Borneo

August 5 to 16, 2016

“We had an amazing adventure in a wonderfully unique place.”

—Louise Stewart, ’80, Madagascar Adventure, 2015
The third-largest island in the world, Borneo is one of the most significant centers of biodiversity on the planet. The tropical climate allows vibrant ecosystems to thrive and support thousands of species of plants and animals, many of them endemic, making this island a truly remarkable destination for nature lovers. Home to some 13 species of primates alone, Borneo is one of only two places in the world where orangutans can still be seen living in their natural environment. Visit the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and see how young orangutans are trained to return to the wild. Then spend three days exploring the lush rain forests that line the banks of the majestic Kinabatangan River in search of these elusive red apes and other unique jungle inhabitants. Get up close to the abundant marine life of the Sulu Sea during our stay on Lankayan Island, a nesting and foraging ground for sea turtles. Learn about the environmental challenges that the region is facing and meet with some of the wonderful people who are working to conserve and protect this special place from further impact.
Faculty Leaders

ROBERT SIEGEL, ’76, MA ’77, MD ’90, is a professor of microbiology and immunology at Stanford’s School of Medicine and also holds appointments in the human biology program, the Center for African Studies and the Woods Institute for the Environment. He is the recipient of numerous teaching and advising awards including the Walter Gores Award, Stanford’s highest teaching accolade. Dr. Siegel has broad interests and his courses include topics in infectious disease and human virology, Darwin and evolution, nature photography and even a course about Stanford. He has also taught a series of field seminars on wetland ecology and island biogeography in locations such as Brazil, Madagascar, Tasmania, the Galápagos and Papua New Guinea.

On this program, he will use the framework of island biogeography to discuss the profusion of wildlife and culture in Malaysian Borneo. His talks will begin with the geological, biological and human historical origins of this ecological eden. This will be followed by a series of vignettes on some of the most remarkable inhabitants including rafflesia—the largest flowers in the world, the orangutan—the only nonhuman great ape to be found outside of Africa, and bizarre and beautiful insects such as the lantern beetle. He will also discuss human and non-human threats to the future of this region, including the impact of palm oil plantations, spillover between human and animal infections, and climate change.

- Recipient of numerous teaching awards at Stanford, including the Walter J. Gores Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Human Biology Master Advisor Award, the Henry J. Kaiser Award for Excellence in Preclinical Teaching, and the Committee on Courses and Curriculum Commendation for Outstanding Teaching
- Advisory board member to TeachAIDS, Free the Children, Support for International Change, Ocean Medicine Foundation and Wonderfest: the Bay Area Beacon of Science
- BA, MA and MD, Stanford University; PhD, University of Colorado

“Dr. Bob was awesome. Fun to be around and lectures that drew you in. His enthusiasm and excitement was contagious.”

—Lisa Pope, Galápagos Family Adventure, 2015
Itinerary

Friday & Saturday, August 5 & 6

U.S. / Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

Depart the U.S. on Friday and cross the international date line en route to Kota Kinabalu, losing a day in transit. Upon arrival in Kota Kinabalu on Saturday evening, transfer to our luxury hotel located right on the South China Sea. The evening is at leisure to relax after our long trip. SHANGRI-LA’s RASA RIA RESORT HOTEL

Sunday, August 7

Kota Kinabalu

As many flights from the U.S. arrive late at night, today has been left free for us to rest and recover from jetlag. Explore the beautiful grounds of the resort and indulge in its many amenities. This evening meet our fellow travelers at a welcome reception and dinner. SHANGRI-LA’s RASA RIA RESORT HOTEL (B,D)

Monday, August 8

Kota Kinabalu / Sandakan

After breakfast, spend a couple of hours walking in a nearby nature reserve used by the Sabah Wildlife Department as part of their orangutan rehabilitation program. (The Malaysian state of Sabah encompasses the entire northeastern region of the island of Borneo where we will be traveling.) See our first orangutans of the trip as we stroll along various jungle trails with impressive views of Mount Kinabalu on one side and the Sabah coastline on the other. Depart for the airport in the late morning for our short flight to Sandakan, located on the east coast of Sabah. From the air, we’ll see the scale of the oil palm plantations that dominate and are irrevocably changing the landscape. After checking in to our hotel in downtown Sandakan, drive up the hill behind the city to the home of U.S. author Agnes Newton Keith, now a museum depicting details of her life in Borneo before and during WWII. Enjoy cocktails on the museum grounds at sunset followed by dinner at the English Tea House, which offers spectacular views overlooking the Sandakan harbor. FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON (B,L,D)

Tuesday, August 9

Sandakan / Sukau

Spend the morning visiting the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. The Sabah Wildlife Department uses the center to rehabilitate and train young orangutans to be able to survive again in the wild. View the red apes from an observation platform during their feeding time and learn about the differences between rehabilitated orangutans and the wild ones we hope to see later on during our trip. Continue to the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre to observe Malaysia’s endemic bear species. After lunch at a nearby restaurant, depart for Sukau and stop en route at the Gomantong Caves, famous for large colonies of insectivorous bats and swiftlets. With luck, our visit to the caves will coincide with the daily exodus of bats going to feed over the forest and river system—a truly incredible sight! The caves are located in a virgin jungle reserve that is home to the orangutan, red leaf langur, tarsier, slow loris, silver leaf monkey, wild boar, muntjac, civet and the occasional elephant, just to name a few, so other wildlife sightings are a possibility here as well. Arrive in Sukau this evening and transfer by boat to our lodge on the banks of the Kinabatangan River. SUKAU RAINFOREST LODGE (B,L,D)

Wednesday, August 10

Kinabatangan River

Explore the lower Kinabatangan River area with our nature guides today. The last remaining large tract of wetlands in Malaysia, this region is the habitat of an enormous population of diverse wildlife. Search for several species endemic to the island such as the orangutan, Proboscis monkey and Borneo pygmy elephant. Visit the recently protected Lower Kinabatangan Conservation Area, a region of 64,000 acres where EcoHealth Alliance, an international organization of scientists dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity, is working closely with several local conservation organizations to protect the precious
biodiversity of the area. Meet with members of the team and learn how they are working to help prevent the emergence of pandemics by bringing together the study of economics, ecology and health sciences. This evening go out on a night cruise to look for nocturnal animals and roosting diurnal birds. SUKAU RAINFOREST LODGE (B,L,D)

Thursday, August 11
**Kinabatangan River**
Continue our Malaysian safari with an early-morning excursion on the river in search of more intriguing species. Return to the lodge for a late breakfast, then take the free afternoon to rest. Set out again later on a sunset cruise to view wildlife at that time of day when the animals tend to exhibit their most active behavior. SUKAU RAINFOREST LODGE (B,L,D)

Friday, August 12
**Kinabatangan River**
This morning, cruise with our nature guides to an oxbow lake, separated from the river over time as erosion and soil deposits changed the river’s course. One of the best places on our trip for bird watching, we hope to see a variety of species such as hornbills, kingfishers, kites and egrets. Wild orangutans, langurs, macaques and Proboscis monkeys are also sometimes spotted in this serene area. Stop at the impressive Danau Girang Field Centre, a collaboration between the Sabah Wildlife Department and Cardiff University in Wales, and hear about the important field studies being carried out here by researchers and doctoral students from around the world. Cruise back to our lodge, arriving in time for dinner. SUKAU RAINFOREST LODGE (B,L,D)

Saturday, August 13
**Sukau / Sandakan / Lankayan Island**
After breakfast, return to Sandakan where we catch a boat to Lankayan Island. An acclaimed tropical island with beautiful beaches and excellent snorkel and dive sites, Lankayan Island has been declared part of an immense Marine Protected Area. It is situated within the “Sea Turtle Corridor” and is indeed a nesting and foraging ground for several species of sea turtles including the green sea turtle and the hawksbill sea turtle. Our stay here coincides with the turtle hatching season. LANKAYAN ISLAND RESORT (B,L,D)

Sunday, August 14
**Lankayan Island**
Spend a whole day relaxing on the island and enjoying the amenities of our resort. Search for sea turtles laying eggs on the beach or grab a snorkel and explore the diverse world beneath the waves. The island boasts more than 30 dive sites, including two wrecks! LANKAYAN ISLAND RESORT (B,L,D)

Monday, August 15
**Lankayan Island / Sandakan / Kota Kinabalu**
Leave our tropical paradise this morning and make our way back to Kota Kinabalu. Upon arrival check in to our resort, conveniently situated close to the airport. Gather with fellow travelers this evening and toast the end of an incredible adventure at our farewell reception and dinner. SHANGRI-LA’S TANJUNG ARU RESORT (B,L,D)

Tuesday, August 16
**Kota Kinabalu / U.S.**
Transfer to the airport for flights back to the U.S., arriving home the same day. (B)
What to Expect

We consider this to a moderately strenuous and physically demanding program. Excursions into the jungles can involve up to 2 or 3 miles of walking and hiking on trails, which can range from flat dirt paths to fairly steep, rocky and/or muddy trails. Touring on the Kinabatangan River is done on small river boats. Our itinerary covers a lot of territory and the journey from place to place requires overland, air and ocean travel. Overland transportation is done by motorcoach, with the longest drives being 2 to 2.5 hours (including rest stops) on winding roads or bumpy surfaces. The domestic flight between Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan is approximately 45 minutes and the boat ride out to Lankayan Island is about 90 minutes. It is important to know that Borneo’s tourism industry in certain areas is still developing, thus patience with local service standards will greatly improve one’s enjoyment of the trip. Hotels and lodges are chosen for their proximity to the nature areas we visit on our program and are the best available. Accommodations range from basic, yet clean and comfortable, lodges to four-star hotels and deluxe resorts. We expect that participants will be a self-selecting group whose interest in the places we visit far outweighs the need for creature comforts. Medical treatment and care are not always available or up to U.S. standards. To participate fully in this adventure, participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 12 years of age and older on this program.
Information

Dates
August 5 to 16, 2016 (12 days)

Size
This program can accommodate 26 participants. Single accommodations are limited; please call for availability.

Cost*
$8,795 per person, double occupancy
$9,995 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

Included
- 10 nights of hotel accommodations
- 10 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 9 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers, wait staff and hotel staff for all group activities
- All tours as described in the itinerary
- Round-trip domestic flights between Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan
- Airport transfers and baggage handling on arrival and departure days
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

Not Included
- International and domestic airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare between San Francisco and Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, is approximately $2,000 as of October 2015 and is subject to change without notice.
Terms and Conditions

Deposit and Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space on this program. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?borneo2016 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations and Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the member’s price. Families and trip companions may travel on one membership. Call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership for more information or to purchase a membership.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in October 2015 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

© COPYRIGHT 2015 STANFORD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
Contact Information

Visit us online to reserve space:

Questions? Call us at (650) 725-1093 or email us at travelstudy@alumni.stanford.edu

Stanford Alumni Association
Stanford Travel/Study
Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center
326 Galvez Street
Stanford, CA 94305

Stanford Travel/Study is a program of the Stanford Alumni Association