



Lizzy Baden '12

**FROM GRAND FORKS, N.D.,
TO MANADO, INDONESIA**

What has a typical day been like?

My favorite place to eat breakfast is right in front of my dormitory along the beach. I go to school and then go for a run in my neighborhood that is mostly uphill. On the top of the hill, I have a beautiful view of Manado that overlooks the ocean. After my run, I often drink a young coconut near the beach and watch the sunset. It is one routine about which I am very nostalgic.

However, Manado is not peachy perfect. Trash is everywhere. The only real waste management is burning ALL waste, plastic and all. There are gaping holes in the sidewalk that lead to the sewer. It is really quite a travesty. There is so much beauty surrounded by so much chaos. Living here has made me more environmentally conscious than I have ever been in my life. (And that's saying something! I was the kid in high school who brought her own reusable Tupperware container for school lunch just to avoid using Styrofoam plates.)

Have you had the chance to do any sightseeing?

In all honesty, I like to really get to know the place and the people where I am living. The majority of my travel has been in the general region of North Sulawesi. I like sleeping in my own bed, and I am afraid if I focused too much time on traveling that I would miss out on getting to know my community. I have managed to connect with a lot of people here. Relationships are more important to me than sightseeing.

Anyway, I live in a pretty awesome place. I can see Bunaken beach from my dormitory. It's considered one of the most beautiful places in the world to dive, so my site-mates (fellow Fulbrighters) and I got PADI certified so we can dive. And in my backyard, I've got a national park that is home to the world's smallest primate and an endangered monkey. I don't have to travel far to be exposed to interesting discoveries.



INDONESIA

