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LAST MINUTE PANIC BY FANS SEEKING WORLD CUP ACTION IN WALES

Days before the Wales Vs Australia match kicks off at Cardiff Millennium Stadium, rugby fans are flooding online to beg and borrow everything from match tickets, accommodation and even a lift to the games.

With up to 70,000 rugby fans expected to travel to Cardiff for the four World Cup matches, Gumtree.com, the UK's biggest website for local community classifieds, has seen demand for Rugby World Cup items fly off the charts!

Tickets for the games have seen the biggest surge in demand, with postings for tickets increasing by 42% in the past week alone. While some tickets are selling for £200 each, some fans have scored last minute bargains. One seller is currently selling four tickets for Wallabies Vs Australia for £185.

With hotels in Cardiff booked out for months, savvy local fans are cashing in on rocketing demand by renting out their spare rooms and even their whole house to stranded fans. 'Room to let' postings have increased by 63% since April, linking the demand directly to this year's world cup fixtures.

Getting to the matches is also proving a struggle for fans, with flights into Cardiff booked out and train reservations at capacity. Quick-thinking fans travelling from outside of London have pooled together and gone online to sort out rideshare solutions. Some are desperate to make the journey in style with a group of fans travelling up from London this Saturday in a 4x4 stretch limo complete with flat screen TV and a champagne bar!

Recent examples include:

- A posting that offers seats in a Hummer to watch the Wales vs. Wallabies match this Saturday to “soak up the atmosphere in Wales”

<http://www.gumtree.com/london/26/12752326.html>

- A fan who has chartered a party bus to get to the quarter final is offering seats to other keen supporters

<http://www.gumtree.com/london/26/12731126.html>

Gumtree.com user, Hector Garcia-Armero said: “The process was really straight forward.

“I put my ad up requesting accommodation for me and my mates and two people replied with flats to let! It’s great because it’s ending up cheaper than a hotel and we can turn up at the game with peace of mind... so all we need to worry about is the final score.”

Sophy Silver from Gumtree.com said: “The Rugby World Cup is such an exciting event and as fans do everything possible in order to get there for kick off, Gumtree.com is there to help. As a community, it’s great to see everyone pull together – sharing the spirit of the teams on the pitch – offering lifts to the ground or even rooms to let, so everyone can get a slice of the action.

“Even if you think you’ve left it too late to get to Cardiff and find somewhere to stay, it’s worth checking the site for a quick fix solution.”

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For more information or case studies please contact the Gumtree press office at Lexis Public Relations on 020 7908 6589 or email gumtree@lexispr.com

About Gumtree.com

- Gumtree.com was created in London in March 2000 and now covers 60 cities across 6 countries - the UK, Ireland, Poland, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa
- It is the UK's biggest website for local community classifieds including flat share, flat rentals and jobs

- Some Fast Facts
 - 20,000 new ads in a day
 - 100,000 new ads in a week
 - Half a million new ads in a month
 - Three quarters of a million ads live on the site at any one time
 - 150 million page impressions every month
 - Around 3 million visitors a month
 - Gumtree.com users spend 5,360,000 minutes on the website each month
- Gumtree is your local community online. Home to all the things you'd expect from your local community; a place to find and advertise rooms, flats and houses, a notice board for selling and buying stuff, somewhere to find job or a date even just to chat with friends