - 2025  
New England Fall Foliage (TripSchool FAM training - July 2025)  
Savannah/Charleston (TripSchool FAM training - Nov 2025)

## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- **Tour Director (independent) for student/adult Tour Operators: 2025 to present**
- **20 year career in corporate accounting, including leading teams in hyper-growth start-up environments**
- **4 years as a convention center event manager**
  - Coordinated facility logistics while vigorously serving clients' needs for banquets, sporting events, political rallies, concerts, conventions, trade shows and more
- **US Citizenship Teacher - 2015/2016**
  - Taught US civics/government content and coached candidates on interviewing skills for US citizenship exam
- **6 years retail and customer service experience**

## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

### University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

*Bachelors of Business Administration (Finance) - 2000*  
Study Abroad program to Valladolid, Spain

### International Association of Venue Managers

*Graduate of Venue Management School (VMS) 2006-2007*

## USEFUL SKILLS AND FUN FACTS

- \*Technology - MS Office, PowerPoint, financial platforms & more
- \*Well-traveled in 43 states and 14 countries
- \*Excellent active listening and rapport-building skills
- \*Passion for continuous learning for myself and others
- \*Effective at using humor, music and shared interests to bond a group
- \*Hearty midwestern work ethic (and just a bit of a Minnesota accent!)
- \*Superpower - Reading the room & adjusting to an audience on the fly