

Emma Shaw

I would describe the week that I spent in Sierra Leone as one of the most overwhelming, powerful, emotional, and yet inspiring experiences of my life. The people I met were so incredibly strong and spirited; it became increasingly difficult to comprehend the horrific events they had endured during their country's brutal war. I arrived in Sierra Leone with little expectation of the country and its people. However, I left having been more touched than I ever thought possible and with the confidence that the people of Sierra Leone were moving forward in a way that those of us in 'the west' could learn from.

This trip was an incredible first hand introduction to the outstanding work of Search for Common Ground and its incredible team, not only in Sierra Leone, but also in the USA and Europe. The profound experiences I shared with other 'trippers' and countless unforgettable encounters with the locals will stay with me for years to come.