

YOUTHWORX EAST AFRICA NEWSLETTER



Today's random quote

"We meet no ordinary people in our lives" C.S Lewis.

Here in Uganda, the baganda have a saying that loosely translates as- to travel is to see, to return is to narrate...or something like that. As you all know we hosted two young men a couple of weeks back. These young men wrote of their experience in "Africa" and specifically with us here at YEA. Its always refreshing to hear a fresh voice talking about this track we trek on. Here is what one of them had to say- don't worry. You'll figure out who it is very shortly...

Leo

Uganda was a great opportunity for me to experience many new things: eating Jack Fruit, crocodile, goat and Cassava. I lost track of the amazing animals I saw in their natural habitats (zebra, hippos-*we camped with these*, lions and red tail monkeys.

We spent a lot of time visiting schools which usually included a tour, food and then a talk to either a class of children (of about 30) or to the whole school (about 200). I was never met with hostility by anyone although it was difficult walking anywhere as the adults wanted to talk to you while the children latched on to our arms and legs.

Listening to the Ugandan's singing was very special for me. It didn't matter whether it was at someone's house, a church, a baptism, a school or a funeral it seemed to be an integral part of society. After three exhausting weeks, we went on safari to experience how gorgeous Uganda's wildlife and landscape is.

At points I felt uncomfortable, for example we attended a strangers funeral, told to sit in the front row seats of a service that lasted two hours all in a foreign language. Initially it was daunting when speaking to a whole school of 16-25 year olds, however we made them guess how old we were and did not reveal our ages till the very end.

One such scenario was on an eight hour coach trip back to Kampala where we had no way of communicating to the driver so we had to hand our phone to the driver with Colin on the other side to work out where to drop us. It did not go quite as planned once again. We survived though.

From what I had heard, I knew that it would be vastly different to what it is like in the UK. There were many obvious differences going to Uganda: few tarmac roads and multi-storey buildings outside of Kampala; hotter; our diet contained more starch, more fresh fruit and vegetables and in much larger quantities; there were few cars but many bikes (bod-abodas); far more welcoming; time keeping is less important; far tighter community; ect...

In summary this Uganda experience was a real mix of excitement, adventure, learning and an opportunity to teach others. Ultimately it has reinforced my belief that no matter the circumstance or how unfamiliar the situation is, everything is and will be ok.

Eugene

Working with YEA is an exercise of faith; from the finances to actually doing the work you were meant to do when you get to a place. If you think you know someone (*refer to random quote above*) who would be interested in stepping out, get in touch today and we have a chat.

God Bless

