

## **Grand Tour Report**

“Travel and change of place impart new vigor to the mind.” -----Seneca

One of the finest and most-satisfying adventures of our class so far has been this grand tour trip to Bali. Each day of the trip brought new insights and new adventures. It is no denying that the trip is unforgettable and delightful.

### **Farming Experience**

On 4th April, we headed towards the Tegallalang Rice Terrace in the afternoon. This was our second service performed in the trip, which was a farming experience. The rice terrace is a renowned tourist spot of Bali because of its unique terrace landscapes. Unlike other farmlands, it is developed on a slope due to geological constrains. The farmland is separated into multiple layers according to the height of the field. Combining all small pieces of farmland, the view was spectacular to see.

In this activity, we farmed in a paddy rice farmland. We were divided into three groups. Each group was responsible for different farming processes which were ploughing, seeding and weeding. When our works had been assigned, we set off and went to the farmland by climbing up the rice terrace. Once we arrived, we had no choice but to step into the field with bare feet. This strange feeling made us look miserable during the farming process. However, it had become one of our greatest memories of the trip.

Apart from the unusual experience, we also learnt a lot from this activity. Farming, as a primary industry, is our main food source and thus plays an important role in our society. The hard labour of farming brought us to the realization that food is too precious to be wasted. In addition, other skills such as the basic techniques of farming and the formation of the rice terrace could be learnt.

Learning outside the classroom is a valuable chance to learn something new that can never be learnt from textbooks. This activity has not only become our class' fond memories, but it has also enriched our knowledge.



The captivating view of Tegallalang Rice Terrace.



We are standing on top of the rice field to enjoy the gorgeous view.

## **Bali safari and marine park**

Bali safari and marine park is one of the most famous tourist attractions in Bali. Unlike traditional zoos where animals are kept in cages, tourists can see their favourite animals up close in the safari. There are more than 400 kinds of animals. The most memorable scene was that we could see the real “lion king” when travelling in the jungle hopper. We could see animals anywhere in the park: in the zoo zone, in the restaurants, and even in the toilets.

Apart from the safari, there were a water park and a fun zone with different shows being held in the different areas of the park. Due to time limitation, we only watched a show about a traditional myth of Bali before we galloped to a nearby store for an ice cream to cool ourselves. All in all, visiting the safari and

the park had been a fantastic experience for us.



Watching the real lion king was a fascinating experience.

The giraffe was getting closer to our car.



## School Visit

When we entered the school hall, the student from SMK Negeri 3 Sukawati showed us how to play some traditional musical instruments. It was our turn to play the instruments after local students' demonstration. There were many different types of instruments, for example, temu guru, jegogan, jublag and pencacah. Everyone learnt different instruments with the help of teachers and students. It was not an easy job. We spent hours on it. Finally, we could play like a music group and finished performing an easy song under the lead of the teachers. At the end of the visit, we performed a traditional Bali music piece and did the traditional dance with the local students. It was truly a fruitful experience.

During the visit, our classmates were so excited and they talked about the beautiful and historical places they had visited. We were eager to share our feelings and experiences with one another and listen to the good and interesting experiences we had with those local students.

In the hall with the local students, I learned that their teachers had similar teaching styles as my school music teacher. They would all lead the students to play the instruments. However, this did not happen to other local schools. What shocked me the most was that students would learn about Bali cultures and language as well in their music classes.

Overall, we had learned a lot after this visit and had a great time with the students. Our performance could be of a better quality if we had more time to practise. The reason why the local students could perform well is that they put a lot of efforts to hone their skills. Practice makes perfect and the local students' hard work had definitely paid off. The best part was that our class had built such a good relationship with the local students that it felt like we had another family in another part of the world. It was an incredible and unforgettable experience.



Teachers from SMK Negeri 3 Sukawati taught us how to play the traditional instruments properly.



Students from SMK Negeri 3 Sukawati performed to us.



Our classmates were learning the special and traditional dance movements.

Although we had only stayed in Bali for a few days, we were all in awe of the fascinating views and the passion of the local students. The Grand Tour had ended in the blink of an eye, but the journey of us will continue.