

# My Wonderful Experience in Bali

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Bali is a place full of unique culture, and 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 the *Island of Gods* because it has a strong Hindu presence and culture.



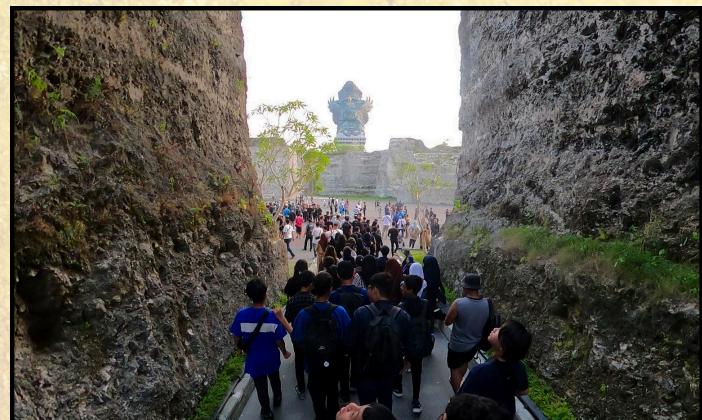
That's why I wanted to visit Bali—not just for vacation, but also to learn about Balinese culture and their way of life.

## 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 preserve its culture.

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

*Tri Hita Karana* is a Balinese 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 food here in Bali is amazing! I tried *sate lilit*, which is minced meat such as chicken or traditionally pork shaped around a stick—which is different from the *sate* skewers that I am very used to, because it's wide and thick so the minced meat can stick nicely.

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

Overall, the food in Bali is amazing, and I had a very good experience trying their famous dishes.

## Arts

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

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

## Reflection

I have learned many things about the Balinese way of life, which follows the *Tri Hita Karana* philosophy. Bali shows the true beauty of Indonesia, and it is a place that has a rich culture. I am glad I visited, and I hope it stays that way.

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