

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Tanzania



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Makumbusho Village Trip

By Sayuni Mero (Tanzania) – Communications Intern



When you are in Dar Es Salaam, the best place to visit is the Makumbusho Village where you can learn the culture and history of many Tanzanian tribes. Makumbusho feels like your home away from home. On the 25th of February, six volunteers along with three staff members from Projects Abroad visited the Makumbusho Village. While there, we were exposed to historical information and had the chance to see many traditional houses from tribes like Chagga, Haya, Zaramo, Ngoni just to mention a few. In addition, we were able to see different tools that were used by various tribes in hunting, agriculture, and shipping activities, as well as for security during those times.

At the end of the day, we were entertained by traditional ngoma drums, dancing, and songs. It was a wonderful trip and everyone had a great time.



Local drummers and dancers entertain volunteers during their visit

Coffee, Waterfalls & Hot Springs

By Linni Ingemundsen (Norway): Journalism Project

During the first weekend of March, me and six other Projects Abroad volunteers decided to go on an overnight trip to the Moshi area. We were accompanied by a driver, a guide and a cook. Our trip included a visit to the coffee plantation in Tengeru, the waterfalls in Materuni and the hotspots in Chemka.

Our first stop was the Tengeru Coffee plantation just outside of Arusha where we were greeted by the very friendly staff. One of the staff members named Mama Gladness is possibly the happiest person in the world. She greeted us like we were her long lost children; hugging and kissing us while she kept saying: "Karibu! Karibu!" We got a guided tour at the plantation where we learned facts about growing coffee beans, and the life of a coffee farmer.

After the tour we learned and took part in the process of making coffee. We grinded the coffee by crushing the beans in a "kinu" with the help of a huge stick called a mchi. We then tossed them around in an "ungo" to get the shells out, roasted the coffee beans over the fire, and then we grinded them some more. At this point some of the staff members showed us how they usually did it. As soon as they started working, they started singing a song in their native language. They said that they would always sing a song while working because it makes the job easier. After a group effort of grinding coffee; it was time to brew it and then we, of course, got to taste it. That was some strong coffee; at least I thought so as I am not really that used to caffeine. A couple of spoons of sugar made it perfect. When it was time to go the entire staff came up to us and gave us hugs, kisses and handshakes.

We then drove about forty minutes to get to the Materuni Village where we were going to hike to the waterfalls. Our guide said that the waterfalls were a twenty minute walk away, but I am pretty sure we hiked for at least two or three hours. After a while we could hear the sound of running water and we knew we were getting closer. Shortly after we could see it from a distance and we stopped and took a few pictures. Those were some pretty neat waterfalls! Now we could just relax, eat our lunch and cool off in the water.

On our way back to the car, five of us lost track of the rest of the group and our guide. We didn't really see it as a problem because we knew where we were going; or at least we thought we did. After walking for a while, things started to look more and more unfamiliar. One of us would say something like: "Did we really pass this tree earlier?" We would pause for a moment while we looked around and then another one would say: "Well, this stream looks familiar." Then somehow we would come to the conclusion that we should keep going. Read and see more photos about Linni's adventure by [clicking here....](#)



Kawe Beach Trip

By Sayuni Mero (Tanzania)
Communications Intern



On the 26th of February, volunteers and some of the Projects Abroad staff, along with children from Ijiango Orphanage had a fun trip to Kawe beach. The trip was requested and prepared so that the children could enjoy a fun day at the beach. Everyone was happy they had a chance to eat sandwiches and have some drinks together. Afterwards, both the volunteers and children went swimming and took pictures.

Women's Group receives adjustable glasses



Max Palmqvist (Sweden), one of the team members of the Microfinance Project, discovered on the internet that it's possible to order *adjustable glasses*. It is a brand new invention. The glasses have buttons on the outer side of both the left and the right frame. You can adjust the sight per glass the same way you sharpen your sight using binoculars. Max ordered 20 pairs of glasses and they arrived in Arusha one week ago.

The motivation behind ordering these glasses was the fact that the volunteers from the Microfinance Project realized that the women have difficulty writing down all of their business figures as a result of bad eyesight. Most of the supported women are between 40 and 60 years old and only a few of them wear glasses and it is most likely that most of them need glasses, although they don't have them.

Last week, the Microfinance Team acted as *eye doctors* and checked the eyes of some of the women. It appeared that some women improved their vision using the glasses. They were very happy with the glasses. Max donated the glasses to some of the women as a means of selling to others and thus increasing their personal income. The women can keep part of the profit is for themselves.

Dirty Birth (Day)

By Linni Ingemundsen (Norway)
Journalism Project Volunteer



Thirty-two Projects Abroad volunteers and eight staff members came together for a Dirty Day on Friday, the 14th of March in the Meserani village. Last month, we planted a tree fence around the future location of “Projects Abroad Academy”. Now it is time to start the building of the school.

We left the Projects Abroad office around 10:30 am and headed for Meserani. This was actually on my birthday and I was excited to spend the day in the dirt. It had rained heavily all night and the dirt road leading to the school had become a mud pool.

When we were about five minutes away from our destination one of our buses got stuck in the mud. A few of us got out and tried to put rocks under the wheels to provide traction, but it didn't work. After a while we realized that this bus wasn't going anywhere and everybody had to get out of the bus. A bunch of volunteers tried pushing it, but it still wouldn't move. By this time the other bus wasn't going anywhere either because it had gotten a flat tire. It didn't have a spare one but luckily they could borrow one from the first bus.

We kept trying to get the bus out of the mud by putting rocks under the wheels, removing the mud around the bus, and push it in both directions. After a few hours I considered trying to make some tools out of rocks and maybe start a fire. I figured we might have to be there for a while. But then the Projects Abroad staff arranged for us to be picked up by a jeep and things were moving again.

We finally arrived at the school around 12.30 pm and the volunteers got straight to work. A bunch of us were just standing around because there wasn't really enough tools for everyone to participate at once. Luckily there were a lot of children around that we could play with.

Read more about how Linni celebrated her Dirty Birthday by [clicking here...](#)

