

Best experience  
at  
Desa Wisata  
Pulewulung





Author: Maryness Patrick

*“Fadhila ya Punda ni Mateke”*

This is a SWAHILI proverb that emphasizes gratitude. When we attain success, achieve what we want or experience something good, we are encouraged to remember the blessings that we have received from God and from the ones who have made it all happen. We are encouraged to take a moment to go back and give thanks. We are encouraged to see the people, acknowledge them and thank them for making us take a step or experience something. The proverb in English is translated to “Gratitude of a donkey is a kick” .... I don’t want to be that donkey!

My experience at DESA WISATA PULEWULUNG in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, have left me in awe and I am pushed to write this note of thank you for this experience to Sanata Dharma University, Pulewulung administration and Margomulyo Farmers Group’s Agro-Edu Tourism Program in Pulewulung.

Just a glimpse about me, my name is Maryness Patrick, a masters’ student at Sanata Dharma University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. I come from Tanzania, Africa. A little insight into Africa where I come from. Africa is a continent. In Africa, there are villages and wild animals, and yes Africans live in mud huts. Cities and running water also do exist because Africa is A MULTIFACETED CONTINENT. Yes, people walk long distances, barefoot on dusty paths and yes people drive cars along tarred spaghetti highways. Africa is a continent of priests and sangomas (traditional healers), monks, imams, rabbis and so much more. Africa is a continent of an entire spectrum of skin complexions and a continent of thousands of languages. And of course, Africa is a continent with a spirit of togetherness, of *Ubuntu* (humanity) and of community. When I came to Indonesia I did not imagine that I was just moving from a nest and building another nest here. I did not imagine being home away from home until I went to DESA WISATA PULEWULUNG. It all started like this.



Father Antonius Sumarwan, SJ who is our Marketing for International Tourism lecturer proposed to visit a destination so that we grasp further what he teaches in class. He proposed visiting these villages which the names did not stick in my head at first. The day of the trip began with a pickup at Sanata Dharma University on a Daihatsu Xenia new model, just perfect for a few people ride. I felt like I was in a family trip all along the way. Our Guide Mr. Agus Risatyawan (Wawan is his nickname) arrived at the campus just at the exact time the itinerary which he sent us one day before the trip showed. He introduced himself and the adventure began. Mr. Wawan can speak both Bahasa Indonesia and English so language was something not to worry about.

On the way to Pulewulung village, we came across a Salak fruit statue. Just a perfect way introducing what we have signed up for. We didn't hesitate to step down off the car and make some memories

After that, we went to the Salak Cultivation Park popularly known as snake fruit in Indonesia. At this tourist park, we learnt a lot about planting, picking of the fruits, selling and the use of the fruits.



at the statue. We arrived at Pulewulung Tourism village at 09.00 am where we met several administrators of the tourist village waiting for us, I felt like VIP for once. The welcoming drinks and snacks were outstanding. We had a chat with the administrators at this amazing lobby where they answered all the questions we were curious about. We were provided with the history of the village, programs and activities offered, how they do their operations and how they return to the community, the challenges they face and they were kind enough sharing with us their future plans.

Interestingly, the snacks we ate at the lobby when we arrived were made of Salak fruit. Salak fruit is a species of palm tree native to Java and Sumatra in Indonesia. Salak fruits grow in clusters at the base of the palm, and are also known as snake fruit due to the reddish-brown scaly. Salak is about the size and shape of a ripe fig, with a distinct tip. The pulp is edible. I enjoyed eating fresh Super Salak, Honey Salak and Ivory Salak.

Then we went to the business center where these fruits are processed. We met these wonderful women who welcomed us with smiles, showed us how they process salak fruit into snacks namely salak dodol (a snack prepared for four hours, this was very interesting for me), salak jenang, salak geplak and salak crackers. As a tradition of Indonesian women, you won't leave their place without eating or drinking something. This made me remember of African mothers. The women at the business center prepared this delicious food. We ate, had a chat, a lot of jokes and laughter then it was time to leave from the business centre.

I thought we already had lunch at the salak business centre, but our guide Mr. Wawan is full of surprises. He had a lunch reservation for us at KOPIKEMUNING, a coffee shop designed with unique blend of Javanese arts and crafts located just a few minutes' drive from the tourist village.

The tour ended with a river trekking safari. This was extraordinary and a not to miss activity when you think about going to Pelewulung



tourism village. One of the things that amazed me at river trekking, we started with a prayer. The guide explained that it is a norm there praying before entering nature. My personal me defined that as asking nature permission, making a connection with nature before

entering its land. For me, this was a holistic approach and gave me assurance of how safe the trekking will be and of course it was very safe and fun. At the end of the trip, I concluded that nature welcomed us, nature loved us and nature was happy to have us as visitors the same way we were happy trekking there.



At 16.00 pm, we began our journey back to the campus after a goodbye chat with the amazing guides and administrators of the tourism village. Every activity I did at the tourist village, arose a feeling of home to me. What we do in Africa, is just how they do it here but in a different way, different tribes and maybe a different geography. I felt home at the village. Tasting new foods, hearing a new language, new communication skills, seeing new ways of dressing, seeing new scenes and landscapes was very exciting and I thoroughly enjoy every point of it. It was exciting and adventurous. I learnt to enjoy this new experience in a different geography and to become part of this varied culture. This has created in me the awareness that people all over the world are basically the same but just the way we express our cultures makes us different and unique. The different ways of talking, enjoying, cultivating, building,

dressing, cooking and conducting business is fascinating. I have acquired a more global perspective of the world we live in and thanks to the people who made this possible for me and my fellows.



I found my favorite memory of 2022 at PULEWULUNG. This experience was one of the main reasons I have always wanted to participate in community-based tourism. And, it did not disappoint.

Memories:

1. Pulewulung welcoming drinks and snacks.
2. Beautiful streets of the village.
3. Salak cultivation park.
4. Snacks from Salak fruits.
5. Lunch with the wonderful women at the centre.
6. Picking Salak fruits.
7. Prayer before river trekking safari.
8. River trekking.
9. Lunch at Kopikemuning.
10. Pictures at the Salak statue with the community.
11. The greetings all over the way.
12. The salak gifts to take back home.

If you are planning for your next trip to PULEWALUNG, here are some details:

WHERE IS IT LOCATED?

Sleman Regency, Special City of Yogyakarta – Indonesia

RECOMMENDED TOUR GUIDE



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Risatyawan-  
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