quest overseas

Rwanda Children of Hope

- **Help construct a much needed home for abandoned children**
- **Help to build a future for boys affected by the genocide**
- **Gain experience in overseas development work and be part of something sustainable**
- **Take time to reflect on the purpose of your visit while visiting one of Africa's lesser known gems**

At the moment the boys' home is located in the capital of Rwanda; Kigali. Hidden behind a bustling market, you need to navigate your way through a labyrinth of muddy back streets between, and on occasion through, people's homes to find it. It is cramped and inadequate for their needs. Furthermore the home is rented and supported by the local community, with no guarantee of rent there is the constant threat of eviction.

All the boys have at one stage lived on the streets and wear the scars of such a lifestyle. They are however good kids and detailed reports are kept on their history and progress. We forget too easily the importance of childhood and by working to build a new home the boys will be given the renewed chance of childhood they deserve, in a safe and secure environment.

We are committed to turning around the lives of homeless children and young people in Kigali. The work is not going to be easy; it is both mentally and physically strenuous, but in achieving this goal you will have made a positive sustainable difference to these boys' lives.

Activities: The main purpose is in the construction of a new home this includes all elements from latrines to dormitories and kitchens. You will also be given the opportunity to explore more of Rwanda with your Quest Leaders

Team size: 8-16 people

Duration: 5 weeks, including weekend activities

Departs: early July

Cost: £900 cost to Quest Overseas + £850 project donation
Includes all accommodation, food, activities, in-country travel, local tipping, airport transfers, two Quest leaders. Excludes international flights and insurance.

What to Expect:

Work includes construction- cement mixing, carrying rocks and sand, digging, carrying water. You may also get involved in day to day activities with the boys informal education.

Project Work, Day to Day Itinerary:

06:00 Wake up and breakfast.
07:00 Leave for worksite.
08:00 Start Work.
11:00 Morning tea break, chai (African tea) with mandazi (doughnut) or a chapatti (pancake).
13:00 Lunch break. Either taken on site or back at volunteer accommodation.
14:00 Back to work.
16:30 Finish work, wash tools, clean up and return to volunteer accommodation.
18:30 Evening meal prepared by volunteers.
20:00 Evening relaxing, playing cards etc then early to bed.

The Construction Project:

The build of the new home is to utilize as much of the resources available to us, this will including compressing bricks, mixing mortar and making the home a green build. For example the waste from the toilets is to be reused as fertilizer and the airflow from the wind will cool the building. Some of the older boys are to be taken on as apprentices by the local fundis (builders) that are being employed to assist in the build.

There is so much work that needs to be done, the buildings that are to be constructed range from dorm rooms to toilets and kitchens to access routes.

A brief history on the project:

In 2003, an ex-street child named Evode Usabyamahoro started an initiative to help boys living on the street. Through local donations he was able to rent a small house in Kigali. 4 small rooms with inadequate toilet facilities and crowded and basic living conditions are better than no home at all but the boys deserve more. You can help Quest to build a much-needed new home.

Food & drink:

You will be eating food that you and your team will cook such as a rice or potato based dishes with vegetable stew and/or sausages/chicken with salad.

Accommodation:

Accommodation is on site or near the project, group size pending. It is very basic. For the fist team we are likely to be using a school classroom that is unoccupied due to the children's holidays it is safe and has water access. After the first group we will be camping on site providing the first team complete all their builds.

Weather:

The dry season in Africa lasts from April to September. Most of the time the weather will be cool and dry, around 15-20 degrees, but towards the end of the Project it will get gradually hotter.

Weekend Activities:

You will get to relax with the community you are living in, explore the hustle and bustle of Kigali and experience normal Rwandan life with a home stay, subject to community approval. At the end of the project, you will go the shores of Lake Kivu for some much needed rest.

Pre-departure Preparation:

Quest provides Pre-Departure Training in the UK for all team members. This is in addition to the in-country Orientation Days you will receive when you arrive in Africa. Our UK Pre-Departure Training covers Responsible Travel, Cultural Awareness, Health & Hygiene, Risk Assessment, Teamwork and Onward Travel. It also provides you with the opportunity to meet the rest of your team and your leaders before going overseas.

Fitness:

You will be working long days and using muscles that you never knew existed. It is important to have a good level of fitness to begin with so that you can acclimatise to both the work and hot temperatures faster.

How much does it cost, and where does my money go?

Project: £900

70% - payment for your trip, this is what gets spent overseas during your trip.
15% - staff, both UK and overseas.
15% - office costs, project and expedition research, boring admin.

Donation: £850

This goes straight to Quest4Change and every penny gets spent overseas.

Cultural Awareness:

Responsible Travel is an ethos that should be at the heart of all travel. For all of us at Quest Overseas it is about making a tangible 'positive impact' on both man and the environment with everything that we and our volunteers do. We ensure that we make a positive impact on communities and environments that we are lucky enough to visit. Quest was highly commended in the 2008 Responsible Tourism Awards sponsored by Virgin.

Recommended Reading:

Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles – Richard Dowden

Season of Blood: A Rwandan Journey – Fergal Keane

The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith

The Other Side of Silence by Andre Brink

Dark Star Safari – Paul Theroux

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