

Syllabus--- Summer 2011

23 July to 23 August

Wild Borneo: Exploring the Biodiversity of S.E. Asia

Sponsored by the College of Natural Science; arranged through the Office of Study Abroad

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Objectives:

Courses being taken:

- ZOL 490 Overseas Study in Zoology
- LB 490E Advanced Directed Study in Science and Technology

Students may enroll in three credit hours for each of two courses, or 6 credits of ZOL 490. Normal course load is 6 credits. Honors options are possible on request. Fisheries and Wildlife students may cover their experiential learning requirement for their degree by taking any of the above credits.

Course readings: To be provided electronically.

Group Flight:

Friday, July 22, 2011

Delta #5942	Depart Chicago 11:05 a.m.	Arrive La Guardia 2:20 p.m.
Singapore #25	Depart JFK 9:25 p.m.	Arrive Singapore 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, July 24, 2011

Silkair #392	Depart Singapore 8:50 a.m.	Arrive Kota Kinabalu 11:20 a.m.
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Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Silkair #395	Depart Kota Kinabalu 5:40 p.m.	Arrive Singapore 7:50 p.m.
Singapore #26	Depart Singapore 11:50 p.m.	Arrive JFK 10:55 a.m.

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

Delta #6604	Depart JFK 2:59 p.m.	Arrive Cincinnati 5:34 p.m.
Delta #6408	Depart Cincinnati 6:55 p.m.	Arrive Chicago 7:26 p.m.

PER PERSON COST

\$2251.20 (at today's tax rate)*

Please note that the flights originate and end in Chicago, hence travel there will be required. Train may be the best option for most of the group; we will be in touch about this. This cost (\$50 rt) is not part of the program fee.

2011 Wild Borneo itinerary:

24 July Ar BKI 11:20 a.m., group arrives and meets Kiley Brothers at baggage claim

24-26 July Pulau Tiga,

26 July: Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park

27-28 Jul: Uncle Tan's Sepilok

Possibly Turtle Islands day trip on 28th

29-31 Jul: Uncle Tan's Kinabatangan cruise

1-5 Aug: Semporna, Mabul, Sipadan (permits allowing)

6-10 Aug: Danum Valley Research Centre camping.

10-12 Aug: Sukau Rainforest Lodge

12 Aug: to Sepilok via Gomantong Caves.

12-15 Aug: Uncle Tan's at Sepilok

16 Aug: Sepilok to Kinabalu NP

17-19 Aug Laban Rata

19-20 Aug: Kinabalu NP

21 Aug; to Kota Kinabalu

22 Aug: to Pulau Mantanani

23 Aug flt lvs. 5:40 p.m.: to airport

Contact details:

Hotel Shangri-La

75, Bandaran Berjaya, P.O. Box 11718
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah 88819
Tel: 6-088-212800
e-mail: rsvn@kkshang.com

PULAU TIGA RESORT SDN.BHD. (Wholly owned by Sipadan Dive Centre Sdn. Bhd.)

Lot A1103, 11th Floor, Wisma Merdeka
88000 Kota Kinabalu, SABAHTel: 6 088 240 584
Fax: 6 088 240 415
Emails : holiday@pulautiga.com.my
Website : www.sdclodges.com

Mountain Trails Tours & Travel Sdn Bhd

Lot 18, 2nd Floor, Lorong Dewan
88000 Kota Kinabalu
Telephone: (+6) 088 243661, 240663
Facsimile: (+6) 088 248661
Mobile Phone: (+6) 012 8332127
mttrails@gmail.com
www.mountaintrailstours.com
www.beachtours.com.my

Uncle Tan's Wildlife Camp

Lot No. 1, Mile 14, Jalan Sepilok,
Sandakan, +6089-535784 or Mobile +6016- 8244749
Eugene@uncletan.com

SIPADAN.COM - Noble Inworld Resort and Tours Sdn. Bhd.

No. 1, Jalan Custom
91307, Semporna
Sabah, East Malaysia
Phone Office: +60 89782334
Mobile: +60 128650131, +60 128385809

Jkos Gidiman

Manager, **Danum Valley Field Centre**

Tel : 6- 089 841101 / 6 - 089841100, Fax : 6 - 089 841102

Dragon Inn

7 Jln Custom, Semporna, 781088
www.dragoninnfloating.com.my

dolphin diaries travel sdn bhd (KPL 5430)

A : lot 3 ground floor wisma SCA No3 2nd mile jalan sungei besi 57100 kuala lumpur malaysia

T: (+6) 03 2692 8049 , (+6) 03 2691 2435 | F : (+6) 03 2691 3675 | E : kahlok@journeymalaysia.com | W

: www.journeymalaysia.com

**PulauPulauDotCom, MyHoliday2UDotCom Operated by
Sedunia Travel Services Sdn Bhd (MOCAT KKKP No.: 0019)**

Level 12 & 13.1, Menara Genesis, 33, Jalan Sultan Ismail, 50250 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: +6 03 21448800

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Office Hours : 0900 - 1800 (Mon - Fri) (GMT +8 Hours)

Facebook: [pulaupulau.com/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pulaupulau.com/)

Twitter: twitter.com/myholiday2u

T.Sina: t.sina.com.cn/myholiday2u

Course requirements:

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|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1) Pre-trip assignment: | 10% |
| 2) Field notebook and journal: | 20% |
| 3) Field Projects: | 20% |
| 4) Exams | 20% |
| 5) Final Project | 20% |
| 6) Class participation | 10% |

Details on Course requirements:

1) Pre-trip Assignment for Wild Borneo Study Abroad 2010

This assignment, which you should have completed by the time you arrive in Borneo, will consist of two main portions:

- 1) Binocular/behavior portion
- 2) Species Sound Profile

You should bring the completed assignments with you and be prepared to present the Species Sound Profile as a powerpoint or similar format to the group during the program.

Pre-trip assignment part 1) Binocular/behavior portion:

Field Exercise:

One major focus of the course will be to use binoculars to observe individual animals. It is important to strengthen these skills before we depart so you do not miss out on opportunities to observe animals or behaviors. A fundamental paper in behavioral research is Jeanne Altmann's 1974 paper "Observation study behavior: sampling methods". Using your binoculars create a behavioral ethogram for one bird and one nonhuman mammal that you can observe in the wild wherever you are. Details are described below in "What is an Ethogram?". For one bird or one wild mammal, we would also like you to sketch and describe at least one characteristic of your subject that would be unobservable without your binoculars.

Detailed Instructions for the Field Experiment

The goal of this assignment is to have you begin thinking about behaviors in a structured way. For your first introduction to ethograms, spend some time observing the subject, then begin thinking about the categories you can place behaviors into that will go beyond just the species you are currently working with.

Remember to use your binoculars!

Detailed Instructions: Do the following for one bird or one mammal

1. Read the Altmann, 1974 paper
2. Find a subject (or group of subjects) to observe

3. Choose one sampling method as described in Altmann, 1974
4. Using your binoculars, observe the subject(s) for three periods of fifteen minutes and make a list of behaviors observed
5. Review your list of behaviors and try to identify
 - a. at least one broad category for your behaviors (e.g. locomotion; food related, social, solitary, etc.)
 - b. one structural behavior
 - c. one consequence behavior
6. Prepare an example "data collection sheet" for making behavioral observations as they pertain to your category and observed behaviors
7. Using your binoculars, identify one characteristic that is unobservable without the use of binoculars. Sketch that characteristic and provide a full written description (one paragraph).

Citation:

Altmann, J. 1974. Observation study behaviour: sampling methods. Behaviour 49: 227-267. [pdf at http://academics.eckerd.edu/instructor/highfile/WT3S-001_SP09/handouts/Altmann.pdf]

What is an ethogram?

~ An Excerpt from the Animal Behavior Societies' "Lab Exercises in Animal Behavior Ethogram"

"An ethogram is an inventory of the behaviors of a species, with the behaviors thoroughly described and organized into categories. The ethogram places the animal's behavioral repertoire into an organized structure, which enables animal behaviorists to discover how each behavior helps the animal to survive, to mate, and to reproduce. Ethograms also allow animal behaviorists to speculate about the evolution of behavior because similar behaviors can be compared among species in an evolutionary lineage. There is no one right way to describe behavior. Two different ways to describe behavior are on the basis of structure and on the basis of consequences. "Structure descriptions" characterize the appearance or physical form of the behavior. In other words, the behavior is described in terms of the subject's posture, movements, and sounds. Think, for example, about how you might describe a handshake in terms of postures, movements, and sounds of two interacting people. Consequences are the presumed effects of the subject's behavior on itself, on its environment, or on other organisms. In "consequence description," the behavior is described with respect to its presumed consequences without paying particular attention to the subject's posture, movements, and sounds. The handshake, which could be described above as postures and movements, could also be described as a "greeting ceremony" in a consequence description.

Categories such as "obtain food" or "escape predators" are descriptions in terms of their consequences. For example, "turn light on" is a consequence description, while "push switch down using index finger" is a description in terms of structure. Consequence description is the more economical of the two methods because it does not require the observer to make subtle discriminations between very complex movements. Subtle discriminations are important, but when first learning how to do ethograms, the structure description may be confusing. On the other hand, without structure descriptions, different workers may end up studying structurally different behaviors with similar consequences. For example, handshakes and "high fives" are both greetings involving the hands, but they occur in different contexts and are often used by different individuals.

A third type of description is "relational" and concerns the organism's spatial relations to other organisms or something in the environment. The focus is on where the organism is or with whom it is, rather than what it is doing.

Categorizing behavior requires very close observation so that accurate ethograms of the species under study can be constructed. This becomes more difficult when the organisms you are studying are members of an unfamiliar species."

Pre-trip assignment part 2) Species Sound Profile

Choose one species of animal (bird, mammal, frog, or insect) that occurs in Sabah; it should be a species that is vocal and for which you can find downloadable recordings. Contact JP Lawrence for suggestions and to confirm your selection. There are many downloadable Borneo bird recordings on our website <http://avocet.zoology.msu.edu>, and many more on xeno-canto <http://www.xeno-canto.org/>. You can also find primate vocalizations on the web, but it may not be feasible to find online recordings of Bornean frogs and insects.

Write a species account for your chosen species, summarizing what is known about the classification (taxonomy) and biology of the species, and focusing especially on the vocal behavior of the species. What does it sound like, how variable are the vocalizations, how is it distinguished from other vocal species in the area, where does it occur, at what times of day and year does it vocalize, do both sexes and all ages vocalize and if so do they differ, etc? Download clips of recordings of the species and include them in your paper. Also download a free version of Raven (Raven Lite) <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/brp/raven/RavenVersions.htm#RavenLite>, and use it to prepare at least one sonagram per recording. The pre-trip paper should be at least 2 single-spaced pages, not including illustrations or sonagrams (which should also be included).

Throughout the trip, you will be the expert on your species, so you should be able to recognize it visually and vocally when we encounter it. Be prepared to present your paper as a 10-15 minute powerpoint or similar to the group, and to play the recordings as part of your presentation.

Be sure to have Raven Lite downloaded on your computer before you come to Borneo, or if you are not bringing a computer, make arrangements with one of the other students to share while there!

2) Field notebook and journal:

Each student should carry a small field notebook (preferably waterproof) on each excursion for note-taking (Rite-in-the-Rain notebooks work very well). When we are in the field observing birds, mammals, and other forms of biodiversity, record details of each important sighting such as time of day, habitat, viewing details, how you identified each individual, etc. When appropriate, make sketches and/or take video/photos, which should be referenced in your field notebook as to date, locality, and species in question. Students must also take notes every day of the program (except exam day) in a bound field notebook (guidelines to be provided). There must be a date and location for each entry, along with the name of the speaker (whether guide, instructor, or guest lecturer). Notes for each day should be factual and should record what you saw and learned. At the end of each day, record your reflections of what you saw and learned that day and how it

was relevant and significant to course objectives. We will collect your notebooks and journals around the end of the first week to give feedback on the appropriateness of its content so you may take corrective action as needed. Your last journal entry will be for the last day of the trip, and you will then turn your journal and notebook in. Students may keep a personal diary separately, which will not be turned in, this is highly recommended as it will help you remember the trip better than photos. All course notebook and journal content should be of a scientific, not personal, nature.

3) Field Projects:

Several field projects will be conducted during the course on a variety of topics using various field techniques. These exercises will focus your thoughts and activities, and provide practical experience with real-world scientific data collection, quantitative analysis, and written and oral communication of results. All students will participate in each field project but a subset of students (groups of two or three) will be assigned one of the field projects to consolidate data, analyze, and provide a written and oral report towards the end of the course. Projects may be customized according to student interests and will be flexible to adapt to unexpected field conditions.

Some examples of potential projects include (but are not limited to):

3.1) Avian behavioral observations. On multiple occasions, students will record bird behavior to address questions and test hypotheses related to mixed flock species composition, foraging strategy and height, and inter- and intra-specific interactions.

3.2) Primate behavioral observations. On multiple occasions, students will record primate behavior to address questions and test hypotheses related to ecological variables that shape behavior, variation in behavior among species, and dominance hierarchy.

3.3) Avian visual and auditory surveys. Students will conduct bird surveys using point-count and line-transect methods and using remote recording devices. Students will assess species richness and diversity in relation to habitat type and elevation. Each student will also be responsible for recording, properly documenting, and identifying good-quality vocalizations of at least 5 bird species, and preparing and analyzing sonograms (diagnostic image of pitch vs. time produced by reflected sound waves) of recordings. The recordings, sonograms, and associated metadata will be prepared by the student for incorporation into the AVoCet website (avocet.zoology.msu.edu).

3.4) Marine projects

4) Exams:

There will be a mid-term during the field program, and an open-book take-home final shortly after our return.

5) Final project:

The final assignment will be completed after returning from the course and will involve each student creating a Species Sounds Profile for Project AVoCet for a different species than that chosen for the pre-trip assignment. The species chosen must be one for which you obtained good quality, definitely identified, well-documented recordings during our

program. You may also utilize recordings of this species made by your peers. Further details to be provided.

6) Class participation:

Students will be expected to maintain excellent attendance, to be on time for all course activities, and to participate fully in course discussions. Students are required to carry and make an honest effort to use their binoculars and field notebooks on all excursions unless specifically stated otherwise (this is part of your participation grade). Each evening, students must meet with the instructors (unless otherwise specifically stated), minimally for briefing on the next day's activities. Non-excused tardiness, absence, excessive complaining, unnecessary noisiness while on trails, or other disruptive behavior will result in docking of a portion of this credit, and in serious cases the instructors reserve the right to take actions necessary to ensure the quality of the course is not impacted (including sending a student home).

Facilities

We will be staying at a wide variety of facilities, from inexpensive city hotels to rustic bungalows in national parks and villages, and campsites.. Campsites will be close to the road, so we won't be carrying camping equipment long distances. Facilities have running water, some form of toilets, and showers (not necessarily hot), and some have electricity, but there are no guarantees that these will all be functioning optimally at any given place and time. Students will share rooms with 2-4 same-sex students. Some rooms may have the equivalent of a queen bed instead of separate twin beds. In some places, clothes can be sent out for washing, or you can wash them in your room. The roads we will be on are mostly in good condition. Drives from site to site will vary from less than an hour to several hours.

Miscellaneous

In towns and some hotels, you can plug in computers and digital cameras with the proper adaptors, but you need a converter for 110V items such as hair dryers (unless these have dual voltage switches).

Use bottled or boiled water to brush your teeth, and beware ice cubes in your drinks and unwashed fruits and vegetables. It is not a bad idea to have some iodine tablets in your bag for water that you are unsure of.

Our group will have access to cell phones for emergencies. When in towns you may buy a calling card for international calls. We will probably be able to check e-mail in internet cafes or hotels in some places but service is not always reliable, and typically not fast.

Change all the spending money you'll need at the airport in Kota Kinabalu, to avoid difficulties later.

Consular Review Sheet attached---all students must read!

June 16, 2010—latest version available

Edited to remove inapplicable sections

COUNTRY DESCRIPTION: Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy with an elected federal parliamentary government. The country is comprised of 13 states, 11 on the Malay Peninsula and two, Sabah and Sarawak, on the island of Borneo. There is also a federally administered set of territories: the capital city of Kuala Lumpur, the administrative center of Putrajaya, and the island of Labuan. Malaysia is a multi-ethnic country of 27 million people. Malays form the predominant ethnic group. The two other large ethnic groups are Chinese and Indians. Islam is the official religion and is practiced by some 60 percent of the population. Bahasa Malaysia is the official language, although English is widely spoken. Travelers to Malaysia may access information on areas of interest through the Malaysian government's website and Tourism Malaysia's website. Read the Department of State's Background Notes on Malaysia for additional information.

REGISTRATION / EMBASSY LOCATION: If you are going to live in or travel to Malaysia, please take the time to tell our Embassy about your trip. If you check in, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. Here's the link to the Department of State's travel registration page. Local embassy information is available below and at the Department of State's list of embassies and consulates.

U.S. Embassy

376 Jalan Tun Razak 50400, Kuala Lumpur.

The local mailing address is P.O. Box No. 10035, 50700 Kuala Lumpur.

Telephone: (60-3) 2168-5000 is available 24 hours a day for emergencies such as arrests, serious illness/injury, or death of U.S. citizens (after business hours, please press 1 at the recording).

The American Citizen Services Unit's telephone number: (60-3) 2168-4997/4979

Consular section's fax number: (60-3) 2148-5801.

General fax number: (60-3) 2142-2207.

You may also contact the Consular section by email. There is also an email address for issues specifically related to U.S. citizens.

ENTRY / EXIT REQUIREMENTS: To enter Malaysia, your passport must be valid for at least six months. You do not need a visa to enter Malaysia if you are coming for business or tourism for short-term stays of 90 days or less. When you arrive, immigration officials will place an entry stamp in your passport to specify the number of days you can stay. Though immigration officials generally give 90 days, it's not a guarantee, so you should check the stamp in your passport after you enter. Generally, these entry stamps are known as social visit passes (visas) and can be extended for two months. While in Malaysia, you should carry your passport with you at all times. More information on the time you will be allowed to stay in Malaysia can be found on the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website. It is beneficial to have a photocopy of your passport as well in a different location than your passport should something happen to the original. This will expedite replacing the passport at the embassy

If you have Israeli entry or exit stamps in your U.S. passport, you should not encounter difficulty at Malaysian Immigration. However, U.S.-Israeli dual nationals have been denied entry after presenting their Israeli passports to show exit stamps from their last destination. Therefore, it is important that U.S.-Israeli dual nationals use their U.S. passports to depart the last country on their itinerary prior to arriving in Malaysia.

For more information on the latest entry procedures and requirements, contact the Embassy of Malaysia, 3516 International Court NW, Washington, DC 20008, telephone: (202) 572-9700. You can also contact the Embassy via email. Or, you may want to contact the Malaysian Consulate in New York, telephone: (212) 490-2722; or the consulate in Los Angeles, telephone: (213) 892-1238; or visit the Malaysian government's website, which has information on Malaysian embassies and consulates abroad.

Visa Overstays: Malaysian immigration authorities routinely detain foreigners who overstay their social visit passes (visas). In light of the arrests of several U.S. citizens in connection with immigration sweeps conducted by Malaysian police and immigration authorities, you should carry your passport (containing the Malaysian entry stamp) with you at all times. Depending upon the nature of the violation, detentions may last from a few hours to several weeks, pending a formal hearing. You should check your visa status periodically while in Malaysia and strictly follow immigration laws and regulations.

SAFETY AND SECURITY: The Department of State remains concerned about the possibility of terrorist attacks against U.S. citizens in Southeast Asia. Extremist groups in the region have demonstrated the capability to carry out attacks in locations where Westerners congregate, and these groups do not distinguish between civilian and official targets. The U.S. Government has designated two such groups, Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) as Foreign Terrorist Organizations. JI, which has a known presence in Malaysia, is linked to al-Qaeda and other regional terrorist groups and has cells operating throughout Southeast Asia.

You should be especially alert to the risks of travel to the eastern islands and coastal regions of the state of Sabah due to the threat of violence posed by criminal and terrorist groups, and you should carefully evaluate the risks before traveling to the area. Of particular concern are the resorts (and transportation to and from them) in isolated areas, including Semporna and the islands of Mabul and Sipadan. If you visit these areas you should exercise extreme caution, remain alert to your surroundings, and use good personal security measures.

The Abu Sayyaf Group, based in the southern Philippines, has kidnapped U.S. citizens in eastern Sabah in the past and retains the capability to conduct operations in the region. Other criminal elements have recently committed acts of kidnapping and armed robbery against foreigners in the region. The Government of Malaysia and other regional authorities have increased their ability to detect, deter and prevent attacks, but the size and remoteness of the region makes their efforts exceedingly difficult and their success uncertain.

Stay up to date on security information by bookmarking our Bureau of Consular Affairs website, which contains the current Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts, as well as the Worldwide Caution.

You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free within the United States and Canada, or by calling a regular toll line, 1-202-501-4444, from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

There is no one better at protecting you than yourself. Take some time before you travel to improve your personal security - things are not the same everywhere as they are in the United States. Here are some useful tips for traveling safely abroad.

CRIME: Violent crime involving tourists and expatriates in Malaysia is relatively rare. Petty theft, particularly purse snatching and pick-pocketing, and residential burglaries are the most common crimes committed against foreigners. Other types of non-violent criminal activity include credit card fraud and automobile theft. In tourist areas such as Bukit Bintang, Petaling Street

(Chinatown) and Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur, and the main square in Malacca, the police have established small "Tourist Police" stations familiar with helping visitors to Malaysia.

- **Purse-Snatchings:** In most incidents, two thieves on a motorcycle speed up from behind a victim, and the passenger on the back snatches a purse, handbag, or cellular phone. Thieves have also conducted snatch-thefts while leaning out of the passenger side of moving vehicles. These thefts can occur at all hours and often in front of large groups of witnesses, even in upscale neighborhoods frequented by expatriates. Women walking by themselves or with small children are the most common targets, but men walking or jogging alone have also been targeted. Victims have been injured and even killed after falling and being dragged by thieves in cars or on motorcycles. More recently, some thieves carrying knives have slashed and cut the victim in order to shock the victim into immediately releasing valuable items.

To avoid becoming the victim of a purse snatching, be alert and aware of your surroundings. Pedestrians should walk facing traffic and keep a close eye on all vehicular traffic, particularly motorcycles. If possible, try to walk on the sidewalk away from the curb. Avoid poorly lit streets, shortcuts, and narrow alleys, but be aware that attacks may still occur anywhere. Purses or shoulder bags should be closed and tucked under the arm. Do not wrap the strap around your arm or shoulder. People have been injured or killed by being pulled to the ground by their purse straps as the thieves sped off. If your purse or bag is snatched, report the incident as soon as possible to the police.

- **Smash-and-Grab Robberies:** The targets in these crimes, which are on the rise, are motorists who are stuck in traffic or stopped at a light. The usual scenario is that a pair of thieves on a motorcycle identifies a car with a lone passenger (male or female) and with valuables (e.g., purse, bag) visible. The thieves use a hammer or crowbar to smash the window of the car, grab the bag, and speed off. If the motorist's windows are already open, the motorcyclists simply reach in and take bags off the seat of the car. You can prevent these crimes by keeping valuables like purses and laptops out of sight while driving or removing them from the car (including the trunk) when parked.
- **Scams:** An increasing number of U.S. citizens are victims of scams originating in Malaysia. Scammers and confidence artists contact U.S. citizens through the internet, including dating websites. Scammers almost always pose as U.S. citizens who have unexpectedly experienced a medical, legal, financial or other type of "emergency" in Malaysia and who ask the U.S. citizen in the United States to send money quickly to Malaysia. Co-conspirators pose as Malaysian "lawyers" or medical professionals to verify the story and the supposed urgent need for cash. We strongly urge U.S. citizens in the United States to be very cautious about sending money to people you don't know personally and who claim to be U.S. citizens in trouble in Malaysia. For additional information on these types of scams, see the Department of State's publication, International Financial Scams.
- **Credit Card Fraud:** While traveling in Malaysia you should avoid using credit cards, except at reputable establishments, and you should closely safeguard your credit card numbers at all times. Credit card fraud continues to be a serious problem in Malaysia, although enhanced technology has somewhat reduced reported instances of fraud. Unauthorized charges may not show on a credit card account for several months but can unexpectedly appear in amounts of \$5,000 or more. One of the more common methods is for retailers to swipe the credit card under the counter where a machine containing a mobile phone SIM card receives the card's information and transmits it to a criminal organization for reproduction. You should watch retailers closely and any "under the table" transactions should be reported to the local police. In some cases, sophisticated criminal organizations have tapped into data lines emanating from retail establishments. Credit card information is then stolen while it is being transmitted to financial institutions. If you must use a credit card in Malaysia, you should check your account information frequently for fraudulent charges. ATM cards are safer as long as the machines where they are used are associated

with reputable Malaysian banks. Also, keep in mind that personal identification numbers (PINs) in Malaysia are 6 digits long. Some travelers have reported having difficulty retrieving cash from ATMs using 4-digit PINs.

Don't buy counterfeit or pirated goods, even if they are widely available. Not only are the bootlegs illegal in the United States, you may also be breaking local law if you buy them. If you bring them back to the United States you may have to forfeit them and/or pay fines.

INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME: If you or someone you know is the victim of a crime abroad, you should contact the local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate (see Department of State's list of embassies and consulates). If your passport is stolen, the embassy can help you replace it. For violent crimes such as assault and rape, the embassy/consulate staff can, for example, help you find appropriate medical care, contact family members or friends and explain to your family/friends how they can transfer money to you if you need it. Although the investigation and prosecution of a crime are solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

The local equivalent to the "911" emergency line in Malaysia is "999". An alternate number is the Royal Malaysia Police Operations Center in Kuala Lumpur, 03-2115-9999 or 03-2262-6555.

Please see our information on victims of crime, including possible victim compensation programs in the United States.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES: While you are traveling in another country, you are subject to its laws even if you are a U.S. citizen. Foreign laws and legal systems can be vastly different from our own and you may not have the same protections available to individuals under U.S. law. For example, in Malaysia, driving under the influence could land you immediately in jail. These criminal penalties will vary from country to country. It's very important to know what's legal and what's not in the country you'll be traveling to. There are also some things that might be legal in the country you visit, but still illegal in the United States, and you can be prosecuted under U.S. law if you buy pirated goods or engage in child pornography.

If you violate the law, even unknowingly, you may be fined, expelled, arrested, or imprisoned. Malaysia strictly enforces its drug laws. If you possess, use or traffic in illegal drugs in Malaysia, you will be sentenced to significantly longer prison sentences and much heavier fines than in the United States. Malaysian legislation provides for a mandatory death penalty for convicted drug traffickers. If you are arrested in possession of 15 grams (1/2 ounce) of heroin or 200 grams (seven ounces) of marijuana, you will be presumed by law to be trafficking in drugs.

The Malaysian criminal code includes a provision for a sentence of caning for certain white-collar crimes, including criminal misappropriation, criminal breach of trust, and cheating. If you collect and/or remove local flora and fauna without authorization from the Malaysian Government, you may be prosecuted criminally and may be sentenced to heavy fines, expulsion, and/or imprisonment.

Distribution of religious leaflets or books of another faith to Malaysian Muslims is illegal; if you do so, you may be arrested and imprisoned. Occasionally, special religious authorities coordinate with local police to conduct raids on popular nightspots and hotels to deter activities among local Muslims that contravene religious customs, including drinking alcohol and having premarital sex.

Although access to prisoners is permitted, the U.S. Embassy may not learn of the arrest of U.S. citizens in smaller, more remote areas until several days after the incident. Prison conditions are harsh. You should carry a copy of your U.S. passport and current social visit pass (visa) with you at all times, so that if you are questioned by local officials, you will have proof of your identity, U.S. citizenship, and legal status in Malaysia readily available.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

Currency: Currency exchange is readily available ; international bank-to-bank transfers may take several days and require adequate identification. Credit cards are accepted throughout the country, but you should be aware of the risk of fraud by criminal syndicates. ATMs can be a safer means of obtaining Malaysian Ringgit. You should note that personal identification numbers (PINs) in Malaysia are 6 digits long, and that some travelers have reported having difficulty retrieving cash from ATMs using 4-digit PINs. Western Union money transfers are available through various Malaysian banks and the post office. See Western Union's website to find a Western Union location and address in Malaysia.

Customs: Malaysia's customs authorities enforce strict regulations concerning the temporary importation into or export from Malaysia of items such as firearms, narcotics, medication, business equipment, currency and books, other printed material, and video and audio recordings which might be considered obscene or in any way harmful to public interest and cultural property. You should contact the Malaysian Embassy in Washington, D.C., or one of Malaysia's consulates in the United States for specific information regarding customs' requirements. Please see our information on customs regulations.

MEDICAL FACILITIES AND HEALTH INFORMATION: Medical facilities and services are adequate in the larger cities, where you can find Western-trained doctors. The U.S. Embassy can provide a list of English-speaking doctors and hospitals upon request. Psychological and psychiatric medical and counseling services are limited. Serious medical problems requiring hospitalization and/or medical evacuation to the United States can cost thousands of dollars or more. Doctors and hospitals often expect immediate cash payment for health services although major credit cards are acceptable at some hospitals in larger cities.

Malaysian ambulance attendants do not have training equivalent to U.S. standards. Callers to Malaysia's "999" emergency number (equivalent to dialing 911 in the United States) are connected to the Red Crescent (a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), and patients are directed to whichever hospital the dispatcher chooses. If you are staying in Malaysia for a long time, and you have known health problems, you should investigate private ambulance services in the area and provide family and close contacts with the direct telephone number(s) of the service you prefer.

Air quality in Malaysia is acceptable most of the time. However, when Malaysia and nearby countries burn vegetation, especially from March through June and during September and October, air quality can range from "unhealthy for sensitive groups" to "unhealthy."

For information on avian influenza (bird flu), please refer to our Avian Influenza Fact Sheet. Information on H1N1 influenza (commonly referred to as swine flu) can be found at the U.S. Government pandemic influenza website.

You can find information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747) or via the CDC website. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad, consult the infectious

diseases section of the World Health Organization (WHO) website. The WHO website also contains additional health information for travelers, including detailed country-specific health information.

MEDICAL INSURANCE: You can't assume your insurance will go with you when you travel. It's very important to find out BEFORE you leave. You should ask your insurance company two questions:

- Does my policy apply when I'm out of the United States?
- Will it cover emergencies like a trip to a foreign hospital or an evacuation?

In many places, doctors and hospitals still expect payment in cash at the time of service. Your regular U.S. health insurance may not cover doctor and hospital visits in other countries. If your policy doesn't go with you when you travel, it's a very good idea to take out another policy for your trip that would cover you. For more information, please see our medical insurance overseas page.

Taxis are metered, but many drivers refuse to use the meter and instead charge a much higher rate, particularly during peak hours, when it is raining, or when the passenger's destination is to or through a heavily-congested area. Metered fares increase by 50 percent between midnight and 6 am; meters are programmed to display the higher fee automatically during these hours.

Packing list for Borneo 2010

Note: You can check one large suitcase and carry-on one backpack or day pack and a personal item/computer bag, and if there are any fees for either this will be your responsibility. I may ask some of you to check an extra bag of field gear, and if there are any fees for this I will cover it.

LIST OF ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED ITEMS

Passport, passport photocopy, money, air tickets all kept continuously in money belt (except for the photocopy) which you are responsible for safeguarding. Change all the money you'll need at the airport in Kota Kinabalu, as other opportunities will be limited.

Yellow immunization book

Leech socks (these are the ones I use: <http://www.mosquitohammock.com/AntiLeechSocks.html>; can be bought in Malaysia but they are short and not nearly as good)

Sleeping bag (lightweight)

Raingear (umbrella and/or raincoat/poncho)

Closed-toed hiking boots/shoes (these should not have any gaps on the sides either); these should be broken in so you don't get blisters

Knee-high rubber boots (you will want these in some areas where we will hike, and as such, they need to be broken in)

Protective clothing (not just tank tops and shorts; nylon shirts and nylon zip-off pants work very well and dry fast, which is important for jungle gear. Long sleeves and pants are a must.

Clothing for cool weather (including a fleece jacket and lightweight gloves). Mt. Kinabalu is cold

Watch/alarm/stopwatch (at least one of the above)

Binoculars (unless you've told us you need to borrow them from us)

Writing instruments (pencils are ideal for waterproof notebooks)

Field notebook (small, preferably waterproof) and journal (larger, waterproof unnecessary)

Flashlight/headlamp (preferably both) and plenty of extra batteries (you can't get good batteries there)

Course syllabus

Day pack

Small duffle bag or backpack for times when we will only need a few nights' worth of gear

Malaria prophylaxis, your regular prescription meds, something for diarrhea and colds

Mask, snorkel, and fins

Camera plus plenty of memory cards and batteries so you will remember your experience!

Make sure you have enough to survive in your carry-on, in case of loss of checked luggage

RECOMMENDED ITEMS

CLIMATE

- when it is sunny in most rainforests, temperatures ranges from 70s -80s
- nighttime in rainforest is cool; may want a sweater and/or fleece
- can rain even in dry season
- Highest elevations are sweater weather

CLOTHING

Clothing can be washed for a small fee, or you can hand wash it in your room.

- light hiking boots/decent walking shoes; make sure they're broken in!
- rubber boots (?)
- sandals/slippers
- hat/sunglasses

- light rain gear (jacket)
- flip flops for bathing
- thermal underwear in case you get cold at night
- bathing suit
- fleece jacket or something similar
- pants (quick dry nylon, or zip-off). Avoid jeans b/c they're bulky and slow to dry
- Long-sleeve shirts (preferably not cotton; silk is good)
- T-shirts
- Belt for attaching things to
- Shorts
- Socks (hiking, walking), sock liners; waterproof socks great!
- Something to sleep in
- Underwear
- **Money belt (this is a must)**

AVOID BRIGHT COLORED FIELD CLOTHING AND CAMO!!!

HIKING

- emergency whistle
- water bottles
- day pack
- insect repellent
- space blanket (optional)
- umbrella
- dry packs/cases for electronics
- lens tissues
- silica gel

CAMPING

- drive up to campsites!
- Mosquito net or mosquito tent
- Lightweight sleeping bag
- Travel pillow or pillowcase to stuff things in
- Sleeping bag liner (?)
- other

OTHER

- small field notebook (waterproof preferred)
- bound field notebook
- writing utensils
- headlamp, flashlight
- batteries (may not be able to buy lithium battery)/power strip
- binocs if you have good ones
- camera
- plenty of memory cards
- laptop (?)
- snorkel, mask, and flippers
- money (cash dollars) for a few meals and souvenirs (\$300?)
- passport (with copy elsewhere)
- air ticket (with copy elsewhere)
- yellow immunization book
- bring ATM/credit cards but only for emergencies! May not work and we mostly won't be near a bank
- locks for equipment
- outlet adapters
 - o power is available in some places, but there may be only ONE outlet, and it may not work with your equipment

- Should have power converter capabilities so that you don't overload your electronics

TOILETRIES

- shampoo, soap, feminine products (hard to find)
- Eyeglasses/backup pair/prescription
- Prescription meds (enough to last entire trip)
- Malaria prophylaxis
- Allergy/cold meds?
- Meds for digestive upsets (diarrhea or constipation)
- bandages
- Motion sickness meds?
- Food/snacks you can't live without
- Sunscreen
- bath/sink plug
- towels
- Your favorite facial tissues/tp