We invite you to join us as we explore Indonesia and see the Total Solar Eclipse, March 9, 2016! Indonesia is a nation of thousands of islands, with a fascinating, rich natural and cultural heritage!

For the 2016 Eclipse, we have created a program that combines an Eclipse viewing site on Sulawesi with sites on three other islands that are biologically and culturally world class.

On the island of Borneo, we will explore the world’s finest orangutan reserve for close looks at these magnificent primates, along with proboscis monkeys, gibbons, and more! We will visit Tanjung Puting National Park, which supports the largest wild orangutan population in the world, with the comfortable Rimba ecolodge as our base.

We will explore the cultural heritage of the legendary island of Bali, and the fantastic World Heritage Site of Borobudur on Java, which was covered by volcanic ash until the early 19th century. Bali’s culture is unique in the world and contrasts with traditions practiced in many other parts of Indonesia. We will also see iconic rice fields terracing the steep slopes, and enjoy local dances or ceremonies overlooking the Indian Ocean at sunset!

We will then fly to the island of Sulawesi to see the Total Solar Eclipse on the edge of the finest marine reserve in Indonesia!
Leadership

Leading this expedition will be Bob Nansen, popular leader of many Betchart Eclipse and Aurora Expeditions. Joining him will be a representative of The Planetary Society. Bob led the Atlantic Crossing Total Solar Eclipse Expedition in 2013, Australia in 2012, and Tahiti in 2010. He will be leading the Iceland Eclipse trip in March 2015 and the Bali & Indonesia Total Solar Eclipse Expedition in 2016.

Joining Bob and The Planetary Society representative will be local guide specialists on the orangutans of Tanjung Puting National Park, the cultural heritage of Bali and Borobudur World Heritage Site, and the coast of Sulawesi. They look forward to sharing the Eclipse and cultural and natural world of Indonesia with you!

(continued from page 1)

Here indigenous people are descendents of nomadic seafarers who live in “Bajo” villages along the coast. Fishing boats are small motorized outriggers crafted from local tropical hardwood. Houses line the shoreline, some stilted precariously over clear waters filled with colorful fishes, sponges, and corals.

The Total Eclipse will cross the island of Sumatra, then Borneo, and central coastal Sulawesi, before heading east across the Pacific Ocean. Our eclipse viewing location will be ideal, right on the path of Totality!

On the optional Trip Extension to the Togian Islands, we will ferry across Tomini Bay to the huge marine national park which surrounds the Togian Islands. Situated in the heart of the “Indo-Pacific Biodiversity Triangle,” within one degree of the Equator, this is a region with spectacular marine life. More coral and fish species occur in this part of the Indo-Pacific than anywhere else on earth. The bay supports more than 1000 species of reef fish (more than the entire tropical Atlantic!).

We invite travelers with an appetite for adventure and discovery to join us and discover the wonders of Indonesia and the Total Solar Eclipse!

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Betchart
President, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
Days 1/3  Depart San Francisco for Jakarta, Indonesia
Gather at San Francisco International Airport for our flight on the evening of Day 1. Depart shortly after midnight, crossing the International Date Line en route. On Day 3, arrive Jakarta and transfer to the FM7 Hotel. Welcome dinner. (D)

Day 4  Jakarta to Pangkalan Bun, Borneo
Tanjung Puting Park — Orangutan Reserve
This morning, we will fly to Pangkalan Bun, Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of the vast island of Borneo. Our adventure will begin with a transfer to the Kumai river port where we will board klotoks (river boats) to journey upriver to Rimba Lodge (3 nights) in Tanjung Puting National Park. The park supports the largest wild orangutan population in the world, plus eight other primate species, including gibbons and proboscis monkeys, and more than 200 species of birds. After lunch, we will make a short boat trip to the Tanjung Harapan feeding station at the park headquarters to look for wildlife, including a large alpha orangutan. (B,L,D)

Days 5/6  Borneo Orangutans — Camp Leakey
For two days, we will explore this amazing national park in the coastal lowlands of southern Borneo. We will walk 45 minutes through swamp forest to the Pesalat Reforestation Centre, an area severely burned in 2006. We will then depart for Camp Leakey research station by klotok and have lunch on the way. We will visit the Education Centre and look for Agile gibbons and other wildlife in camp.

This afternoon, we will follow our guides to see the orangutans feeding in the forest, wild pigs, and other wildlife. River banks attract congregations of fireflies. We will continue to explore the national park the next day and to visit several sites where orangutans congregate as part of a scheduled supplementary feeding program. (B,L,D)

Day 7  Bangkalan Bun to Bali
We will boat downriver to Bangkalan Bun this morning for our afternoon flight to Surabaya, the most important port for the country and one of its premiere cities. We will connect through to the legendary island of Bali. Transfer to Griya Santrian Hotel (3 nights), beautifully situated on the beach, and with easy access to cultural sites. (B)

Day 8  Legendary Bali
Today, we will visit some of the cultural sites on Bali, including Pura Sabatu, a beautifully and intricately carved water temple that exemplifies the Balinese cultural traditions of cooperation and harmony with the landscape. Here on Bali’s southern slopes, sinuous rice terraces allow farming on steep but fertile volcanic soils. We will have lunch near the rice terraces at Tagallalong, an iconic Balinese landscape, and then visit the Monkey Forest in Ubud. (B,L,D)

Day 9  Bali
Morning at leisure. In the afternoon, we will drive to Uluwatu Temple, atop a cliff that overlooks the vast Indian Ocean, where the Kecak ceremony is performed at sunset and men chant a local version of theRamayana. Enjoy dinner tonight at a seafood restaurant along the beach in Jimbaran Bay. (B,D)
Day 10  Bali to Yogyakarta & Borobudur World Heritage Site

We will rise early to fly to Yogyakarta on the Island of Java. We will visit the Borobudur temple complex — the most important cultural site in Indonesia. The huge pyramid at Borobudur was built around 750-850 AD, and is one of the greatest cultural features in southeast Asia, along with Angkor Wat and Bagan in Burma. Little is known about the early history of the area, but the construction must have required an enormous number of workers. In 1815, when Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles governed Java, they cleared the site and the scope of Borobudur was uncovered!

In the afternoon, we will visit the nearby Archaeological Museum and the smaller Mendut Temple with its spectacular Buddha image. Then continue into Yogyakarta, Java’s center of learning, the arts, and culture. The city is still headed by a sultan who lives in the kraton, a walled palace that provides a focal point for traditional life in this city. Yogya has many craft industries and both traditional and contemporary arts are flourishing. Hotel (1 night). (B,L,D)

Day 11  Yogyakarta to Ujung Pandang & Luwuk

This morning, we will fly from Yogyakarta on Java to Ujung Pandang in the southwest of the island of Sulawesi. We will then fly to the fishing town Luwuk in central east Sulawesi. We will have accommodations at the new Aston Luwuk Hotel (3 nights). (B,D)

Day 12  Coastal Sulawesi

Today, we will explore along the coast of the island. Sulawesi lies in the region known to biologists as Wallacea, a transitional zone where both Asian and Australian species occur. It is named in honor of Alfred Russel Wallace, the co-discoverer of natural selection. Trip leaders will have the opportunity to share some distinctive aspects of Sulawesi’s ecology, different from Borneo, which lies in the “Asian” part of Indonesia.

From Luwuk, we will cross a range of forested hills to Tomini Bay and follow along the coast. Indigenous people here grow coconuts and catch fish. Many are the descendents of nomadic seafarers who live in “Bajo” villages along the coast. The fishing boats are small motorized outriggers crafted locally from tropical hardwood. They build their houses right at the shoreline, some precariously stilted over clear waters with colorful fish, sponges, and corals below. We will have a special Eclipse lecture in preparation for the Total Solar Eclipse tomorrow morning. (B,D)

Day 13  Total Solar Eclipse

This morning, we will view the Total Solar Eclipse near our hotel in Luwuk (which is within the Eclipse path). The Eclipse path extends from Sumatra across Borneo and crosses central Sulawesi before it heads east across the Pacific. This morning, we will prepare for photographs and everyone will be given Eclipse viewing glasses!

During the hour before maximum Eclipse, the Moon will start to cover the face of the Sun which can give you wonderful time lapse photographs. The eclipse will last almost 3 minutes. Following the Eclipse, we will have the day at leisure for optional activities and more exploring along the coast of Sulawesi. (B,D)

Day 14  Luwuk to Jakarta & USA

Fly to Jakarta and home, or begin the trip extension to the Togian Islands. (B)
Yes! I/we want to join the Bali & Sulawasi Total Solar Eclipse Expedition, February 26–March 10, 2016, offered by AAAS Travels, Sigma Xi, ACS & The Planetary Society. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for $___________ ($1,000 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) ___________________________________________ Age ________

_________________________________________ Age ________

Address ____________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ____ Zip __________

Phone: Home (_______) __________________________

Work (_______) __________________________

Email Address ___________________________________________

Membership: ___ AAAS ___ Sigma Xi ___ ACS ___ Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

___ Twin ___ Single Twin Share: ___ with a friend or

___ Nonsmoker ___ Smoker ___ assign a roommate

Signature __________________________________ Date ___________

____________________________ Date ___________

Please Mail To: Bali & Sulawasi Eclipse 2016
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5345

RESPONSIBILITY

Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, the American Chemical Society (ACS), and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. 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, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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Photos courtesy of Bob Nansen and Chris Carpenter.
Map by April Milne.

CST# 2036304-40
Expedition Fee: $5,895 per person twin share + air fare San Francisco to Jakarta, RT of $1,795 + in-tour flights of $1,395. Singles: We encourage singles to register on a “twin share” basis. We ask that all singles share (we may be able to pair you with a roommate). If you do not have a roommate and we cannot assign one, you must pay the single supplement of $995. What to Expect: This expedition is for travelers who would like to see the Total Solar Eclipse and discover the rich natural and cultural heritage of this nation of many islands, including the world’s finest orangutan reserve on Borneo, the legendary island of Bali, the Borobudur World Heritage Site on Java, and the Total Eclipse on central Sulawesi, with leadership by an excellent Betchart naturalist. The whole adventure is a rich natural history and cultural experience with opportunity to see and photograph orangutans and gibbons, some of the finest cultural sites in Asia on Java and Bali, villages and local people on Sulawesi, as well as the Total Eclipse. Walks will be at a leisurely pace suitable for discovery and photography. The optional trip extension will be to the renowned Togian Islands, situated in the heart of Indonesia’s finest marine national park, with an astonishing profusion of fish and invertebrates. The expedition will be a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure. We will view the Eclipse in alocation with excellent prospects for clear skies, though clouds could obscure the Eclipse. We invite you to join us for a grand adventure of discovery! (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.) Expeditions Fee Includes: Group transfers; land transport; accommodations in first class hotels and lodges, twin share with bath; most meals, group entrance fees; tips to local guides and drivers; baggage handling; leadership and administration. Expeditions Fee Does Not Include: International air fare or in-tour air fare (quoted separately); independent transfers; some meals; gratuity to expedition leaders; optional activities; personal items such as beverages at meals; alcoholic beverages, laundry, phone calls, bottled water, soda, snacks, personal insurance, or foreign airport departure taxes. Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Air fares quoted are based on group fares from San Francisco to Jakarta, round trip, plus in-tour flights. All group air bookings and ticketing on in-tour flights will be handled by Betchart Expeditions Inc. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL TICKETED. Reservations, Deposits & Payments: Please mail a deposit of $1,000 per person with the completed reservation form to: Bali & Sulawesi Indonesia 2015 Betchart Expeditions Inc. 17050 Montebello Road Cupertino, CA 95014-5435 The balance is due 120 days before departure. Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit for this expedition is refundable up to 120 days before departure less a handling fee of $250 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 120-day period unless your place can be resold, then only the handling fee of $250 is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other expedition features. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered; it will cover pre-existing medical conditions if purchased within 21 days of the date on your confirmation letter and full trip payment. Questions? Please call Taunya DeYoung, Betchart Expeditions Inc. Phone: (800) 252-4910 (USA) or (408) 252-4910 (Int’l.) Fax: (408) 252-1444 Email: Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com Look on the Web: www.betchartexpeditions.com