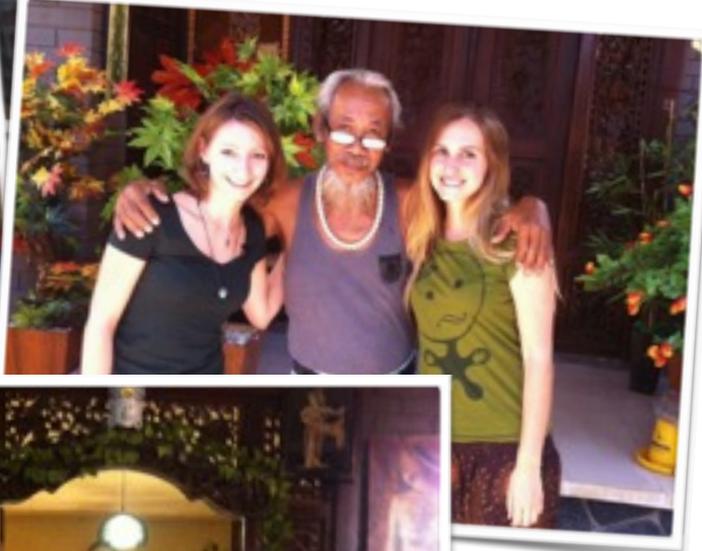


# Backpacking in Indonesia

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Hello, my name is Juliette and I love traveling with my best friend Lola. In 2015, we have went in Nepal (it was a organized trip). This year, we have decided to organize by ourselves this trip.

Destination : Indonesia and more precisely these three islands : Java + Bali + Lombok.

Lola already have some experience with Servas and she taught me there is a different way to travel. Actually, I notice I share Servas's philosophy.

After my inscription, Servas sent us the Indonesian host list. We started to contact some members living near where we planned to stay a few days.

We received several positives answers, it's so great, we are so happy ! We get to know them by WhatsApp.

*Sunday 4th of September* : Departure of Paris Charles de Gaulle !!! Let's go for almost 18 hours of flight and two stopovers.

## 1) A golden arrival

After a very long trip, we land in Yogyakarta. It's 6:00 PM and it's dark and so hot.

Kahari come to pick us up at the terminal with a nice sign with our names written on it.

He invited us to eat something delicious called « Lamb satay » in a warung (local street restaurant) he like the most in Yogyakarta. First meal in Indonesia...in a place without any tourist, we are blessed. We talk about our plan for the next days (temples, using buses or by foot...). Kahari suggest us to pick us up the next morning at our homestay to drive us to a temple we have planned to visit. He can't follow us because he works. He told us he will buy us a SIM card to use his cellphone he kindly lend us. He is so lovely !

In Indonesia, there is just a few Servas members but they talk to each other, they text and they all already know that Lola and Juliette have landed on Indonesian floor. Kahari's cellphone was very useful because all Servas members can call us and it was so much easier to organized everything.

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## 2) University, karaoke and Ginger Milk

Our second stop take place in a small town in Central Java. Indrotomo, teacher, ask us to join him on the campus.

After some difficulties to find the right buses to get there, we arrive in the campus. Indrotomo invite us to eat something at the student cafeteria (100% immersion - 0 tourist) and he show us his classroom.

We finally arrive at his home where we met many people because Indrotomo is the director of the SAS English Training Camp. We participe at his class with children, it was awesome ! And at in end of the class, we improvise into a karaoke, it was fun !!

Very good moments with amazing people : Hardy, Gill, Camille with who we stayed in touch after this night, drinking ginger hot milk and eating banana chips.

## 3) Cruise on the lake Rw Pening

Our third stop was short but intense. We arrive by bus in the town where lives Amin who came to pick us up at the terminal.

We spent the day with him and his friend Moktar (an another Servas member). Unforgettable memories, between a cruise on a beautiful lake with fishermen, a stop on the way back home along the rice fields to ask how they cut the rice... Definitely, this daytime was too short...

Amin is the national secretary of Servas Indonesia, he told us about his experience of Servas, it's so interesting !

People are open minded and so nice and welcoming.

## 4) Our second family <3

We meet Warsito and his wife Tri who came to pick us up directly at Amin's house.

We got along very well, even before through our WhatsApp conversations but in face to face, a friendship is born.

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We discover their house and garden by night, so peaceful with the sound of frogs and bugs. After a hot night, a big delicious breakfast and an early morning walk, we participate to activities that Warsito suggest in his outbound training camp.

A lesson to remember : « Life is simple, there is no problem without solutions, we need to stop thinking too much ».

We offer the lunch for them and a couple friends, new Servas members. They took us to a batik manufactory.

Despite the heat and the humidity, we went trekking in the jungle. Moments full of laughs, good vibes, and good stories.

## 5) Goodbyes...

We have to take the train to continue our trip into east Java....

Goodbyes are so difficult...it's so sad to leave this family, our family...and no spending more time with Kahari's family...

Blessing moment : when Warsito's older daughter hugs us, so happy to meet us, her « nurses sisters » because she is studying in a nursing school.

## 6) Beautiful villa

We arrive in Malang station at 4:00 AM and our next train leaves the station 10 hours later... We didn't plan to do something at first but thanks to Kahari's cell-phone and a very good coordination between Servas Indonesia members, a couple comes to pick us up at 5:00 AM at the train station !

We goes in their villa where we eat breakfast, where we can take a little nap and a shower. They have the most beautiful garden that I have never seen in my life...

I really appreciated helping Heny to cook, to prepare the lunch and when we walked around and she explained what are all the trees and so on... She put some local music (gamelan), it's a paradisiac place, perfect to meditate.

## 7) Holly man, scooter and holly spring water

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Several days go by and we are in Bali island. We meet Dewat Ketut and his wife. We meet their friends too, the holly man who explain us the balinese culture and traditions.

In the early morning, we went to the market with Dewat Ketut's wife to buy something to eat for the breakfast and the lunch.

Then, Dewat Ketut suggest to bring us to the holly hot spring water by scooter (Indonesian style : without any protections). Very good moments in the middle of the nature.

Discovering the landscape by scooter (with a driver of course...because I absolutely don't know how to drive this thing) was really a bonus during this trip (even if I was a little scared at the beginning) !!

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It was my first experience with Servas...but certainly not the last !!

Actually, I became a swiss host because I wish sharing and welcoming travelers to make them discover my village, the swiss culture and so many things.

THANK YOU SO MUCH SERVAS (because this trip would have not be the same without Kahari, Indrotomo, Amin, Moktar, Warsito & Tri, Heny & Djoko, Dewat Ketut....)