for a long boat ride on an ox-bow lake. We’ll see many wildlife animals such as orangutans, macaques, red and silver leaf monkeys, elephants, hornbills, crocodiles, civet cats, otters and the ever sought-after proboscis monkeys. The bird life includes egrets, kingfishers, Oriental darters, bee-eaters, hornbills and many more. After a few hours on the river, we return to our lodge for a quick coffee and biscuits, before departing again for a bus ride to the nearby Gomantong Caves. This is a very famous site where tens of thousands of swiftlets are to be found and the nest of which is used for a famous local soup. There are also a large number of bats and crabs in the caves, so we spend a couple of hours exploring its chambers and walkways. The bird life around the cave is particularly rich with often sightings of crested serpent eagles, kingfishers, Asian fairy bluebirds, and leaf birds. After finishing our visit, we drive back to our lodge for a lovely afternoon siesta. But the evening will find us out on the water again, taking a different direction as we search for more species of wildlife and further opportunities to photograph the creatures of the forest. We finish our day with a delicious dinner. Accommodations: Riverside lodge

Selingan Island

Thursday, October 10 - Kinabatangan River/Selingan Island

Today the keen wildlife enthusiasts will rise again with the tropical sun and take part in a last river safari; while others can take the opportunity to sleep in and take it easy for the morning. We will gather for breakfast before checking out and driving to Sandakan, where we board our private boat to the nearby island of Selingan. The entire afternoon will find us free to rest and explore as we choose. For such a small island, there is a lot to see and do. One of the most popular afternoon adventures is snorkeling. For those of wanting to stay dry, megapods nest on the island, and one of the greatest challenges is capturing a good photo of this fast and elusive creature. Selingan Island is the most important turtle breeding marine park in all of South East Asia. It is a rare experience to watch the huge green turtles lay their eggs, dig a hole with their flippers and lay around 100 eggs. The tarsiers will transfer these eggs to a hatchery and provide incubation for 50-60 days before the hatchlings break out of their shells. They will then be released, giving us the awesome opportunity to watch these tiny creatures as they struggle over a couple of feet of sand before reaching the water and beginning their independent lives. Only 3% are likely to survive due to disease and predation, but if females do survive, they will return in about 20 years to the very same beach to re-peat the cycle. We will gather in the early evening at the local exhibition center for our orientation and to watch a lovely video before proceeding to the dining room for dinner. After dinner there will be another opportunity to see more turtle hatchlings make their journey to the water. Once over, we will return to our lodge and try to catch as much sleep as possible.

Accommodations: Beach resort

Friday, October 11 - Selingan Island/Kota Kinabalu/Departure

We will all need to gather for an early breakfast and an early private boat ride back to the mainland. From the jetty, we’ll transfer to the Sandakan Airport and fly to Kota Kinabalu. Here, at Kota Kinabalu Airport, our Borneo adventure comes to its official end. If you are not coming with us to the Indonesian islands of Komodo to search for the world famous Komodo Dragons, you will fly home according to your own flight arrangements. If you are going to be a part of the Komodo Extension, we will all fly together to Kuala Lumpur and connect from there to Bali, Indonesia and start our next adventure with an overnight stay in Denpasar.

KOMODO DRAGON EXTENSION

October 12 - 17, 2013

The islands of the Komodo Dragon are part of the complex of 175 islands, 200 miles east of Bali, between the islands of Flores and Sumbawa. Both above and below the sea, Komodo represents a unique range of geological and biological diversity. Komodo’s symbol of international fame is its dragons, the world’s largest living lizard. The surrounding sea is filled with vibrant color and exotic life that will enchant divers and snorkelers alike. There are endless schools of fish that ride the waterways rushing up from deep sea vents, below them the sea-bed is covered with a thick carpet of fluorescent corals and marine invertebrates. This is truly an underwater photographers paradise. To meet the 3 meters long, 70 kg (155 lbs) reptile giants and to explore their pristine and breathtaking habitat is a serious spoil for all nature lovers. Price to be determined. Call Wann Expeditions for more information.

Company Owner and Wildlife Biologist

Jessica Pociask has been to over 50 countries guiding a multitude of trips. Some of the highlights include a successful expedition to the Tien Shan Mountains of Kyrgyzstan to find snow leopards; reaching the Baikal Pygmeys in the Central African Republic, swimming with sea lions in the Galapagos, trekking gorillas in Central Africa and Uganda, and visiting with Bedouin tribes in Jordan. She holds a B.S. ’07 from the College of Agriculture, Culture and Resources from Michigan State University, and is in the process of completing her master’s in environmental management at Duke University. Dedicated to conservation, she has worked extensively with The Nature Conservancy as a crew chief leader on wetland and fern restoration projects in Michigan, and on sustainable development initiatives and climate change studies in conjunction with MSU in Mexico and Antarctica. In 2011 and 2012 she led two MSU alumni tours to East Africa and the Galapagos.

All travelers whether alumni or friends must be current members of the MSU Alumni Association to participate in travel offerings. To join visit alumni.msu.edu.

For more information on Spartan Pathways tours, visit alumni.msu.edu/travel.

Program Includes:
- all accommodations
- all meals
- all activities mentioned in the program
- all land transportation
- bottled water in transport vehicles
- all airport and local transfers
- all entrance and local guiding fees
- international tour leader
- all tips
- all government taxes and levies
- all domestic flights

There is no true nature and adventure traveler, whose heart would not beat faster when hearing the word "Borneo". This Southeast Asian wonderland has always been associated with rugged mountains, rainforests, rivers, caves and headhunters. It is an irresistible paradise for nature travelers, extensively covered with the oldest rainforests on Earth. During the last 100 million years, unique life has evolved to this land, such as orangutans, proboscis monkeys, pitcher plants, the rafflesia, macaques, elephants and hundreds of birds. During our amazing expedition, we will attempt to encounter and photograph as many species and landscapes as possible. We will observe the largest colony of bats in the world, as they cover the skies when taking off at dusk, trek several jungle trails for wildlife, hike on the tallest mountain of Southeast Asia, watch semi-wild and wild orangutans, cruise hundreds of kilometers of lush jungle waterways, watch sea turtles lay their eggs on pristine sandy beaches, and last, but not least, visit Brunei, the richest sultanate in the world.

Detailed itinerary:
- Saturday, September 28 - Arrival/Kuching
- Sunday, September 29 - Kuching Exploration
- Monday, September 30 - One day trip to Tawau
- Tuesday, October 1 - Kota Kinabalu/Departure
- Wednesday, October 2 - Kinabatangan River
- Thursday, October 3 - Kinabatangan River
- Friday, October 4 - Kinabatangan River/Kota Kinabalu/Departure
- Saturday, October 5 - Kota Kinabalu/Departure
- Sunday, October 6 - Give the traveler free time to experience the Niah Caves.
- Monday, October 7 - Gomantong Caves/Selingan Island
- Tuesday, October 8 - Selingan Island/Kota Kinabalu/Departure
- Wednesday, October 9 - Kota Kinabalu/Denpasar
- Thursday, October 10 - Kinabatangan River/Selingan Island
- Friday, October 11 - Selingan Island/Kota Kinabalu/Departure
- Saturday, October 12 - Komodo Dragon Extension
- Sunday, October 13 - Komodo Dragon Extension
- Monday, October 14 - Komodo Dragon Extension/Semalak Island
- Tuesday, October 15 - Komodo Dragon Extension/Semalak Island/Krupas Island/Indonesia
- Wednesday, October 16 - Komodo Dragon Extension/Bali
- Thursday, October 17 - Bali/Departure

Expedition to Borneo

Sponsored by the MSU Alumni Association

September 29 - October 11, 2013

$6,289 PER PERSON (USD, double occupancy), $7,021 per person (USD, single occupancy)

Program Includes:
- all accommodations
- all meals
- all activities mentioned in the program
- all land transportation
- bottled water in transport vehicles
- all airport and local transfers
- all entrance and local guiding fees
- international tour leader
- all tips
- all government taxes and levies
- all domestic flights

For more information and to sign up for the tour, call (231) 668-9848 or go to: http://wannexpeditions.com.
Sunday, September 29 - Kuching
We begin the first full day of our expedition with a great breakfast followed up by a road trip to Semangoh Orangutan Rehabilitation Center, for up close interactions with these majestic semi-wild apes. After hours photographing and observing these captivating animals, we will travel back to Kuching for a nice air-conditioned lunch. Following our meal, we will take a tour of this beautiful city, making sure we spend a fair amount of time at the Sarawak Museum. This museum will provide exceptional insight into the once powerful and feared head-hunting culture of the Iban people, now farmers who are quickly fading into the void of globalization and oblivion. In the early evening, we’ll head down to the waterfront for a lovely sunset river cruise. This boat trip will enable us to see the historical and colorful Kuching Waterfront, Astana, Fort Margherita, traditional Malay Kampung, the Satok Bridge, a Chinese temple, wetlands and more. To end our day, we will gather not far from our hotel in a vibrant, local, open-air seafood restaurant, for a delicious and traditional Welcome Dinner.
Accommodations: Comfortable 4-star city hotel

Monday, September 30 - Kuching/Mulu National Park
Perhaps other than its orangutans and jungles, the other iconic feature of Borneo is its caves. Today we are going to experience the world’s most remarkable natural spectacles in the world: millions of bats as they depart from their caves in the lush jungles of Mulu National Park. After an early breakfast, we will transfer to Kuching airport and fly to Mulu National Park. Upon arrival, a short drive will get us to the local refreshments and have an ample amount of pictures, live on stilts over the Brunei River. Once we have sampled all the local refreshments and have an ample amount of pictures, we will head back to our hotel for dinner.
Accommodations: Riverside lodge

Monday, October 7 - Mt. Kinabalu National Park
Our entire day is dedicated to the exploration of the capital of Bornei and its surrounding areas. After breakfast, we will take off for a full day to explore the stunning scenery of the Tarutao National Park. We will be dedicated to the beautiful and interesting architecture and centrally located sites: the Morning Market, the Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque, and the Hassanal Bolkiah Mosque. We’ll also visit the entrance of Istana Nural Iman, the world’s largest presidential residence and the official residence of His Majesty The Sultan of Negara Brunei Darussalam. After our morning exploration, we will have an excellent lunch in a local restaurant and return to our hotel for a short rest. After resting we will get on the road again and visit the Royal Regalia Museum. A newer addition to the city, this museum was built in 1992 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty’s The Sultan of Brunei. After the museum, we will get on the water via longboat and explore the largest water village in the world and then onto where the proboscis monkeys roam. At some point today, we will drop by a local home for a chat with the owners and possibly try some local delicacies. After our exploration, we will live on stilts over the Brunei River. Once we have sampled all the local refreshments and have an ample amount of pictures, we will head back to our hotel for dinner.
Accommodations: Comfortable 4-star city hotel

Tuesday, October 8 - Mt. Kinabalu National Park
Today we embark on our trip to Brunei, an interesting and rich hunting culture of the Iban people, now farmers who are quickly fading into the void of globalization and oblivion. In the early evening, we’ll head down to the waterfront for a lovely sunset river cruise. This boat trip will enable us to see the historical and colorful Kuching Waterfront, Astana, Fort Margherita, traditional Malay Kampung, the Satok Bridge, a Chinese temple, wetlands and more. To end our day, we will gather not far from our hotel in a vibrant, local, open-air seafood restaurant, for a delicious and traditional Welcome Dinner.
Accommodations: Comfortable 4-star city hotel

Saturday, October 5 - Bandar Seri Begawan
Starting with a very early morning, we’ll head directly to the forest in the pre-sunrise darkness. Our goal is to be on the canopy walk before the diurnal mammals and birds awake. As the sun’s first rays start to penetrate the horizon, the animals will come alive with a cacophony of sounds and movements.
The temperature and our bellies will be up for a well-deserved breakfast. Next day we’ll gear up and head out for an exciting hike through the forest, cross streams and come up to a beautiful waterfall where we’ll take a short rest. We will head back to our local hotel for lunch before we set off for the next leg of our trip. We’ll reverse yesterday’s journey on our way back to Bandar Seri Begawan. Once we’ve checked into our lovely hotel, we’ll head out to photograph the city and its beautiful mosques in the evening light.
Accommodations: Comfortable 4-star hotel

Monday, October 9 - Kinabatangan River
Our entire day is dedicated to the exploration of the Marcelous surrounding rainforest. As always, the best way to see wildlife in a thick forest is from the water; so after breakfast we take off