

My Wonderful Experience in Bali

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November 17, 2025

Bali is a place full of unique culture, it is an island located in the middle of Indonesia with a population of 4.32 million people (Source: Sensus Badan Pusat Statistik 2020). Bali is known as *Island of Gods* because it has strong Hindu presence and culture.

That's why I would like to visit Bali—not just for vacation, but also to learn about Balinese culture and their way of life.

Culture

I visited Bali for the first time during a school program, the *Edutrip*, on November 12, 2024. When I set foot in Bali, I was amazed by how astonishing the architecture was and how the people were still preserving their uniqueness. It was one of the few places in Indonesia that still preserved its culture.

Balinese architecture is characterized by a harmonious blend of natural materials, open-concept spaces, and strong connection to nature and spirituality, often following principles like the philosophy of *Tri Hita Karana*.

Tri Hita Karana is a Bali Hindu philosophy that emphasizes three causes of well being: harmony between humans and god (*Parhyangan*), harmony between humans and other humans (*Pawongan*), and harmony between humans and nature (*Palemahan*).

Culinary

The foods here in Bali are amazing! I have tried *sate lilit* which is a minced meat like chicken or traditionally a pork stucked into a sticks—which is different from a *sate* sticks that I am very used to, it's wide and thick so the minced meat can sticks nicely.

Next, I have tried *nasi tempong* which is a dish famous for its spicy and delicious sambal. *Nasi tempong* is served with a warm rice with tofu, tempe, fried chicken, and *lalapan* which is an Indonesian-style vegetable platter.

Overall, the foods in Bali are amazing, and I have a very good experience trying their famous foods.

Arts

Balinese arts are similar to Javanese arts, like they both have *gamelan*, and *wayang* but with a Balinese twist.

During my visit to Bali, I have watched *tari kecak* dance performance inside the *Garuda Wisnu Kencana* complex. The performance was astounding and unforgettable experience because they have set up a magnificent practical effects and it was very intentional.

Reflection

I have learnt many experience and the Balinese way of life which follows the *Tri Hita Karana* philosophy. Bali is showing the true beauty of Indonesia and Bali is a place that have a rich culture that I have visited and I hope it stays that way.

