

My annual holidays consist of Eid al-Fitr, Christmas, and New Years. This is what happened in 2020.

1. Eid al-Fitr, or more commonly called “Idul Fitri” here in Indonesia, doesn’t have an exact date as it follows a different calendar. However, it usually falls between May and June.

I can’t say with confidence that anyone came to our house on Idul Fitri. We didn’t go anywhere either due to the pandemic. Our city wasn’t as affected by the pandemic as other cities, coming into the restrictions and lockdowns a bit later than the rest. Due to this, or perhaps it was out of habit, my brother still prepared ready-to-serve meals and snacks in case any guests came by. It was an empty house with low spirits, I’d say.

2. Christmas was much different this year than the rest of my life for other reasons. However, we did have a family tradition to go to a hotel Christmas morning and have the breakfast buffet. Unfortunately, we didn’t celebrate Christmas at all this time around. Even if we did, we would’ve still stayed at home regardless. I can’t even imagine there being a buffet open during a pandemic.
3. New Years was quite different from the rest. Some months prior, my brother had set up a room rental business in a separate building on our property. He’d taken to the renters quite well, and regularly spent time with them. I spent time with a number of them prior to this as well.

Due to this arrangement on our property, New Years was a ball in comparison to the other holidays. We all convened on the open space on the second floor and had a barbecue at night. Since we all lived downstairs, it wasn’t much of an issue how long it lasted. It was a shame that I couldn’t invite one of my friends to it, so I visited her with some bubble tea during the day. Other than that, there were restrictions placed on setting off fireworks, but that didn’t stop a few from firing come midnight.