

Academy of Language Studies
UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang

e-Lingua

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*Connecting Cultures
One Word at a Time*

你好

Apa Khabar?

Bonjour

Hello

مرحبًا

Hallo

こんにちは



Bali Trip (August 16-20, 2025)

HOE FOO TERNG
ACADEMY OF LANGUAGE STUDIES, UITM CAWANGAN PULAU PINANG

On August 16th 2025, my wife, two daughters, and I flew from Penang to Bali, transiting at Kuala Lumpur. The plane landed as scheduled that evening in Bali. Bali's roads are generally well-maintained but narrow, typically consisting of a single lane in each direction. The architectural landscape is a blend of modern and traditional styles, with most buildings being single-storey. Traditional Balinese homes often feature intricate carvings and exude a rich artistic charm.

Balinese Hinduism has distinct differences from Malaysian Hinduism. Notably, Balinese Hindus are permitted to consume beef (sapi). Statues of Lord Ganesha were commonly seen throughout the island, whereas Lord Murugan—widely revered in Malaysia—was noticeably absent. Interestingly, many locals were unfamiliar with him.



Our first activity in Bali was paragliding. While my wife and I found it a bit too thrilling and decided to sit it out, we enjoyed watching our two daughters soar gracefully through the sky. Later, we visited the scenic cliff highway for some breathtaking photos. In the evening, we headed to the White Monkey Temple to witness the traditional Balinese fire dance—a captivating performance done without musical instruments. The dancers, arranged in a circle, swayed rhythmically while producing vocal sounds, reminiscent of Malaysia’s Dikir Barat performances from the east coast.



The next morning, we set off to chase dolphins in Lovina. We boarded a boat at 8:00 AM and arrived at a dolphin-rich area, where around 50–60 boats were scattered across the water. Whenever joyful cries signaled a dolphin sighting, boats would quickly converge. It was my first time snorkeling from a motorized boat, and while others were water-skiing, I tried both water-skiing and snorkeling. For lunch, we

enjoyed ‘babi guling’, a Balinese dish similar to our traditional roast pork—featuring crispy pork skin, tender meat, and pork floss served with rice. Afterwards, we toured a coffee plantation and sampled ‘kopi luwak’. Despite its reputation, the taste was rather unremarkable—slightly sour. At 4:30 PM, we rushed to Ubud for an exhilarating ATV ride through mountains, caves, and streams.



On the third day, we departed the hotel at 5:00 AM to catch a 7:30 AM speedboat to Nusa Penida. Upon arrival, our rental car driver took us to a cliffside bungee jumping site. My wife and I climbed to the edge but were overwhelmed by the height—our legs felt weak just looking down. Our eldest daughter, however, bravely took the plunge at 10:30 AM, declaring, “You only live once!” In the afternoon, we visited the iconic Lonely Planet check-in spot at Kelingking Beach. That evening, we relaxed at the Cheonjin Bathhouse, surrounded by dramatic volcanic rock formations reminiscent of Jeju Island in South Korea.



On our fourth day, we watched the sunrise from our beachfront resort on the eastern coast of Nusa Penida. We split up for different activities: my second daughter and I went snorkeling and chased manta rays at Manta Bay, while my wife and eldest daughter took

stunning photos at Diamond Beach. They swung on a cliffside swing in flowing tulle dresses they had rented, creating picturesque memories.

On our final day, we flew to Surabaya in the afternoon. In the morning, my wife and daughters attended a sound therapy session, while I visited the iconic Tanah Lot Temple. Located on a small island accessible only at low tide, the temple is open to visitors exclusively on Wednesdays. Before leaving, I sampled fresh sea coconut and sea coconut flower wine. The flesh was chewy but bland, while the wine was sweet, fragrant, and pleasantly alcoholic.

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