

To Whomsoever it may concern regarding Angus Wingfield and Africa Wild Trails

April 4th, 2020

Dear Sir or Madam,

It gives me great pleasure to provide you with the following reference for Angus Wingfield and Africa Wild Trails. Hopefully the below is comprehensive and captures any information required. Should you wish to speak with me I would welcome the opportunity to clarify or expand on any of the information provided.

I have known and worked with Angus since he was arranging a school trip to South Africa that one of my daughters was taking part in, in 2014. Since then, my company has run a number of expeditions to Southern Africa with AWT as part of our Invictus Programme for Disadvantaged and At-Risk Youth and Young Adults. Alongside AWT running our expeditions, I have also travelled extensively across Southern Africa with Angus and feel both enriched and far more knowledgeable about Southern Africa, it's peoples, cultures, and flora and fauna as a consequence.

I had previously been looking for an appropriate organisation to work through and until meeting with Angus and Africa Wild Trails, none had met my own stringent requirements for ensuring anyone participating was able to fully benefit from taking part, would be safe, and, have an informative, memorable and rewarding experience.

My experience of knowing and working with Angus has shown him to be an individual of excellent character who is both empathic and sensitive to each individual as well as group needs. His knowledge, experience and expertise in running expeditions to Southern Africa, as well as working with young people, both advantaged and otherwise, is in my opinion second to none and I have absolutely no qualms in recommending him and Africa Wild Trails to you.

From our initial planning meetings during which we covered every aspect of the expedition logistics; including locations and activities to be included, participant preparation and kit that would be required, health and safety, risk registers and management and emergency procedures, through to the requirements and skills that would be needed by any accompanying personnel, the process was comprehensive, rigorous, and reassuring. In addition, during expeditions to rural Africa with the uniqueness of the environment and risks, there has to be an unequivocal understanding of how on-the-ground day to day management and leadership of any expedition will be structured and operate. This has been, and continues to be, exemplary.

The preparation phases of our expeditions are spot-on; fully engaging and preparing participants for the experience ahead and establishing a shared and common knowledge of the environment we would be entering along with the risks, establishing a behavioural contract, undertaking basic first aid training, setting learning assignments about culture, flora and fauna, and, ensuring all questions, general queries and anxieties were dealt with for the participants and their parents/carers as well as those that would be accompanying them.

In-country, Angus has spent many years creating an expert network of fully qualified support team members and guides that he selects from for each expedition. These team members are outstanding in what they do and bring great richness, and breadth and depth to the experience people have. Nothing is too much trouble for them and every eventuality is covered by their

preparation and involvement. Whether they are guiding in the bush, in the mountains, or on the rivers, the team of guides are incredibly knowledgeable and expert in what they do and always put safety first. I can advise that I have personally seen the qualifications of Angus' guiding team in South Africa, which are to the highest standard available.

During our expeditions, whether using tented or stone and thatch-built accommodation, it's of good quality and comfortable and a great relief to everyone is that there are ample and well-maintained ablution facilities. Getting to and from the locations used is normally by high quality and professionally maintained vehicles, and having met and travelled with many of the drivers, can confirm that they are highly professional and add additional commentary about Zululand and South Africa in general. They all follow very strict safe driving requirements with strict protocols for ongoing communication between vehicles should more than 1 be required.

The accommodation and catering are perfect. Many people find themselves sleeping better and eating more healthily than when at home and I've always found that any specific dietary requirements are easily handled by the catering teams. In addition, anyone with any type of disability, visible or otherwise, is readily accommodated and fully involved.

Whilst in-country the focus stays on health and safety throughout, with daily briefings and activity specific briefings being the norm. What I have always found reassuring is that Angus and his team have a zero tolerance for any behaviour that might put an individual or others at risk and have known him to remove adult support leaders from other programmes he has run when people have refused to work within known safe protocols and guidelines.

Angus' expedition leadership is highly professional and expert. In my opinion he (and his team) are 'as good as it gets' when it comes to expedition leadership and I would not chose to work with any other provider, including those of much larger scale. There is incredible attention to logistics, safety and other details necessary to ensure any trips are incredible and safe experience for people. Angus is constantly maintaining and upgrading his own knowledge and expertise and readily shares this with those with whom he works.

In summary, I can't recommend Angus and AWT highly enough to you. As mentioned at the beginning, please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information or expansion of the above.

Your faithfully

Kevin Lawrence
Founder and Managing Director
Odyssey Group and Odyssey Invictus