





# Travel diary

 **Liberia**

## Let's discover our two mobility experts

*Alfredo Garmendia and Begoña Inchaurreaga are the perfect team! Their expertise in mobility projects and their enthusiasm make them great SAAM ambassadors in Liberia. Let's get to know them!*

### ALFREDO GARMENDIA

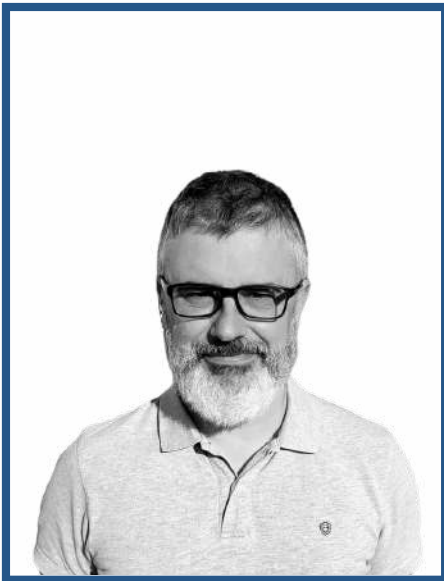
#### Head of the International Affairs in San Viator

I am Alfredo Garmendia, Head of the International Affairs of Centro San Viator, where I have been working for the last 20 years. I have a bachelor's degree in Anglo-Germanic studies.

For the last 18 years I have combined my job as project manager with teaching to young students with fewer opportunities, so somehow I work mixing two of my passions.

From our department, we lead different initiatives into Erasmus+ - Youth, School, VET, adult and Higher Education - and others, such as AMIF, etc. Our long experience in EU projects has been determining to establish solid networks, especially in the Automotive and Third Sector.

We are currently involved in some "extraordinary" projects as the COVE on inclusion GIVE-Governance for Inclusive Vocational Excellence, MOVET-Mobility for VET in Europe (Second pilot VET mobility scheme for the Western Balkans) and SAAM.



### BEGOÑA INCHAURREAGA

#### International Affairs Department in San Viator

My name is Begoña Inchaurreaga, since September I am part of the International Affairs Department of Centro San Viator and part of SAAM. After finishing my studies in Law, I decided to continue my studies with a Master of International Business.

Internationalization has always been part of my life, when I was 4 I started studying in a French school, getting to speak another language and before turning 16 I was already studying abroad in the United States.

Since working in San Viator, I have been lucky enough to go through many different projects, not only SAAM, so I have been working in KA1, KA2 and KA3, and even a COVE.



**#movingtogether**

# Travel diary

## Arriving in Liberia

*Saturday, June 12th*

We started our day really early. We had our first flight at 7 am from **Bilbao's airport**. The best option for us was going from Bilbao to Frankfurt, from there to Brussels, and once in Brussels we took the flight to Monrovia, with a technical stop in Freetown, Sierra Leona.



Unfortunately, the luck wasn't in our side, and we had a **delay of 5 hours**, which made us arrive **late at night in Monrovia**. Once there, we got checked our temperature and they verified if we had already paid our COVID tests. **It is compulsory to take one PCR at your arrival in the country**; you can pay it in advance through the national app or pay it with dollars or by credit card once you are there.



After filling all the documents, we got COVID tested and visa checked. The visa check doesn't take too much time but for the PCR you must be patient. After that, **we collected our luggage and Father Sony was already waiting for us in the parking**. He drove us to the **Don Bosco Technical High School** where we are staying this week. The school has facilities that can be used by the guests.

**#movingtogether**



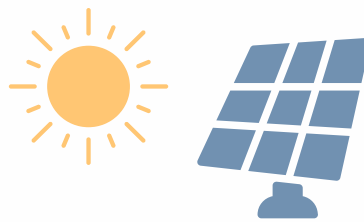
# Travel diary

## Monrovia, Liberia

### Sunday, June 13th

The day started great. We had the chance to have a good rest at night and enjoy the morning working from the playground tables.

On Sunday, we met **Nuria**, a worker from **EKI** that works with this VET center. **EKI is in charge of the installation of the solar panels in the school**, but they also have prepared a training course for the VET center about solar energy that will start to be taught in the new school year.



After lunch, Nuria had to go to the **Nuncio's** house in Monrovia and she invited us to go with them. We had the chance to **introduce SAAM** to him and to exchange some thoughts about the **different challenges that may arrive**.

Also this day, we met the entire Salesian congregation: Father Fredrick, Father Sony, Father Samuel and Brother Lucian.

### MONROVIA IN THE RAIN



Since our arrival, we have witnessed days of intense rain here in Monrovia. In Liberia, the climate is tropical, hot and humid all year round, with a **rainy season from May to October**.

Follow our social media to be aware of this kind of anecdotes.



**#movingtogether**



# Travel diary ➤

📍 **Monrovia, Liberia**

**Monday, June 14th**

Monday was our first **day of school** while being there. The day began with the **Assembly** at 8 am. All the students were in line on the playground and they received the news for the week.

## THE ASSEMBLY

All the kids get reunited in the school and they have an assembly of half an hour, where they get to know how the week will be, they pray and sing the anthem of the school.



After the Assembly, we had our **breakfast** and we went to **Father Sony's parish: Our Lady of Lebanon - St. Joseph Parrish**. Later, we went back to the school and we visited all the facilities of the center while the students were in their classrooms.

**#movingtogether**

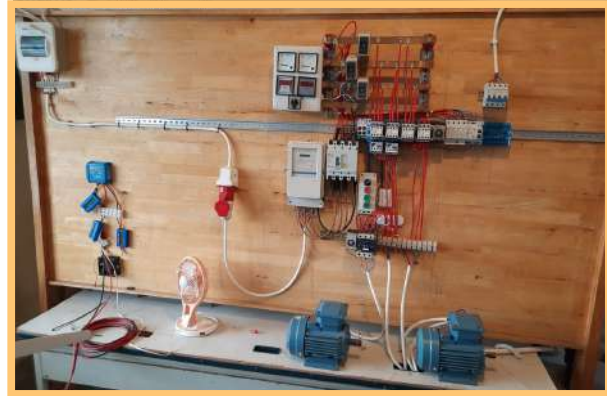


# Travel diary ➤

📍 **Monrovia, Liberia**

**Monday, June 14th**

We went to the **electricity class** and we had the chance to meet all the students and the teachers. They explained to us **their current activities and projects**.



We couldn't help it and we finished playing and talking to the kids that were on the playground before lunch. **This was such a fun moment!**



**We spotted a SAAM roll-up in the center**



After lunch and when the classes ended, we interviewed **Father Fredrick**, principal of the school and we talked to him about the school fields, the project and everything that crossed our minds. **It was a really interesting meeting and conversation!**

**#movingtogether**



# Travel diary ➤

📍 **Monrovia, Liberia**

***Tuesday, June 15th***

Today was a very interesting day. In the morning, we had a meeting with the **Honorable Minister of Youth & Sports, Mr. Dester Zeogar Wilson**. An interesting fact is that his office is inside a football stadium.



Outside the stadium where the office of the Minister is.

**Mr. Zeogar Wilson** already had some previous knowledge about SAAM, we gave him more details about it and we had a very nice talk with him. He is also the **person in charge of TVET** in Liberia and is working hard to improve it.



**#movingtogether**



# Travel diary ➤

📍 **Monrovia, Liberia**

**Tuesday, June 15th**

After a ride back, we rushed into our next appointment: **the electricity class.**

**Abdou**, the electricity teacher, allowed us to take over his class and **choose three students to show us the different things that they are working on**, including solar electricity.

After filming some general videos with them, **we also filmed an interview about TVET, electricity and their expectations for the future.**



**Check our YouTube channel!**



**#movingtogether**



# Travel diary ➤

## 📍 Monrovia, Liberia

**Wednesday, June 16th**

Evelyn Pajibou, worker of Father Sony's parish, was our guide for this day.

She took us in a **tour around Monrovia**, from the university, where she studies agriculture, to the beach, going through a lot of **markets**. The first of the markets was a local one, where you could see from fish and meat to all kind of species.

After that, we went to an **ancient hotel**, destroyed by the war, where you could see the entire city from the top. **The city of Monrovia is impressive, situated in the coast, with a nice beach.**

We had the chance to go to one market, a big one, when we say big, we mean really big. **We haven't seen one as big as this one.**

From the parish, we went back to Don Bosco walking, there is about 1 km from one side to another. We did feel safe all the time around the city, **we moved basically in small cars made out of a motorcycle called KEKE, similar of what we call TUK TUK.**



**#movingtogether**



# Travel diary

 **Monrovia, Liberia**

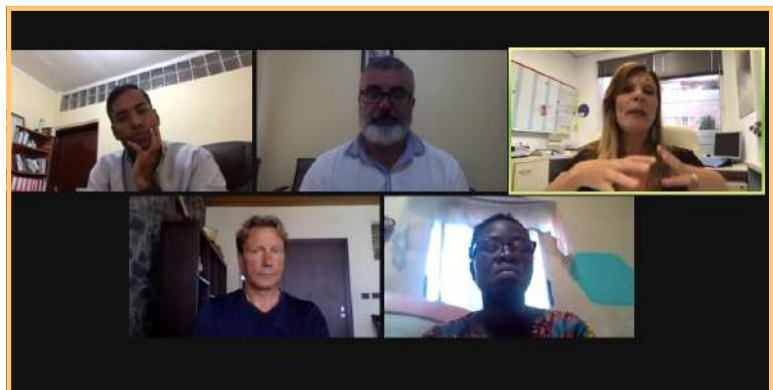
**Thursday, June 17th**

First thing in the morning it was the **assembly**. As guests they requested us to speak and **Alfredo** gave a speech about education.



Here you can watch a fragment of Alfredo's speech.

Fast after that, we had to run to get our **PCR** done. It took us around 3 hours to have everything done and once we had our PCR done we went back to the school. We had an appointment with the **teachers** from electricity. First we filmed with 4 **students** 2 different videos about **solar energy** explained by them and then we had a talk with the three teachers we explained to them the project and they had some questions that we tried to answer.



After lunch, we had an appointment with the **European Delegation in Liberia**, the European deputy wasn't there, but we met two colleagues of him, a Finish man and a Liberian woman. This was our last day with Nuria, she went back to Spain that afternoon.

**#movingtogether**



# Travel diary ✈️

## 📍 Monrovia, Liberia

### Friday, June 18th

We woke up with good news, our covid test had already appear and we were both negative, the results arrived really quick. This morning we got to do our luggage, talk with some people from the school and make all the documents needed to go back home (QR for entering Belgium, QR for entering Spain, boarding passes, etc...). After our last lunch with the congregation, we went to the top of the school to enjoy the nice views of **Monrovia** and to see the **solar panels** installed on the roof.

Then **Father Sony took us to the airport**. The way from the school is about 2 hours, even a bit more, there is lot of traffic so this needs to be taken into account.

Once in **the airport** we had to show our documents several times, it took us about an hour to do all the things. Around 9 pm we took the plane from Monrovia, **the journey went well and without any incidence**, arriving to Bilbao at 14 pm on Saturday.



**SEE YOU SOON!**

**#movingtogether**