



29th October 2019

Nine volunteers, loaded up with 27 bags of kit, met at Gatwick airport to fly with Rwandair who once again had generously allowed us 69kg of hold baggage each. The tourists were a mix of players and coaches from Wales, England, Scotland and France. We flew overnight arriving in Kigali at 7am where we met up with our 10th tourist from South Africa. A fantastic multicultural group with a wide range of experience.



30th October 2019

Having arrived early morning – there was no time to rest! We sorted phones, money and breakfast, dumped our bags at the guesthouse and got ready for the first session of training with the national team, the Silverbacks. The Ministry of Sport had allowed us to use the Amahoro Stadium - a wonderful venue especially as we were recording video to feature on ITV.



31st October – 1st November 2019

We had two full days’ of training at the local pitch at Gatenga - part of a fantastic school and youth sports centre. The pitch was walking distance so we attracted a lot of interest as we walked to the ground carrying the training equipment. Despite many challenges facing them, we were delighted that so many of the Silverbacks squad attended all of the sessions and were very enthusiastic and keen to learn. We had a lot of rain and mud to deal with but everyone kept smiling and there was a hand pump nearby to help with the clean up.





2nd November 2019

We had the morning off to watch the RWC final in a bar in Kigali. Then it was back to the stadium in the afternoon for another round of training. We found time to sort out all of the kit we had brought.



3rd November

We had a welcome day off to visit a pool and experience the hectic delights of Kimironko market where some of the team were measured up for some fine Rwandan clothes that were made within an hour.



4th November

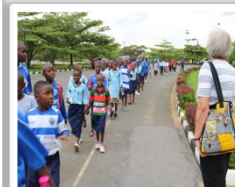
We spent the morning visiting the fantastic children at the MEG foundation and visited the Genocide memorial museum.

5-6th November 2019

After a final training day at Gatenga, it was back to the stadium for a match. We were delighted that the children from the MEG foundation came along to support us. They walked an hour and 40 minutes to the stadium and danced and sang through the whole game. Our team looked fantastic in the 'Inshutizurwanda' (friends of Rwanda) shirts made at a great price from Rhino and sponsored by Beddow Partnership. The game ended 10-8 to the Silverbacks which showed what a wonderful job our coaches had done to prepare the team for their World Cup qualifier against Ivory Coast on Nov 23rd. Our celebration end-of-tour-dinner was at Khana Kazana curry house.



What a trip! Huge thank you to those who came and did such an amazing job, to all of our donors and sponsors and of course to the wonderful Rwandan people who stole a few more hearts!



#1for1for1 - £1 pays for 1 child to have regular rugby coaching for 1 year. Help us reach more children by donating at <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/friendsofrwandanrugby>

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