



Indonesia May 2018

We had a long but uneventful jet ride here and arrived after midnight in Jakarta, the capital.



The next day we were on our own, the rest of our group would arrive late that afternoon. We walked to the nearby mall and Jim got a haircut for less than \$5. He won't need one for another six weeks or so.



Judy got a trim also.



Later we had lunch and then returned to the hotel to meet our fellow travelers.

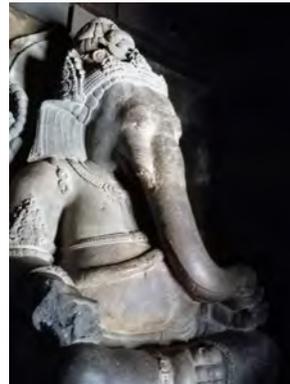


Our first stop was this mosque. Moslem is the vast majority religion with about 87% of the population professing this faith.



The next day we flew to Jogjakarta and that evening we had a "home-hosted dinner." This couple and their niece prepared a traditional Indonesian meal for us. We had boiled peanuts, boiled bananas, spinach soup, meat kabob, rice and green beans. They spoke English well. They showed us their home and the apartments that they built in the back for rental. Their

precocious daughter stole the show.



The next day was a visit to the Sambiri and the Prambanan Temples.

These Hindu temples were made in 800, long before Ankor Wat in Cambodia. They had statues of the three principal gods of the Hindus.



Ateek, our guide, gave us a Christmas ornament commemorating our trip to Indonesia.



That afternoon, we went to a home industry where Batik fabric coloring was done. We tried our hand at the craft which involves applying wax to the fabric where the dye is not desired. The fabric is then colored and then boiled to remove the wax.





That evening we took these motorized carts home from the restaurant to the hotel. They are often used by residents instead of busses when they are carrying goods home

from market.

Sunday, May 6, 2018



This morning we went to the Borobudur Temple, the largest Buddhist temple in the world, formerly, one of the 7 wonders.



Then we rode in horse carriages to lunch.



That afternoon, we saw Bakpia cakes being made and made some with our host. The cakes are made from mung beans, sugar and flour.

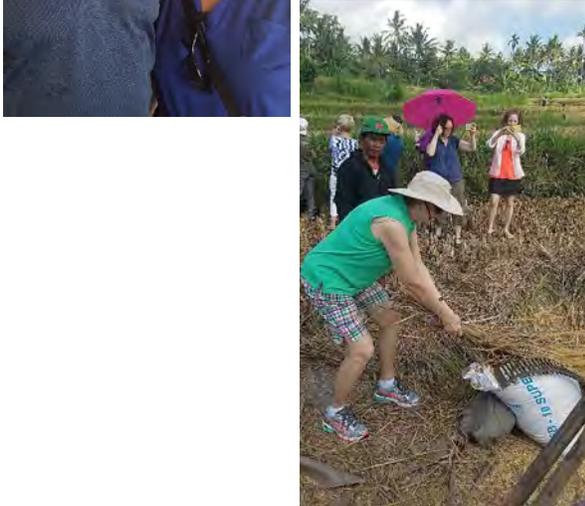


In the evening, Sri Muayati told her story of imprisonment for being an alleged member of the communist party, as was her father. Upon her release, years later, she spent her life taking care of her four siblings. She worked to send them to medical school. Now she speaks out against the abuses that she suffered.

The next day, our feature was Bali dancing. Our host and teacher, his daughter, a fine dancer. Then we all tried.



Today, we crashed a wedding in progress. The community awaits the bride and groom. The bride and groom in the wedding ceremony with the religious leader.



Threshing rice like a native:



The snakeskin fruit is quite tasty and the pit makes a type of coffee, the skin makes a tea.



The IKAT weaving is a home-based fabric industry. It starts with spinning the strands, then a man takes 38 strands to make the thread. As a spool empties he replaces it with another and ties the strand on to the thread product. The dyer then paints the pattern on the thread. Finally, the weaver makes the finished product.



The blacksmith makes knives.

Swimming in the Indian Ocean



May 9, 2018

The traditional Balinese purification ritual.



May 10, 2018

The highlight of the day was a trip to the Monkey forest where Macaw monkeys run freely.



That evening we went to a puppet show. The puppeteer creates his own puppets to portray a sacred story.



May 11, 2018

We stopped on our way to see this lady planting rice.



Outside of the cities, 70% of the people are rice farmers from my observation. They earn a subsistence living.



This is a coffee bean for the most expensive coffee on earth. The Asian palm civet is fed a diet of these beans which are partially digested but the pit remains whole.

They are extracted from the dung, washed, roasted and pulverized to make a prized coffee. The life of the civet, naturally a carnivore, is not good



being caged and force fed. We tried the Luwak coffee but I did not find it particularly good. Not worth the

\$85 for 3.5 oz. of powdered coffee.



The Kintamani Volcano that recently erupted



boat like this



lake to see an unusual cemetery. We saw this humongous spider.

causing many deaths from the hot ashes that were expelled. We took a across the



The bodies are placed on the ground with these bamboo structures to protect them from the animals.



In about three months, the body decomposes to bones and the skulls are placed in this higher area with a view of the lake. The rest of the bones are placed below.

We continued to another village where they have an unusual custom of hanging the placenta of a new born baby in a tree. The gourd is filled and hung from the tree to avoid evil spirits.



In the nearby village, the house is made of bamboo, even the roof.

May 12, 2018



Today we take convertible rides to our next destination. We will enjoy the outdoor air as we drive through the mountains. On the way, we saw a



funeral passing by. The body with the “hearse” is placed in the cremation area and is dowsed with fuel and spices. One can see the deceased’s head here. Meanwhile, the band played.

We didn't wait for the ignition as that would be quite a while later.



May 13, 2018 - A Day in the Life of Tiga Wasa Village

One of the unique features of Overseas Adventure Travel is a “day in the life.” We start out shopping for food in the market, then we visit a family and help prepare the meal with the food we bought. We eat the meal together and get to know each other.



In the shopping plaza making decorations.

Buying food for lunch.



Handicrafts done in the village.

A spiritual healer for Helene.



Preparing the offering.



Making dessert.



Making lunch.



Grandfather on the xylophone, father on the drum and grandson is Bali dancing.
Jim is Bali dancing with our host.

May 14, 2018

On our way south, we stopped at Undiksha University in Singaraja. We met these nice students who volunteered to meet some American tourists. All studied English and were excited to try it out. This young lady was studying accounting and was thrilled to meet two accountants, one a former member of a Big 4 firm. Next we stopped at a rice mill to see how the final steps in rice production were carried out.



First a farmer's rice is set out to dry in the sun. On a clear day, it takes one day and the rice is turned occasionally.



The milling machines take off the two husks. Here a mill worker is waiting to process the farmer's rice. This is the rice factory. The operator takes 10% of the rice and the workers get 20% of the gross revenue for their pay.

We arrive at our hotel and find this little man to greet us. This is one of the nicest hotels we've stayed in. Our room has a private balcony and opens out to the pool.



The next morning Gerry and I try some yoga at the public park. These two folks spend endless time on their heads.

Here are a few pictures of me participating.



May 14, 2018

We visited a cliff-side temple, known not for the temple but rather for the monkeys. One of these rascals took Judy's phone right out her hand, by surprise and ran away with it. Only the fearless actions of a gardener were able to recover the phone. He threw a banana at the monkey when he found it. Then he threw an egg. The monkey dropped the phone and went for the egg. Our local guide recovered the phone and tipped the gardener Rp 100,000 (worth about \$15). We were so glad to get the phone back, even though it had some cracks on the back.



Later that day, Judy and our fellow-traveler went to a fabric store to get some quilting material.

They were astounded at the bargain prices. Fabric that would have cost \$13 per yard was \$1.80.

May 16, 2018 - We fly to Komodo Island to see the famous "dragons." Sunset at Flores Island where we stay.



May 17, 2018

In search of “dragons” on Komodo Island. These 150 pound lizards are carnivorous and cannibalistic. They can eat a deer or a wild boar. They bite it with their small but sharp teeth and their saliva will immobilize their prey. Other komodos will come in a short time to share the meal.



Another, different dragon:



May 18, 2018 the Cecer Village

Most of the residents of this island are farmers yet there are no farms visible from the main road. The farmers live in the mountains and we visited a tribe/community this morning.



The village chief would be there to greet us when we arrived. we also needed to have a chief for our group and Jim was appointed by Thomas, our local guide. The Village Chief first presented Jim with a chicken. We went into the chiefs house to learn about their customs and ask any questions we had.

It is their custom for their chief to give our chief money and for our chief to give theirs money.



we then watched and danced with the locals. It was a fun time with them.



They produce vanilla, candle nuts (pictures show us cracking them) and coffee.

Jim liked this coffee but did not like the most expensive coffee in the world that we had before.





A carpenter is busy at work in the village.

We then headed back down the mountain for lunch. We had fish and chips, a welcome change. It was very good but different from ours. It was served with lemon sauce, made from lemons, garlic and egg yokes.

We stopped to see a local fish market. Our tour leader said her favorite fish was a dried, salted fish. Did not

sound or look good to me. She deep fries it and our local guide said he grills it. We also saw a pan of anchovies.



(Judy contributed the above as I was busy being the chief.)



May 19, 2018 Visit to Rincer Island to see Komodo “dragons.” We took a very comfortable house boat to the island, a two-hour ride.

This first photo shows their forked tongue which is used for smelling.



This water buffalo may have been just enjoying the shaded water hole but we suspect that he is next week’s dinner. A Komodo will bite one in the leg and their saliva has viper poison that will clot his leg in about 2 weeks.



After eating a buffalo, the 150 pound Komodo will weigh 250 pounds and won't eat again for two months, while he digests. They eat everything including the bones, skin and hair. They start on the inside, eating the heart, lungs and digestive organs, then move on to the legs and head.



This female was walking down the trail looking for monkey food. We saw a troop of monkeys near by.

Untroubled by people, these two were lounging in the shade at the visitor station. They are by no means tame, just used to us.



Snorkeling with our guide, Thomas, on the reef on an island nearby.

May 20, 2018

We visit the village of Nanga Na'e and see their rice mill. The owner is processing the rice with the farmer. We estimated the cost of the engine and milling machine at \$2,500 and the building another \$2,500. When I asked if he was the richest man in town, he just smiled. I'm not sure if he smiled because he was, or because I asked. He probably is.



We visited a mid-wife with a broken leg. They were crushing and sifting leaves from a certain tree to give her relief. She was in an accident and had been to the hospital for a few days but they were unable to repair it. She has a cane and a wheelchair.

We return to Bali by domestic flight and then the next day return home on Singapore Airlines.