



deeply for Morocco itself. He is an ardent campaigner for travelling sustainably and responsibly, encouraging guests to explore with the lightest of touches, and ensuring that the group's money is spent on local businesses that benefit the community.

### What you said

"Abdu goes out of his way to promote sustainable travel."

"This being Morocco, most of our interactions had been with local men, and we mentioned how refreshing it would be to talk to some women about their lives. That same night he arranged for some local women to sit with us, and he translated a wonderful discussion. He always goes above and beyond."

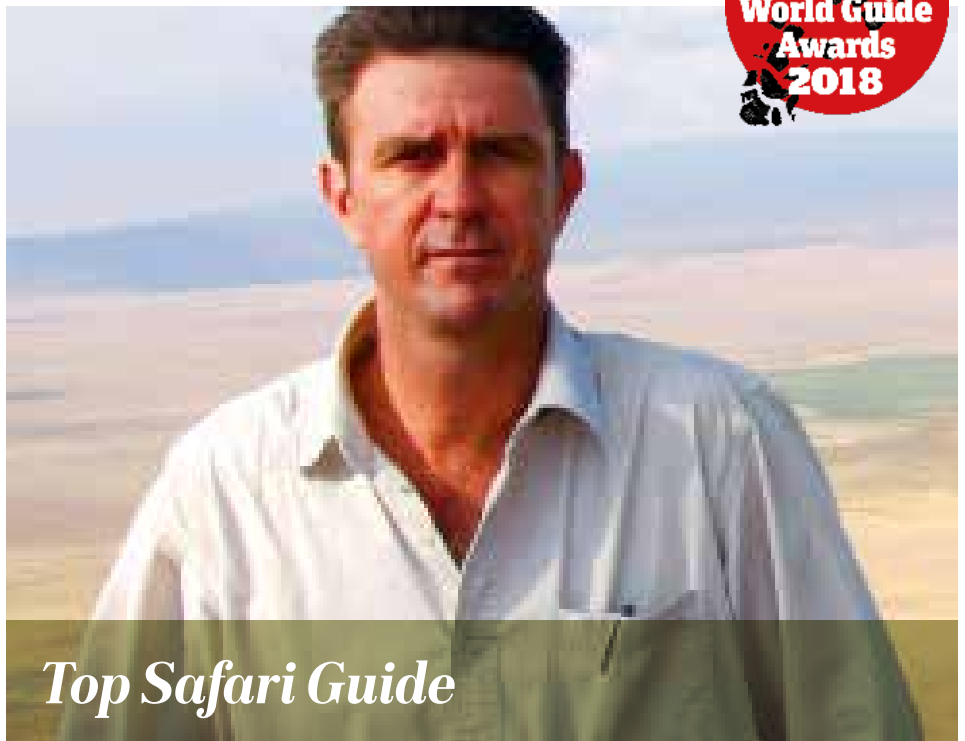
"Laughing and learning while travelling – what more could we want?"

### The judges' view

Myles Farnbank was impressed by how Abdu gets his customers engaged in local life. Derek Moore commented on Abdu's great customer care and ability to bring a group together.

### Bursary plans

Abderrahim will put his bursary towards a new school for Berber children, in a rural village called Tarzout.



## Top Safari Guide

### Garth Hovell

**Where he guides:** Worldwide

**Booked through:** Abercrombie & Kent ([abercrombiekent.co.uk](http://abercrombiekent.co.uk))

Whether he's leading sunrise game drives or mixing sunset cocktails in the middle of the bush, Garth is tireless in his pursuit of the perfect tailor-made safari holiday. Our inbox was full of testimonials about his ability to make clients feel connected to the landscape; to spot even the most camouflaged wildlife from afar; and to enthral everyone, whether they're aged two or 92, with tales of the African wilderness. "By the end of the trip, we were calling him 'Indiana Jones', wrote one of Garth's previous clients, "because we felt we were on an amazing journey of discovery with him."

Born in 1975 in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe and raised in Botswana, Garth grew up with a passion for wildlife

**"We run a tourism company in South Africa, and deal with hundreds of guides. Garth always stands out for his knowledge, professionalism, and excellent care of each one of his guests"**

and adventure, and has achieved some of sub-Saharan Africa's toughest guiding qualifications. Over the last 24 years he has led hundreds of people on tailor-made safaris – and many of them return to travel with him time and again. Garth now ventures all over the world to lead trips for his repeat clients, but his first love will always be Africa.

### What you said

"We've been on dozens of safaris. The best were with Garth – hands down."

"Our family has travelled with Garth all over the world. He does endless preparation before each trip to make sure it is perfect. We actually don't want to recommend him, because we want him all to ourselves! But our love for him as a friend and (almost) member of our family overwhelms such selfishness. We have already planned another two trips with him."

"In addition to his flawless guiding, he is an excellent photographer, and provides us with a beautiful hardcover book after every trip."

### The judges' view

Myles Farnbank said, "The depth of Garth's passion jumped out. He really does transform and change lives, and his many repeat customers regard him as a lifelong friend." ►