

To whom this may concern,

I am writing this reference with regards to the Africa Wild trails (AWT) trip that our school took and we also have a current trip booked.

We went to South Africa with AWT and 15 students ranging from Year 10 to Year 11. The actual trip itself was nothing less than superb and a real inspirational and life enhancing experience for not only the students but the adults that went on the trip.

The trip itself was divided into three phases, the first of which involved a couple of days in Durban to get over the long journey and a chance for the students to do some voluntary work in an animal welfare centre. From there the trip moved onto a bush camp which was our main base for the middle part of the trip. Students got to experience sleeping in canvas tents and spending evening around the campfire with no electricity for days (heaven!). In this part of the trip the students learnt a lot about the issues around poaching and the conservation work that goes on, visited a cat sanctuary (interacted with some cheetahs), had plenty of bush walks, met some elephants, snakes (all supervised of course!) and had a typical safari where we were lucky to see a black rhino in the wild. We also visited a traditional Zulu village and then had an incredible afternoon at an AIDS care centre which although a sombre experience, was one that allowed our students to spend the afternoon playing with the children and speaking with the staff that work in the AIDS centre.

From there our final part of the trip ended up in the aptly named Khosi bay where we stayed in some beach huts and continued to learn about wildlife especially the hippos and we got to do a river cruise and so saw the crocodiles as well but also watched a fish eagle glide in a catch a fish – quite a sight! Students also got a chance to do some snorkelling and kayaking in a picture-perfect location near the Mozambique border in Kosi Bay – and there was a bit of spear fishing thrown in – and the catches were cooked for dinner.

Although this gives a summary of the trip the organisation and care leading up to this was first class. Angus is an incredibly passionate and inspiration person and so this ethos embodies the trip. Leading up to this we had plenty of meetings with parents and students to prepare them and us for the trip. On the actual trip Angus was with us along with one of his staff from South Africa. He was an excellent guide and their knowledge and expertise shone through. Any excursion we went on ran smoothly and we felt safe and relaxed at all times. As part of the organisation we also met with the East Sussex County lead on outdoor activities to go through the plan and she also commended Angus on the comprehensive nature of each planned activity.

In addition one of our students was a type 1 diabetic with an insulin pump and so we had to make sure that her medicine could be looked after without electricity but also if needed we had access to medical treatment quickly if needed (that goes for the other students as well!). Obviously, all plans were shared with her parents and diabetic nurse who were all happy that we had catered for all eventualities.

All in all, it was a fantastic experience and we have another trip booked and so we cannot wait to go again. I would not have any hesitation in recommending Angus and AWT for any trip you are planning.

Yours sincerely



Jacqui James
Deputy Headteacher