

Sea Turtle Conservation Scheme, Bali

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This was the trip of a lifetime, being involved in the conservation of a critically endangered species in a tropical paradise such as Nusa Penida is an experience I will never forget.

The scheme consisted of multiple tasks, not all turtle orientated, but all geared towards improving the local community. The tasks often involved groupwork and all added to the community. The activities ranged from; directly working with turtles such as cleaning and feeding, raising awareness of the effects of plastic pollution by making signs and bins for the beaches and roads, cleaning the streets and beaches to lead by example to the local people and encourage them to continue the good habits.



Bins made by volunteers



Cleaning the Turtle enclosure



Baby Hawksbill Turtle

The company that hosted the scheme is called Green Lion but the agency that provided us with contact to such a remote place was called GoEco.

The trip enabled me to engage in activities that I would not get elsewhere and deepened my understanding of global issues and how they effect smaller communities that outside of the first world we live in. It was great for me to be able to pass on knowledge that I had to people in these areas as I feel it made an impact. It was also amazing to see how these communities deal with natural disaster and how the chain of information still is strongly present in the totally rural areas.

Bali has a completely different culture to the UK, which had to be respected at all times. When visiting religious sites such as temples, sarongs had to be worn to cover legs for males and for females, shoulders and legs had to be covered, this has opened my eyes to the different practices that occur around the world and seeing it with my own eyes has confirmed to me that all cultures are completely different.

Also in Bali 'peace offerings' are placed all in the streets on the daily as a sign of respect to their gods. These offerings cover the pathways and walls and are always there, you have to be very cautious to not stand on any of these whilst walking around the streets. I will attach some photos of the things that I did during the scheme in a PowerPoint.

Being able to see how these almost unattached villages live with such less than someone would in the UK is really humbling. The fact that these communities do not have the structure the UK does and yet they lead such happy fulfilled lives, everyone is much politer there and is willing to go out of their way to help you.

Overall the scheme has helped me understand how different cultures live whilst being able to help their local community improve one small step at a time.

I would recommend doing something such as this to any student as it will really give you an experience you would never be able to attain in the usual classroom environment.