

Kempson Rosedale Trust report

On March 15th 2015 I flew by myself all the way from the UK to Bali to live in Ubud for a month. I would be teaching English to five year olds in a primary type school for a month. For the first few days after I arrived we were shown around the local area and were fully immersed in the local culture. We had several hours of language lessons to prepare ourselves for teaching, learning things like numbers, days of the week, every day phrases, animals and foods. I didn't find it very easy at first, but after a bit of practice it became much more natural, especially after trying to communicate with the kids.

My teaching partner was an American boy called Fin and we fortunately got on quite well. He had been teaching in a school in Kenya so he had quite a few ideas of things we could do. We ended up having pretty much free reign for three hours in the morning because the teacher was very relaxed. It was so far from what would happen in a school in this country, but it was pretty similar in that the kids needed and got a lot of time for playing games and interacting with each other. After teaching each day we would go back to the office and plan for the next day. We often made worksheets, which actually really tested my drawing and creative skills! Seeing as the kids were only five or six, we did a lot of colouring in and drawing activities with them and quickly found that they did not have a very long attention span at all and could concentrate well for about half an hour but then we would have to break it up with play time. In general, I loved teaching and the fact we got to do what we wanted and even though we were only there for a few weeks I felt really like I knew some of the kids there really well. On the last day of teaching we playing several games like musical chairs and bumps- turns out even Indonesian kids like Frozen! We also got them to colour in and decorate their own handprint on a big piece of paper that I could bring home, which is a great reminder of my trip.

Aside from the teaching, in Bali we had free time in the afternoon and at weekends to explore the island more and go further afield. My favourite place we visited was Gili Trawangan, a stunning island just off the coast of Lombok. It was truly breathtaking and I could have spent much, much longer there. It has made me really want to take another trip to Indonesia to explore Lombok and the other Gili islands.

After spending a month in Bali, I went on to meet three of my friends in Cambodia who I then travelled round Thailand and Vietnam with. Although it sounds cliché, this trip really was unforgettable for me, and I am really glad that I was brave enough to go out to Bali by myself for the first month. I definitely think that in the future I would want to travel alone and wouldn't be at all scared to do it.



