

WELCOME to FIELDNEWS

From SUMMIT...

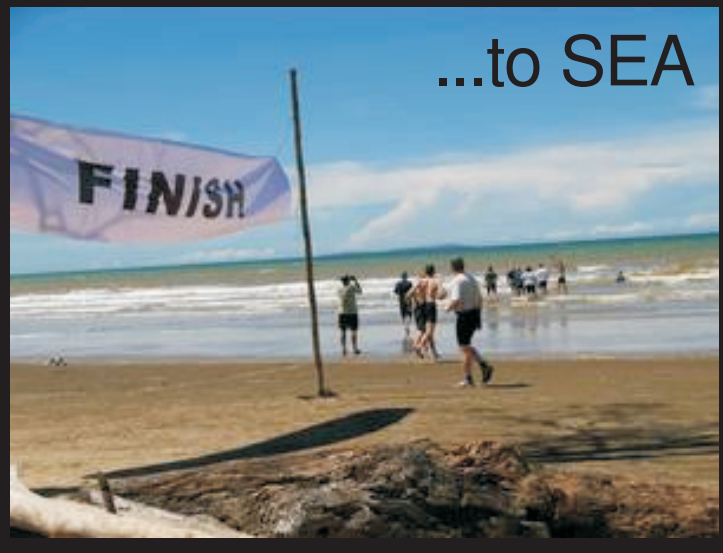


Throughout 2007 and 2008 Fieldskills has designed a range of charity challenge itineraries for the UK company Across the Divide. They in turn have worked with UK charities to bring teams to Borneo to undergo a variety of challenges including this trekking, mountain biking, running and rafting journey from the Summit of Mount Kinabalu to the South China Sea. Other challenges have included trekking off the beaten track through the Crocker Range National Park in Sabah. The challenges have run hugely successfully providing the participants with exciting and enjoyable challenges at the same time as raising thousands of pounds for their charities. We have also been delighted to enable the participants to meet local charities in Borneo and offer support there as well.

So if like Across the Divide you are looking for a company who can make your ideas a reality in Borneo by designing and implementing innovative itineraries then please get in touch.

For charities interested in running these challenges please contact Across the Divide or see their website:
<http://www.acrossthedivide.com/>

...to SEA



The summer expedition season is nearly upon us which means we are busy with final preparations for teams arriving in Borneo adding to the constant stream of visitors we have had all year. That busy time of year has been even busier with a new addition arriving to the Fieldskills family, Simon and Christine trying out a new staff recruitment policy with the addition of Ewan, born 3.2kgs on 3rd June. Ewan is taking well to the expedition industry and we are looking forward to him finding his jungle feet soon....
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Coming soon to the UK... FIRST AID TRAINING

Spring is always a busy training period with people preparing to head overseas over the summer. We have found an increasing number of clients requesting first aid training as part of this preparation. We have also had increasing interest in more day to day first aid training for the UK workplace and working outdoors in the UK.

Therefore we have a range of new courses being launched this Autumn:

Emergency first aid:

1 day course covering essential first aid skills

Outdoor first aid:

2 day course looking at the practicalities of dealing with a first aid incident in the outdoors

First aid at work:

4 day course used by the HSE as the minimum qualification for a first aider in the workplace

FULL DETAILS ON
www.fieldskills.com

All of these courses use the experience we have gained in seeing the importance of first aid in remote overseas locations but use that experience to provide practical solutions to first aid problems whether your setting is the Amazonian rainforest, the hills of the Lake District or an office in Warwick. Our training is always practical, hands on and we like to think enjoyable. If you are interested in attending our open courses (in Oxford and Warwick) then look on our website. Or if you would like to discuss the possibilities of running a course specifically for your organisation then please get in touch on admin@fieldskills.com

FIELDNEWS FEATURE: WEST PAPUA

WEST PAPUA, the last frontier

West Papua (formerly known as Irian Jaya) is the Indonesian half of the island of New Guinea, the second largest island on the planet. Barely known to the western world until the start of the 20th Century, the Baliem Valley and its famous highland Dani tribes were only discovered as recently as 1938 by the famous American explorer Richard Archbold. Even now it boasts some of the few truly unexplored regions on Earth, where there are still isolated and little known tribes living an existence that has been left unaltered by the gathering pace of the 20th century.

The island boasts some extraordinary facts and figures none more impressive than its estimated 820 or more languages (<http://www.nvtc.gov/lotw/months/june/papuanLanguages.html>). Of this island wide total, West Papua with a population of 2,220,934 (2000 census) has 271

(http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=IDP) – a testament to the extraordinary geography and remoteness of the region. Divided roughly north/south by the Central Mountain Range that runs its whole length, and featuring the highest peak

between the Himalayas and the Andes it can rightfully claim to be one of the last frontiers on Earth.

It is not just its people that are so fascinating. Within New Guinea's rainforests (the third largest remaining on the planet) are a bewildering and bizarre collection of creatures and plants. Situated to the East of the



Wallace line there are no monkeys or other creatures usually recognised from the region and what is found is more identifiable of Australasia. So remote or sacred are some of these forests that man has never walked or cultivated in many of them. This has led to some extraordinary new finds to science and some previously thought extinct species have been rediscovered. Accounts of Conservation International's two recent expeditions are well worth reading.

<http://discuss.conservation.org/content/interview/detail/650/>

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/02/0207_060207_new_species.html

As equally renowned as the highland, penis gourd wearing, Dani people are the lowland Korawai and Kombai tribes or tree house people. Until very recently these tribes would have never seen a foreign face and indeed would be extremely hostile to all but the closest of their clan and territory. Now, though, a trickle of adventurous visitors are heading there and coming face to face with these extraordinary human beings. Some inspiring and mind boggling photos can be found at

<http://www.georgesteinmetz.com/index.php?section=11>



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Fancy visiting West Papua this Autumn?

A 2008 expedition will spend approximately 10 days in the company of the Korawai and Kombai and will begin and end in the Dani highland town of Wamena, itself a 45 minute flight from Jayapura, the administrative capital of Papua. In total, a minimum of 16 days is recommended to allow for logistical uncertainties. Travel to and from the trek will be by a chartered missionary plane and with the exception of one day when we cross the river that separates the two tribes by dug out canoe we will be trekking and carrying all our supplies with us. Porters will be used for carrying most of the gear and we will be lead by an experienced guide and his personal cook will keep us well fed.

If you are interested in joining the expedition do not hesitate to contact us now as final logistical arrangements are being made. Do not underestimate the undertaking of this expedition. New Guinea is on the equator and we will be mostly in the lowlands where it will be sweaty to the extreme, in all likelihood very wet and with many creatures of the forests, big and small out to irritate us. Malaria is endemic to the region and must be a consideration.

The expedition is due to leave mid October and will last a little over 2 weeks. At the end it is suggested that some extra time is allowed to enjoy some of the other natural treasures that West Papua can offer including some of the most unspoilt coral seas in the world and rare opportunities to view some of the huge Birdwing Butterflies and bizarre Birds of Paradise and Bower birds that the island is famous for.



This October Fieldskills will be providing logistical advice and expertise to this very exciting exploratory expedition. This special introductory expedition is being offered by the organisers at a price that will not be repeated. There are two remaining spaces available for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Contact us on info@fieldskills.com if you are interested.

To view pictures from previous Papua expeditions please see the Fieldskills facebook group:

Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2725865341>

FIELDNEWS FEATURE: WEST PAPUA

COMING SOON FOR FIELD SKILLS...

More filming with the Beeb?

As we speak Simon is in his favourite location, knee

high in bat dung or dangling off an abseil rope in order to get a CBBC presenter into just the right spot for some Really Wild wildlife shots. Watch this space and the website for a photo or two of how it all goes...

Borneo International Marathon

Approaching fast now, The Borneo Marathon project is a new kind of a venture for Fieldskills. We are usually more likely to be involved with adventure races where we have small numbers of competitors but with the marathon with the potential for 10,000 people to manage, it will be a bit more crowded than an adventure race. At least without the added complications of bikes, rafts, abseils and the likes some aspects of the organisation should be a bit easier.

More biking, more bikes

Our mountain bike adventures and charity challenge races are going strong with unique itineraries for all our clients and some fantastic routes.

Our store room is already rammed with 35 Giant mountain bikes but we are already trying to work out where to squeeze 15 more to cope with more mountain biking adventures for next year. If you think you would like to try a mountain bike holiday or even a multi-activity trip to Borneo, then we've got the gear and plenty of ideas - so we'd love to hear from you.

Documentary camp in 2009

We are working with National Geographic cameramen and a Singaporean adventure company to set up a training camp for nature documentary camera people. We will be training intrepid film-makers to get up close to the natural action in all kinds of locations and conditions including underwater, up in trees, in caves, mountains and jungles. Our target animals include sharks, orangutans, crocodiles, bears, jellyfish, pit vipers, bats, ants and leopards.

The new technologies available mean that so much more can be achieved by film-makers but the basic skills remain the same and getting that all important shot will always remain elusive to all but the most determined and skilled.

FOREST NEWS

Here are some stories from the worlds of expeditions, tropical forest and fieldwork...

Bee Species Outnumber Mammals And Birds Combined !

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/>

(Jun. 17, 2008) — Scientists have discovered that there are more bee species than previously thought. In the first global accounting of bee species in over a hundred years, John S. Ascher, a research scientist in the Division of Invertebrate Zoology at the American Museum of Natural History, compiled online species pages and distribution maps for more than 19,200 described bee species, showcasing the diversity of these essential pollinators. This new species inventory documents 2,000 more described, valid species than estimated

by Charles Michener in the first edition of his definitive *The Bees of the World* published eight years ago.

UIAA – Eco-friendly expeditions to Everest...

<http://www.theuiaa.org/>

In April this year the Eco Everest 2008 expedition set out to field test an environmentally-friendly approach to climbing and to draw attention to climate change with the world's highest photo exhibition. They will be testing new environmental toilets and taking their rubbish and others down from the mountain as part of a ten point plan that could form a basis for an international certification for environmentally friendly climbing expeditions.

Tropical Forest Sustainability: A Climate Change Boon

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/>

(Jun. 13, 2008) — Improved management of tropical forests has major implications on ability to reduce human contribution to climate change, according to a paper in the journal, *Science*. An estimated 13 million hectares of the world's forested areas – almost exclusively in the tropical regions – are deforested annually. Dr Raupach says, however, reducing rates of deforestation by 50 per cent by 2050, and stopping further deforestation when countries reach 50 per cent of their current forested area, would avoid emissions equivalent to six years of current fossil fuel emissions by the end of this century.