

## **Bali/Komodo Indonesia October 13-29, 2010**

Route: Seattle-Taipei-Bali aboard EVA airlines

### **Departure Day 1:**

We arrived at SeaTac plenty early and EVA counter had just opened. The first wave of the group checks in and right away we are alerted to the fact that EVA airlines is weighing all the carry-ons. This could be trouble as most of the group has loads of camera equipment and some very heavy bags. The second wave leaves their carry-ons with the first group and this worked good as we were never questioned or checked even at the gate.



The flight left right on time, but unfortunately we had a head wind and the flight lasted 13.5 hrs! We have a 4-hour layover in Taiwan and then a 5 hr flight to Bali. Our flight was not full so we were able to stretch out, some people are starting to hit the wall, we are so ready to be there! We are met by a representative at the airport who takes our passports and \$25 visa fee, then leads us pass everyone through immigration with a wave of his hand. He takes us straight into baggage where he tells us to wait with our luggage and he will be right back. The look on everyone's face when he ran off with our passports was sheer shock, hoping he was coming back. I assured them that this is how they do it and yes he did come back! He helps us through customs and we are done. This process took maybe all of 20 minutes, where last time I was here it was about 2 hours! We changed our money to Rupiah, (there is an entire row of Money Changers) and met my friend Jack from Indochina Services who will be our tour guide while we are here in Bali. Jack was the same guide I had a year ago when I was here. We jump in the air-conditioned bus and make our way to the town of Ubud where we will be staying at the Bali Spirit Hotel. Along the way we stop at the Circle K for some cold Bintang beer to make the ride better.



We arrive at the hotel and our bags are already here and being organized. They hand us a cold towel and cool fruity drink while they tell us a few things about the hotel and then we are off to our room. We are all exhausted as we dream of that first shower, a meal, then off to bed. We meet back up at 7:00 pm for a group dinner. The meal is a set menu, which was fantastic as I don't think anyone could have made up their mind on what to eat. At the end of the evening they present a cake to Mary and Jesse who had both celebrated their birthdays during our stay here. Stick a fork in us, we are done! My head hits the pillow and the lights went out.



## Day 2:

Good morning Bali! Oh wait, it is only 3:30 am, crap...go back to sleep...at least till 6:00 am. We make some coffee (thank you Starbucks instant Via!) and sit on our veranda and take in the view and the chorus of roosters. The sun is coming up over the hill and it looks like it will be a beautiful day.



Our adventure begins at 10:00 am as we stop at a local Balinese home. Jack takes us around the compound; it is very small and primitive, a very simple way of life. Second stop was the community wood carving business, which is filled with beautiful carvings made out of many different woods. The local wood is Crocodile, Mahogany, Hibiscus, and Teak. The wood store made out today as everyone bought

something to take home. We take a break at the Talisman Restaurant for lunch and a cold beer. After lunch we take to the mountain toward the Holy Water Temple. Along the way there are large groups of people as we came across a cremation ceremony. There is a very large fire with lots of smoke and yes, they do it right there over the fire. The ashes are then gathered, put in a container and thrown into the ocean. Just as we pull into the parking lot it starts to rain, and I'm not talking





little drops, it is now a torrential downpour! But, Capitalism is alive and well as the Umbrella rentals are at the bus door in seconds. We pop for the rental (a whopping 50 cents) and brave the deluge. The temple has a natural spring that runs through it and it is believed to have healing powers as several people are bathing in it. It is raining even hard now and there is lightening and thunder, how exciting! Upon entering the temple we are wrapped with a traditional sarong so our legs are covered. The grounds are now becoming swimming pools and waterfalls are coming



down the stairs, but our group is hardcore and we trek on. Several of us find coins on the grounds, which Jack explains is good luck. Time to move on, as we are knee deep in water now as we load back on the bus. Next stop the Tagaland Terraced Rice fields, but it is still pouring so we have to take shots from the bus. It is



beautiful and a shame it is raining, but that's the way it goes sometimes. Last stop of the day is the Monkey Forest, which is filled with our favorite Macaque monkeys.

You have to be very careful not to feed them, as they will jump on you. We take our token pictures and

are making our way back to the bus, when a monkey jumps on Jim with a banana and decides he is a great place to stop and have a snack. We shoo him away, as Jim looks very relieved he didn't get bit. Back to the resort for some down time by the pool. Lucky us, it's happy hour at the pool and Mojitos are two for one. Let's party! We have dinner at Bebek Begil (dirty duck) and enjoy the house specialty of what else? Crispy duck of course! It's a little commercialized so next time I think we will try a different place.



Tomorrow morning is an early one, so we make our way back to the hotel to get some sleep. They deliver to our rooms the box breakfast for our early departure to eat on the bus, which is better than not having any food at all.



#### Day 3:

4:00 am! They changed the departure time from 10:00 am to 8:00 am, so we have to depart at 5:00 am. Everyone is up and ready for our next adventure! We check in with Merpati Airlines and thus begins the great war of how much our group will pay in overweight

luggage fees. We are 272 kilos over the allowed weight for our group. This totals about four million Rupiah, which there is no arguing about...at least until Frank shows up at the counter. Frank is one of the owners of Worldwide Dive & Sail and he has something to say about the amount I am about to hand over. After some stiff talking and a phone call to the director about the "divers allowance" in overweight baggage, we settle on a price for about two million Rupiah. The flight is uneventful and a quick 40-minute ride to Bima. Working on "Island Time" the luggage truck finally shows and we load into the awaiting vehicles for a departure



from the nearby port. After a formality stop to make photocopies of all our passports to hand into the port office, we finally step aboard our home for the next ten days, the Siren. Everyone is shown to their cabins and dive station then the madness begins. It is a mass of equipment filling every corner of the boat. Will it all fit? Only time will tell. The crew pulls anchor and we are on our way to the first dive site. It will be a macro sit with limited visibility, maybe 30 ft or so. Our group is happy as this is better than most of the visibility we have at home! Everyone is divided into 3 groups so we are more spread out on the dives and not on top of each other, especially since we have so many cameras. Instead of doing two dives we opt to do one very long one. All goes well, no issues, so we are good and ready for tomorrow. Time for a cold Bintang, shower and a good dinner as most of us can't keep our eyes open after that 4:00 am morning departure. Good night.

#### Day 4:

The boat pulled anchor at 3:00 am in route to our next destination of Sangean



Island, which has an active volcano. The last eruption was in 1992. Before the first dive Bob gives sausage deployment classes, so everyone knows how their finger spools and safety sausages inflate. The first couple of dives are great macro as we see the Pygmy Seahorse, Cuttlefish, more Nudibranchs than you can count in every color and shape. Scorpion fish, Anemone Fish in some real cool colored Anemones and so much more. The visibility is very good at around 100 ft and the water is quite warm, which my computer said was 82 degrees. We have Liz & Linda shooting new camera systems, so a lot of questions are



flying. Unfortunately, we have a couple of issues already with a flooded cord and strobe. Good news is that we have enough spare stuff to get everyone back up and running.

Peggy hit her 300<sup>th</sup> dive this morning, way to go Peggy. Bob and I are also proud of everyone as they all practiced sausage deployment on the first two dives...I think I have a tear in my eye...sniff, sniff.



The third dive is Hot Rocks where hot gas bubbles out of the black sand. The visibility is not as good, but the life is really great. There is one rock that has a bunch of fluorescent pink anemones that I have never seen before. It is incredible how bright they are. There are more Pygmy Seahorses, I counted 4 on one fan. Great Schooling fish, Anthias and really nice coral. Upon

surfacing, it is quite windy now and we have a 3-hour crossing over to Gili Banta where we will do the night dive. On arrival there are 3 other boats in the bay, it looks like grand central station. The crew tries to

coordinate dive time, but that doesn't go so well, so we will just try to avoid the rest of the divers. The Circus is a great night dive and the usual suspects appear like the Stargazer, Morays, Ornate Ghost Pipe Fish, etc. Back on the boat, we are starving as it is 10 pm and we are just having dinner. Still have camera work to do so it is 11 pm before I am even looking at my photos from the day. Too tired....



#### Day 5:

We motored about an hour last night to stay in a different bay so it is nice and calm. We are anchored off of Komodo Island and are only doing one dive then moving on to Gili Lawa Laut. The first dive is Coral Gardens, a nice easy drift; one group saw a Manta Ray. Second dive is Castle Rock, which is big action. We prepare for lots of current but as we descended the current is light but there is still plenty of action going on. A few White Tip Reef Sharks, and a nice school of Jacks. Back on the boat a small pod of Dolphins came by, we wanted to jump in but the current is too strong and there is no dingy close by, so the crew says no. Everyone has a great dive and it is time for lunch.

The next dive is Crystal Rock, which is soft coral heaven. This dive is so colorful it is



like a rainbow of color underwater. There are big Napoleon Wrasse hunting and we even see a couple of Grouper. The fish action is wild as everything just comes flying by you. At the end of the dive was a turtle having lunch and the Jacks out hunting a school of fusiliers. We load on the boat and spot a pod of dolphins. While we wait for the last group to do their safety stop we head out to see if we can jump in with them, but as we get closer they disappear. Great dive, so we head back to the boat for some down time and get ready for the night dive.

We jump in early so we can have a good hour dive, it is nearly dark, but good enough to spot lots of life. We are looking for the very large Spanish dancer, which group two spots several during the dive. It was a nice reef with plenty of soft coral, but with no current the soft coral just wilts on the reef. Time for dinner as tomorrow

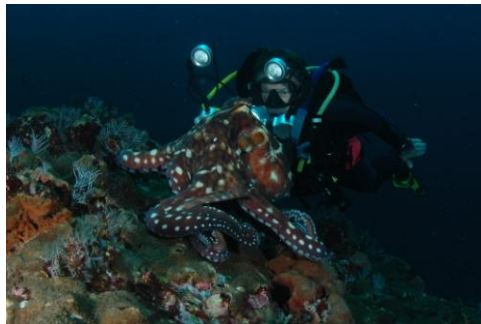
mornings dive is early, we are getting up at 6:30 am to beat the rush at Castle Rock. We tend to our cameras tonight to make sure we have wide angle on as Frank says that usually Dolphins come by hunting in the early hours. We will cross our fingers and dream of swimming with them on our next dive. Lying in my bunk I hear the rain hitting the deck. Good thing these squalls have only been happening at night.

Day 6:

6:30 am wake up call so we can beat all the other boats to the Castle Rock dive site this morning. We have the place all to ourselves to watch the morning feeding session. There are several White Tip Reef sharks circling as we make our way to the front of the reef where all the action is happening. A very large Gray Reef Shark comes cruising by with an entourage of Jacks in it's wake. Everyone hunkers down to watch the action as schools of fish come flying by as they are breakfast for the bigger fish. Time is running out as we drift in the current towards the top of the pinnacle. A great dive to start out our morning.



Dive two takes us to Current City, which is appropriately named once we dive in. It is strong as we watch the reef fly by on our descent. It doesn't start out well as Peggy lost a weight pocket and Bobs reel and sausage go floating by. Everybody grabs something as we start to gain speed. What we think will be pretty straightforward current, suddenly becomes a roller coaster ride with up and down currents. Everyone is swirling around the reef trying to stay at one depth and as close to the reef as possible. Out in the blue it is a swirling river of current. Not sure I saw much of the dive as the camera is like carrying a sail as it takes you up and down the reef. A Titan Trigger attacked Hal & Jim, which was pretty funny as it swims straight for them. We were laughing as Bob caught it all on tape. Third dive is Batu Bolong, which is just a spectacular dive. It is



covered with incredible corals and the fish life is unbelievable. A huge Octopus was out hunting on the reef, big school of Sweet Lips, Napoleon Wrasse, two giant Morays getting cleaned, several Banded Sea Snake and of course at the very end a huge Manta comes swimming up the wall while were at our safety stop. It was mind blowing. Our last dive of the night will be a dusk dive trying to find some Mandarin Fish.

Everyone searches madly for the Mandarins and claims their real estate on the reef. We are sitting in about 10 ft of water anxiously awaiting the big show. I find two right away and claim my space and for the next hour I don't even look up. It was a splendid show as my two little Mandarins were very busy. Bob finally swims over to check on me and there right in front of my the entire time was a boxer crab that I had been looking for! Of course as soon as I see it, it takes off, never to be seen again. It's been over an hour so time to go and as we surface there looks like a small city has moved in. They are squid fisherman and





there are a lot of them. Time for a cold Bintang to celebrate seeing the Mandarins. After a couple of beers we hatch our plan on how to celebrate Peggy's birthday tomorrow night. Instead of just a card we decide to have everyone sign a T-shirt. Hal even draws a Dragon on it for Peggy as we are doing the Komodo Dragon walk first thing tomorrow morning. The beer fridge looks empty so it must be time to go to bed.

Day 7:

6:45 am wake up call, geez, seems like I just went to bed. A little coffee and toast to start our day, then we have to put those horrible things called "shoes" back on. We hit the dock and we are the first group to arrive at Komodo National Park where

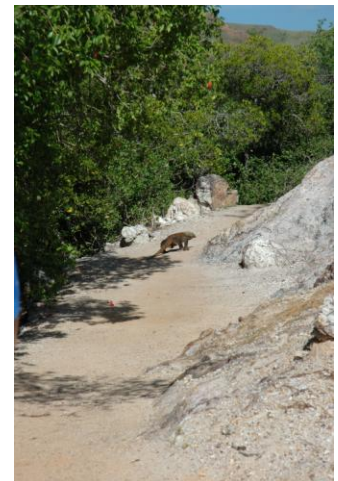


all the Macaque monkeys are waiting for us. It is ¼ mile to the ranger station, which is pretty funny considering there are Dragons on the way and there is no one to keep them away. Our guide today is Ranger Rambo, and he is armed with just a simple stick for protection. The Dragon has very sensitive nose so they just aim for that area to keep them back. There are about 6 big ones lying around by the kitchen at the ranger station. We do the hour walk about and see several dragons and nests. The eggs take about 7 months to hatch and then the small dragons head to the trees. We return to the ranger station and it is filled with tons of people waiting to go on the walk as now there are not enough guides and they have to wait. Thank you Frank for making us go early! On the



"unguided" trail back to the boat, a Dragon comes out of the trees and is walking in front of us toward the dock. Bob tries to grab a stick in case it turns around, but fortunately it is heading for a Monkey meal instead. Time to head South and dive the cooler waters of the Indian Ocean off the Island of Rinca.

First dive is Torpedo Alley, which has both yellow and purple Pygmy Seahorse. On the purple fan there are seven of them of various sizes. There were 2 large Octopus out in the open, more nudibranchs than you could count; Morays and Penny even found a small horned shark. Second dive is Cannibal Rock, which does not disappoint. It is covered with soft corals, crinoids, sponges and loads of fish. While we are diving the crew has spotted a deer on the beach that appears to have been bitten by a dragon. It has disappeared from the beach so we are not sure if the dragons have eaten it yet. One more night dive and then the big party starts in



celebration of Peggy's birthday.

Cannibal Rock was fantastic! It is one of the most incredible night dives we have done. This is macro heaven. Back on the boat we trick Peggy to go to her cabin and then surprise her with a birthday cake. We enjoy a great big piece and then everyone heads off to bed. Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Peggy!



Day 8:

Cannibal Rock is the first dive to start out the day, a little bit more current this time. After breakfast a Dragon is walking on the beach and some chicken has fallen out of the sky right in front of the Dragon so we quickly go in the boat to take full advantage. Hal, Bob & Dale place their videos in the sand and magically more chicken falls from the sky. The rest of us are waiting in the boat and the Dragon decides we are more interesting and actually starts swimming out to the boat! All the guides scramble into the boat and my heart is racing! Get in the boat!....very dangerous...blah, blah,



blah. We retrieve all the cameras and get ready for the next dive. Holy crap that was exciting!

Yellow wall was nice a little bit of surge and of course the famous Ladybugs. Why do they always live at 100 ft? They are about the size of a pinhead and jump around like little fleas. This is when you realize that you need magnifying lenses in your mask! One more dive at Torpedo Alley then we will move back to Komodo Island for the night.



The ride back to Komodo is relatively calm, just a small swell as we pull into the bay for the night. The dive is Wreck of the Phinisi, which has schooling Batfish, a large Crocodile fish and Mating Octopus. At dusk we head for the coral heads to look for Mandarin Fish. The guides found a couple but none of them came out of the coral to mate. A cold beer and our day is done.



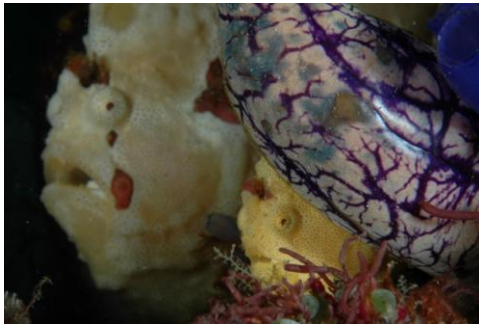
## Day 9:

We are in "Big Bird Alley" which we can't really say the name as we don't want to jinx it. On the first dive we have about 3 different Mantas come by. There was a bit of current, which we watched Jim go spiraling off the reef and then try and kick frantically back down. A small white Tip came streaking by in the channel as well. Dive two we have several



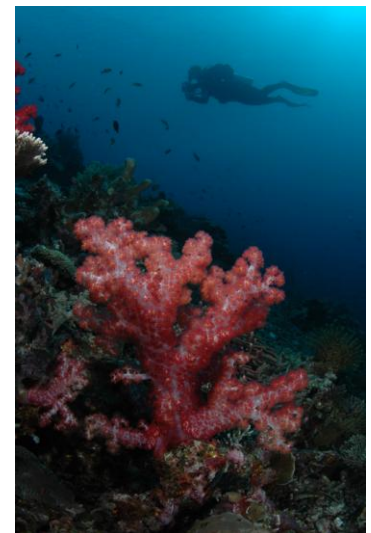
more encounters with Manta's as Bob told us to hold up our spirit fingers and they'll come closer. Dive 3 is a bust, not a single Manta, but Dale hit his 400<sup>th</sup> dive and Hal hit his 800<sup>th</sup>! Way to go guys!

Last dive is Pantai Merah (pink beach) Rivo (dive guide) finds us two nice frogfish, a sawblade shrimp, pipehorse and a mantis shrimp. I think today we swam miles and against current on most dives, good god is it time for a beer. The funniest story tonight at dinner, we asked Linda how big her card was in her camera and she held up two fingers and said "it's this big, and it's blue" the entire group breaks out in laughter, but Linda is a good sport, so she will be teased now for the rest of the trip. Just another great day of diving in Komodo.



## Day 10:

We start the morning out with a dive at Pantai Merah and then we are moving back over to Batu Balong. Unfortunately, we just missed the slack and most of us took a ride on a good down current. Everyone comes back to the boat with a good story a few people hit 100 ft fairly quickly. It is a smoking hot day outside; only a few brave soles try to lay out up top, most everyone else is hiding out until the next dive. The Shotgun is the 3<sup>rd</sup> dive, but we are doing it backwards as the currents are a little messed up from the full moon. Our group gets dropped in and we swim along waiting to get sucked through the channel, but it never happens as the current has switched already. The other two groups realize that the current has switched so they run to the other side and catch the ride. Last dive today is the Lighthouse which also has current but in Franks infamous words "there's not much current, it won't be strong". The dive starts out calm with barely a drift and it slowly begins to pick up speed after about 30 minutes, I knew it wasn't going to get any better and I should have bailed when I had the opportunity. We start sailing along the reef and know that sooner or later we will hit "the corner" which then hands us up, down and whirlpool currents. "Stick close to the reef" Frank says as we sail into the first rock formation. Slamming down on the backside I find a pocket with no current as I am catching my breath wondering where I'm going to go. Bob & Frank are farther down the reef



so I have to head back out in it sooner or later, as Bob looks like a flag on a pole in a very stiff breeze. Not too much farther I see the main rock formation and Frank signals Bob to stay low and go on the backside, but unfortunately I am heading for the high side and go sailing straight up in a whirlpool to the surface. Too late for me, I am now in a river of current so I signal the boat for a pickup and hope Bob stuck with Frank. Slowly, the group starts popping up one by one as they finish the dive, everyone has a good story about how they "sailed" through this one. Frank says to me "Kelley, I look up to see where you are and all I think is "Airforce One, taking off, see you on the boat"." A good cold beer and some incredible dive stories always make for colorful conversation at the end of the day.

#### Day 11:

The day starts out with an action packed dive at Castle Rock. We drop in and head



straight down to watch the sharks feed. The current is mild, which unfortunately means less action with the sharks and Jacks. It was a nice leisurely dive compared to yesterday's adventure, with plenty of subjects to take pictures of. We start motoring back towards Bima as our days now are numbered and the second dive is Gili Banta "K2". It is a beautiful reef dive with plenty of macro subjects like



Scorpion Leaf Fish, Sea Krait, Purple Squat Lobsters, Anemone Fish and much more. Last dive of the day we arrive at Bonto Reef with the large town on the beach consisting of about 11 huts. This is a true muck dive of black sand and literally going on a treasure hunt, as you never know what is hiding in the sand. After the dive, we are under full sails for the sunset cruise back to Bima. Frank launches the dinghy as we jump in to take pictures of the S/Y Siren with all her sails up. What a great evening with warm winds and cool beverage. I believe I hit 1700 dives on the last dive today.

#### Day 12:

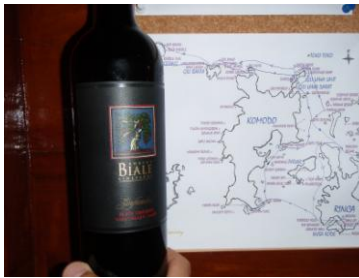
Last day of diving and we choose between 2 dives or one long dive, as our flight out tomorrow is earlier than originally planned. The dives are muck spots and of course plenty of great critters. There are more Nudibranchs than one can count, many of which are laying eggs. We finally have to end our last dive after 100 minutes. It is only 9:00am and we are busy rinsing gear and getting it hung up to dry. It is a leisurely day as we have all day & night to pack our stuff up. Everyone is also busy picking out their best photo's for the big contest tonight. It is a scorcher outside so spending any time in the sun is almost impossible. Wild games of Skipbo start in the afternoon and of course Dale is in command and promptly wins the game. It must be beer thirty so let the party begin.

Time to look at all the photos from the trip and everyone has taken some great shots!





Bob notices that there is Biale wine in the cooler and we can't figure out how one of our favorite wines is on the boat and that you could possibly find it in Bima. Mike & Liz finally fess up that our friend Karma came up with the idea and Mike & Liz have been toting around 2 bottles of wine this entire time! Thank you Mike, Liz & Karma for such a special surprise! The drinks are flowing, cameras are flashing and soon everyone sneaks to bed. We have to be up at the crack of dawn so we make it to the airport before all the surfers or else our luggage won't make the plane. We just hope there is a plane...



### Day 13:

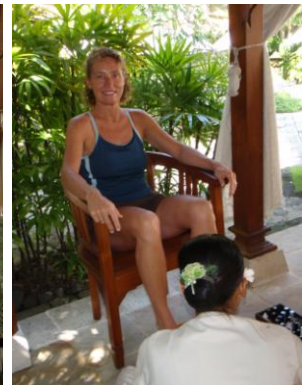
It feels like I just laid down and my head is pounding, a few too many of those Bintang! We say our goodbyes to the crew and head off to the airport in enough time to make sure all of us have a seat and our luggage will make it. Since our flight left early, we arrived and there is no Jack to greet us. A quick phone call and 10 minutes later Jack appears with the bus and we are off to the hotel. We are



staying at the Santika Hotel in Kuta Beach so we are only about 10 minutes from the airport. After checking in, it's pool time and lucky us there is a swim up bar at the pool! The specialty of the day is fresh Mango Daiquiris, so we order a few rounds and just relax the afternoon away. At 4:00 pm, Jack meets to walk us down the street to our 1-hour massage. There are enough gals at this spa to do our entire group at one time. Afterward, everyone is relaxed and ready for dinner, which was down the road at Batang Warong Café and it was Satay night. The dinner was good and then we made our way back to the hotel to call it a night. Tomorrow is going to be more of the same.

### Day 14:

The day started off with a good breakfast and then a quick pedicure. Bob and I



wanted to head down to Kuta Beach before it got too hot to walk around. The temperature during the day is in the 90's with about 90% humidity, so the walk

down was little daunting. We stop along the way and watch a lifeguard competition and I believe I am now sweating from my head to my toes. We stroll the famous Kuta Beach taking in all the local flavor, then go to the famous Poppies Lane 1 for shopping and trying not to get run over by a truck or scooter. We duck into the closest Starbucks for a little air conditioning and a cool drink. We decide not to sit down for fear of leaving a pool behind us. Back out into the oven and we decide we have had enough and the pool was calling our name for the rest of the afternoon. Lunch and drinks by the pool, can it get any better? It was nice to have this entire day of down time to relax and chat with the group. At 4:00 pm we meet back up



with Jack as we are going to the temple to watch the Balinese Fire Dance. The temple is swarming with Macaque Monkeys and Jack warns us no glasses or jewelry, as these monkeys are very aggressive. I think later someone sums them up to the evil monkeys in the wizard of oz. The show takes place in a small amphitheater cliffside next to the temple on the point at sunset. Right now it feels like 100 degrees with no breeze packed in a sardine can. The concrete we are sitting on is like heated seats in your car only with an imprint of your ass sweat left behind. The show begins with a large group of men chanting continuously the entire show, which lasted a little over an hour. Jack had warned us not to sit in the front row as they light a big fire and you don't want to be close to it. The show is entertaining and becomes even more so, when they light huge piles of grass around the monkey in the story and then the monkey kicks the fully lit grass piles around. And yes, if you were anywhere near the front and direction that the wind is blowing, ashes, smoke and sparks are in your face! Good thing we are in the back row! After the show it is a mass exodus from the temple as we head back to our hotel for a little late dinner. Time for a little air conditioning and down time before we go back to our room to call it a night.

#### Day 15:

A relaxing morning with a late breakfast as we finalize our packing for the long trip home. Mike & Liz are departing this morning at 10:30 am, so everyone says their goodbyes and I jump in to ride with them to the airport. Jack and I stop by the Indochina office to finalize some business and then back to the hotel for final checkout. The group gathers for the final departure on the bus for the airport. Linda shows up not feeling well as we think she has withdrawals from the seasick medicine she has been on for the last two weeks. As we are entering the airport, she is down



with bouts of nausea coming and going. This is why it is important to have travel services help you in and out of all the airports. The guides quickly help us get her in the airport, through security and sitting down. As Jesse tries checking them in she of course has to stand at the counter for a few minutes but another wave hits her and she is down to the ground. At this point the gate agents are saying they might not let her on the plane, because they don't know what she has and she has to go to quarantine. The rest of the group checks in as we start to try and figure out what is going to happen. At this point they will not let her on the plane until



"their" doctor gives her permission to fly. We tell them that one of our group members is her doctor, but that just isn't going to work. Remember, this is International and of course they are worried she might have Swine Flu, Bird Flu or who knows whatever else. They try to put her in a wheelchair to take her upstairs but she refuses saying she is fine. Of course, halfway to the immigration counter she is down again. The one agent rushes off to grab the wheelchair as the rest of us stand and look on totally helpless at this point. Finally, we regroup and the airline agent says he will take her to quarantine where she will "rest" until the flight. They finally hand Jesse the boarding passes, I give them Jacks number just in case they don't let them on the plane, and we have our fingers crossed we will see them on the flight. The rest of us grab a bite to eat before the flight and when we get to the gate Linda & Jesse are waiting there for us. Thank god! The doctor had come and checked her out and gave her a letter that it was ok for her to fly and it looked like she had some inner ear issues. The cost was 20,000 Rupiah to the doctor, which is about \$3 dollars US. They take her in by wheelchair and they are up in business class resting comfortably. The flight is not full so the rest of us enjoy empty rows with lots of space. This flight is only 5 hours to Taipei, which we have a quick layover and then the long 14 hour flight back to Seattle. Unfortunately, I think that flight is full and that will be a very long ride back home.

LESSONS LEARNED: When flying Internationally never tell them you are sick, as you may not be able to get on the plane. Always arrive early as we had plenty of time to deal with the situation. Make sure you have travel insurance and phone numbers of connections where you are. Worse case, we could have called Jack to come back and get them and he would have helped get them into a hotel until they could catch a different flight home. Travel Insurance would cover the additional costs of hotel, food & flights. Fortunately, this time around it all worked out. Now, somebody get me a beer so my blood pressure drops back down!

The flight from Taipei to Seattle goes off without a hitch. It gets a little bumpy over Japan due to the typhoon but other than that a pretty good ride. We are a little worse for wear, but skate through Immigration and customs with no problems AND everyone's luggage made it back. We say our goodbyes, grab our vehicles and hit the road to home. Anacortes here we come!

Thanks everyone for joining us on yet another great adventure to explore the Bali/Komodo region of SE Asia, Indonesia. ~Kelley & Bob~



# BALI & KOMODO INDONESIA

OCTOBER 2010

ANACORTES ADVENTURE DIVE TEAM



Jim, Hal, Peggy, Dale, Linda, Jesse, Liz, Mike  
Penny, Marle, Mary, Kelley, Bob  
and all the crew of S/Y Siren