

Bawah Trip Report



When one thinks of Indonesia, Bali is typically the first island to come to mind and while warranted, there is a hidden private island retreat in the Indonesian island archipelago that is the hottest new opening in recent years and guess what, it is not on Bali.

Located in Singapore's backyard, in between Indonesia and Malaysia, lies [Bawah Reserve](#).

While remote, Bawah is quite easy to get to, either from Singapore or Jakarta. Having gone the Singapore route I had my first contact with the resort when their driver picked my sister and I up from our friends house in Singapore with a smile on his face at 7am to begin our journey to the island. After the quick 20 minute drive to Tana Merah ferry terminal, we were met by Lawrence, who escorted us on the 45 minute ferry ride to Batam in Indonesia. A quick transfer to the airport and we were on the seaplane to make the 1pm flight to the island where we were welcomed by Bawah's dedicated staff.



Built over the course of 5 years using by hand- without using any machines, Bawah is every eco travelers dream destination. The focal point of this reserve is sustainability, after all the islands are now a designated marine conservation area. Bawah's limited capacity (a maximum of 70 guests in 35 private suites or villas) allows you feel like you have your own personal aquarium, filled to the brim with tropical fish, reef sharks and even the friendly eel at the foot of (or below) your beachside bungalow.

Besides the snorkeling and diving, relaxation comes in many forms at Bawah Reserve. Post dip in the warm water allows for your choice of spa experience, hikes to the highest point of the main island to watch the sunset/sunrise or movie night in the outdoor theater (post barbeque of course). Bawah is the only reserve in all of Asia to include all spa treatments, guest experiences and transport (with their amphibious seaplane). Other activities include kayaking to the surrounding islands, cruises around the islands (I recommend the sunset one), cooking classes, picnics along your own private beach, yoga and private dining experiences.



It is the ability of the staff to curate a totally different yet incredible experience for each guest at Bawah reserve that really sets it apart and you leave the island feeling like part of their family.

After your stay at Bawah, you are transferred (the same way you came) to your choice of hotel in either Jakarta or Singapore. Once again, we chose the Singapore route and were deposited to the new [Warehouse hotel](#), which like Bawah, I highly recommend.

