



International Travel and
Hosting Fellowship



Connections November 2025 ITHF now has 1101 members



A trip of a life time by Ligia Corredor, ITHF President 2025-2027

One of the joys of being part of the International Travel and Hosting Fellowship (ITHF) is the opportunity to explore the world alongside fellow Rotarians and friends.

Visiting the Galápagos Islands and Machu Picchu has always been a dream of mine. This past October, that dream became reality thanks to the ITHF Tour Committee and the guidance and leadership of our fellow Rotarian and friend Alonso Campoi from Brazil, whose travel agency expertly coordinated every detail of the trip.

Together with nine fellow ITHF friends, I set out on an unforgettable adventure through Ecuador and Peru. In Ecuador, we explored the natural wonders of the Galápagos, walked in the footsteps of Charles Darwin, and even visited the “Center of the Earth.”

Our journey continued into Peru, where we were joined by five energetic Rotary exchange students. Here, we delved into the fascinating pre-Inca and Inca cultures. After acclimating to the altitude on the floating island of Uros Khantati in Lake Titicaca, we were ready to take on one of the highlights of the trip — climbing the steps of the legendary Machu Picchu. Along the way, we visited many other remarkable archaeological sites, each one deepening our appreciation for the region’s rich history and traditions.

It was truly the adventure of a lifetime — a perfect blend of friendship, discovery, and cultural immersion. I am deeply grateful to the ITHF and to everyone who made this extraordinary experience possible.

Important Notices

Trip to Kerala, India deadline for registration is NOVEMBER 15, 2025.

Do you want to join an ITHF trip but need a room-mate. Don't be shy. Let the trip organizer know and arrangements can be made to publish the request in Connections. Great friendships have developed by sharing a room.

Virtual Tour Committee Update

Become an active volunteer member of this Virtual Travel Committee and help us bring the pleasure of visiting and learning about other countries from the comfort of your home, as well as informing our ITHF members about the opportunities for in-person travel that ITHF provides. Any ITHF member who would like to be an active volunteer on this Committee should contact Chair Alicia Ruiz-Orbin by e-mail at: rorbina@ptd.net

The last Virtual Tour presentation for 2025 includes:

December 5-6 - Holiday Coffee and Connections, where you will have the opportunity to meet the participating ITHF members, hear about the December's celebrations in their hometown and/or country, and the opportunity to share yours. And all from the comfort of your home!

An e-mail with the time details about this Holiday and Connections Virtual Tour will be sent to you all ITHF members. We look forward to meeting you and to enjoy the pleasure of your company.

Announcements about Virtual Tours in 2026 coming soon.

For any questions about the Virtual Tours, please e-mail Committee Chair Alicia Ruiz-Orbin at rorbina@ptd.net. Phone # 610-392-5134

ITHF Connections Made in July 2025 BY Lesley Goode of Geelong, Australia

Following the Calgary Convention, I enjoyed the hospitality of 2 ITHF members, Simmy and Pradesh Ahluwalia in Ottawa and John Anderson in Vancouver.

Simmy and Pradesh were enlisted to 'babysit' me while the friends I was staying with (fellow Rotarians) attended other functions. Simmy and Pradesh had barely arrived home from Calgary when I arrived but what wonderful hosts they were. Simmy took me to the nearby Hog's Back Falls on the Rideau River in Ottawa and from there we walked to Mooney's Bay Beach on the river. Meanwhile, Pradesh cooked a superb meal in his BBQ. And the following morning, my friends joined us for the amazing breakfast which Simmy and Pradesh had prepared. Following both meals we enjoyed conversations about convention, Rotary, travels etc.

Following my stay in Ottawa and a tour of the Canadian Maritimes I flew to Vancouver where I was hosted by John for 4 nights. John also was a wonderful host. He kindly picked me up from the airport. He had planned a sightseeing itinerary for me. In the first 2 days he took me to Granville Is, Stanley Is, Lynn Canyon Park, Horseshoe Bay Village. For these journeys into and across Vancouver, John deserved a medal as he patiently negotiated horrific traffic and parking. The weather was superb and we purchased lunch each day and enjoyed them outdoors. John's Rotary Club had a social evening at a member's home which we attended – it's always interesting to meet other Rotarians and share ideas. On the last day, we stayed closer to home. While John attended church, I explored the forested wetlands near his home and then John took me to Ladner Market and Westham Island before returning me to the airport for my flight home.

One of the benefits of ITHF is that you often are introduced to the 'hidden gems' of a place. I have walked the banks of the Rideau River, caught an Aquabus in Vancouver, crossed the suspension bridge at Lynn's Canyon and strolled along the Blue Heron Way, Tsawwassen.

A very big thank you to both Simmy and John.

Lesley Goode, a 10 year member of ITHF

KERALA - KANYAKUMARI SOUTH INDIA TOUR

A JOURNEY THROUGH 'GOD'S OWN COUNTRY'

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Cultural Immersion:

Visit iconic landmarks including Meenakshi Temple, Vivekananda Rock Memorial, and ancient churches of Kochi.

Backwater Bliss:

Experience a traditional houseboat cruise through the tranquil backwaters of Alleppey.

Hill Stations & Tea Estates:

Breathe in the fresh mountain air of Munnar and explore its lush green tea plantations.

Wildlife Adventure:

Boat safari at Periyar National Park with a chance to spot elephants and more.

Art & Performance:

Witness Kerala's classical arts like Kathakali and Kalaripayattu in their traditional setting.

Spiritual Serenity:

Enjoy sunrise and sunset at Kanyakumari – the confluence of three seas.

Rotary Fellowship:

Interact with local Rotary Clubs and participate in service project visits.

Local Flavours:

Relish traditional Kerala cuisine, including banana leaf meals and a curated cooking session.

Comfortable Stays:

Stay in premium resorts and hotels offering comfort, hospitality, and stunning views.

Comfortable Travel:

Private A/C coach with professional escort from arrival to departure.



Tour Dates: January 19 to January 30, 2026



Minimum Participants: 20 | Maximum Participants: 30



Registration Deadline: October 15, 2025



Accessibility: Transport for disabled individuals available with separate vehicles at extra cost.



Day	Date	Meals	Daytime Activities	Night Stay
1	Mon. January 19, 2026	nan	Arrive Trivandrum Transfer to Hotel	Trivandrum Meet & Greet (Vivanta)
2	Tuesday. January 20	B,L,D	Exploring Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum): Discover the highlights of the capital city, including visits related to Rotary projects, showing their community impact	Trivandrum South Rotary Club (Vivanta)
3	Wednesday January 21	B,L	Engaging Experiences: Participate in a special Minister's visit (subject to confirmation) and immerse yourself in the captivating illusions and entertainment of the Magic Planet	Trivandrum (Vivanta)
4	Thursday .Jan.22	B,L	Journey to the Misty Hills of Ponmudi: Embark on a scenic day trip to Ponmudi, a charming hill station known for its winding roads & breathtaking views that capture your heart	Trivandrum (Vivanta)
5	Friday Jan. 23	B,L	Art History and Compassion: Experience the awe-inspiring Jadayu Earth Centre, home to the world's largest bird sculpture, and visit Gandhi Bhavan, a sanctuary where over 1200 individuals have found rehabilitation and hope.	Alleppy (Stirling Lake Palace, Alleppy)
6	Saturday Jan. 24	B,L	Enchanting Backwater Cruise in Alleppey: Glide along the serene backwaters of Alleppy on a traditional houseboat. Witness the unique lifestyle of the region and enjoy views of lush paddy fields stretching along the waterways.	Kochi (Radisson Blu)
7	Sunday . Jan.25,	B,L	Exploring the Historic Charm of Kochi; Discover the cultural tapestry of Kochi with visits to the historic Mattancherry Palace (Dutch Palace), the ancient Jewish Synagogue, the iconic St. Francis church, and conclude your day with captivating Kathakali Performance at a local theatre, showcasing Kerala's vibrant classical dance.	Kochi (Radisson Blu)

8	Monday January 26	B,L	Scenic Drive to Munnar's Tea Hills: Enjoy a picturesque drive from Kochi to Munnar, passing through stunning landscapes, cascading waterfalls at Cheeyapara and Valara, and the scenic beauty of Nariamangalam.	Munnar (Nature Zone Jungle Resort)
9	Tuesday January 27	B,L	Immersed in Munnar's Greenery: Explore the sprawling tea plantations that carpet the hills of Munnar. Visit the Eravikulam National Park, home to the Nilgiri Tahr, and experience the scenic beauty of Mattupetty Dam and its surroundings.	Munnar Nature Reserve Jungle Resort
10	Wednesday January 28	B,L	Adventure and Culinary Delights in Munnar: Embark on a refreshing trekking experience through the hills. Later, delve into the art of tea making and visit a Tea Museum and participate in an engaging cooking demonstration showcasing local flowers.	Munnar (Nature Zone Jungle Resort)
11	Thursday January 29	B,L	Journey to Thekkady's Wildlife Haven: Travel from Munnar to Thekkady via the scenic Gap Road, stopping at viewpoints to capture the beauty of the region, including glimpses of dams and plantations.	Thekkady (Green Woods)
12	Friday January 30	B,L	Wildlife Encounters in Thekkady: Experience the renowned Periyar National Park with a boat safari (subject to availability). Enjoy an opportunity to witness elephants in their natural habitat (if available), followed by a visit to a spice plantation and a captivating Kalarippayattu (traditional martial art performance).	Thekkady (Green Woods)
13	Saturday January 31	B,L	Transition to Kanyakumari via Madurai: Begin your journey towards Kanyakumari, with a stop in Madurai to meet local Rotarians and visit the magnificent Meenakshi Temple, a vibrant example of Dravidian architecture.	Kanyakumari (Sparsa)

14	Sunday February 1	B,L	Witnessing the Confluence in Kanyakumari Experience the breathtaking sunrise at Kanyakumari Beach, visit the Vivekananda Rock Memorial and the Thiruvalluvar Statue by boat, reflect at the Our Lady of Ransom Church, enjoy a leisurely beach walk, and witness the mesmerizing sunset at the confluence of three seas.	Kanyakumari (Sparsa)
15	Monday February 2	B,L,D	Cultural Exchange and Farewell in Kovalam: Travel back towards Trivandrum, with a meaningful interaction with students at the NVKS School at Atttoor. Enjoy a traditional lunch served on banana leaves, followed by a relaxing evening and a farewell dinner at the exquisite Taj Green Cove Resort	Trivandrum (Taj Green Cove Resort, Kovalam)
16	Tuesday February 3	B	Departure: After breakfast, you will be transferred to Trivandrum International Airport for your onward journey, filled with cherished memories of your Kerala and Kanyakumari exploration.	

Tour Package Rate:

USD 2,997 per participant sharing a double room.

USD 3,988 per person, based on single occupancy.

Notes:

1.Meals:B- Breakfast, L,-Lunch, D-Dinner

2 Incusions:

2.1 Accommodation for 15 nights

2.2 Daily Breakfasts on Day 02 to Day 16

2.3 Lunch on Day 02 to 15(Lunch on Day 06 will be in the Houseboat).

2.4 Dinner on Day 02 and Day 09. Farewell Dinner on day 15 at Taj Green Cove Resort, Kovalam

2.5 An enchanting Day Cruise with Lunch aboard a traditional Houseboat in Alleppey.

2.6 Services of a professional English-speaking Escort throughout your journey, from arrival to departure.

2.7 All transportation and sightseeing as per this itinerary in a comfortable AC 35-seater Coach.

2.8 All applicable toll charges, parking fees, driver's allowance (bata), fuel costs etc..

3 Exclusions:

3.1 Any meals not explicitly mentioned in the inclusions.

3.2 International or domestic airfare.

3.3 Any items or services not specifically listed under "Inclusions."

3.4 Porterage at hotels and airports, personal tips, insurance, laundry services, alcoholic beverages..

3.5 All expenses of a personal nature.

3.6 Any additional costs incurred due to unforeseen natural calamities or events beyond our control.

3.7 Any increase in government taxes/fuel costs that may lead to a rise in surface transportation costs.

4. Other guidelines

4.1 Airport pick-up and drop-off services during non-standard hours may attract additional charges.

4.2 Sightseeing schedules are subject to adjustments based on time constraints and weather conditions.

4.3 The content of this plan is subject to change. if unforeseen circumstances demand adjustments



Please view this lovely video about the forthcoming tour https://youtube/ErR_XTLVLDQ



The tour is open to Rotarians, their adult family members and friends.

Hiroshima is the home of my ancestors. So it was natural that I would visit. But what I found changed my life. Such a beautiful city, lots of trees and greenery, the inspiring peace museum, 7 rivers flowing through it, friendly and kind people, we decided to spend time in Hiroshima every year. Then we made a discovery. An island called Osakikamijima nearby in Japan's Inland Sea. It is one the most beautiful spots in Japan.

We want to share what we learned with our ITHF friends. So this is not just a sightseeing tour, although we will visit temples, historical sights and stay at Japanese inns with onsen (spa). It is engaging a peaceful, happy way of life that is unique and inspiring.

Tour dates: 11-21 May 2026

1. 11-15 May 2026. Four nights. Hiroshima City. Visit Peace Museum. Be inspired by A-bomb survivor. Tour the Miyajima Shrine. Bus and ferry to Osakikamijima.
2. 15-20 May. Five nights Seifukan Onsen. Culture and people tours of Osakikamijima.
3. 20-21 May. One night. Hiroshima Airport Hotel. Beautiful Japanese garden and Koi fish lake. Farewell dinner.

Price: US\$4,450 per person, double occupancy. Single supplement, add \$1,000. US\$500 per person to reserve your space. \$500 refund deadline and full price due February 1, 2026. Space priority in order of deposit received. Group limited to 12 persons.

Included: Accommodations, breakfast and dinner, transportation, English speaking guide, all taxes and fees.
For more information and to reserve your space contact: Carol Cartier, cartierca@hotmail.com

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FvQ8tYUgR96E&cid=7d9c19e2-64e4-46fd-9c18-27d7682546be>

DO YOU HAVE A TALE TO TELL ABOUT MAKING A CONNECTION

Please share your tales with Sheila Hart, Editor of Connections at email: sheilahart@shaw.ca.
Articles should be no more than 250 words. Include a photo or two.
If your article is used in Connections, you will receive a one year membership in ITHF.

REQUEST FOR MEMBERS TO UPDATE INFORMATION IN THEIR PROFILE

Hello Members,

We kindly request you to take a moment to review your profile information for accuracy.

You can view and edit your profile by selecting **Profile → My Profile** from the menu.

Also, please upload your photograph.

Should you need any assistance with using the portal, feel free to reach out to me directly at ithfzoom@gmail.com OR my WhatsApp number +91 96330 69336

Wishing you joyful and meaningful connections! **Warm regards, Sivaprasad Pillai, ITHF Administrator**

MEMBER SUGGESTED TRIPS THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO ITHFers

Post Taipei convention cruise to Japan on Celebrity Millenium—June 19-July 1, 2026

This cruise was recommended by Cliff Brock. Mid and he are doing this cruise along with 2 other Rotarian couples from their club. Cliff wanted to expand this to our ITHF members. There is no group rate option available but if there are a number of bookings a special Rotarian get together will be hosted on the ship. Rotarian Mark Tuttle, (800) 647-2251 or m.tuttle@dreamvacations.com, can help with the arrangements. Prices change daily so consult Mark if you are interested.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
19-Jun	20-Jun	21-Jun	23-Jun	24-Jun	25-Jun
Tokyo, Japan Departs	Day at Sea	Kyoto (Osaka), Japan	Kochi, Japan	Day at Sea	Busan, South Korea

Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12
26-Jun	27-Jun	28-Jun	29-Jun	30-Jun	1-Jul
Nagasaki, Japan	Kagoshima, Japan	Day at Sea	Mt Fuji (Shimizu), Japan	Tokyo, Japan	Tokyo, Japan

Celebrity Millennium Prices Taxes included - No Perks Travel Protection and Gratuities are extra

	Category	Cost	Deposit	Onboard Credit
Veranda	V2	\$6,158.58	\$900.00	\$ 200.00
	V1	\$6,262.58	\$900.00	\$ 200.00
Oceanview	O1	\$5,762.58	\$900.00	\$ 100.00
	O2	\$5,654.58	\$900.00	\$ 100.00
Interior	I1	\$4,826.58	\$900.00	\$ 100.00
	I2	\$4,714.58	\$900.00	\$ 100.00

ITHF AT THE TAIPEI CONVENTION

Post-Convention ITHF Tour June 18-22, 2026: Taiwan Cultural Discovery

Explore the beauty, culture, and traditions of Taiwan with fellow ITHF members .

This tour promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime journey through the heart of Taiwan. There are still spaces available on this tour. Visit the ITHF website for the tour itinerary and details at

<https://www.ithf.org/events/taiwan-cultural-discovery-tour>

Contact: ITHF IPP Madu Bishnu - m_bishnu@yahoo.com +91 98313 93103; ITHF VP Michael Chen : michael.fh.chen@gmail.com

HOTEL BOOKINGS

We are pleased to announce that a **block booking of 20 rooms** has been secured for ITHF members attending the Taipei Convention at the United Hotel, Taipei **from June 11, 2026 to June 18, 2026**. We have negotiated favorable rates for your convenience:

- Small Room: NTD 6,000 (approx. USD 200)
- Big Room: NTD 7,500 (approx. USD 250)

Rates include breakfast, 10% service charge and 5% government tax.

Hotel Overview:

Located on Guangfu South Road, United Hotel offers a prime location in the heart of Taipei. It is adjacent to major landmarks including the Taipei Dome and Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, and within walking distance of Taipei 101 and the Xinyi Shopping District. Whether you're interested in cultural exploration, shopping, or simply relaxing, the hotel provides an ideal base.

Reservations will be handled on a **first come, first served basis**. To request a room, please send an email to our administrator Sivaprasad Pillai at pillai.sivaprasad@gmail.com with a cc to Simmy Ahluwalia simmyithf@gmail.com with the following details:

- Your full name and Email address
- Type of room requested (Small or Big) and type of beds twin, double, etc.

Once we have the booking and payment link from the hotel, we will send it to finalize payment and confirm your booking.

The ITHF DINNER WILL BE HELD AT THE SAME HOTEL ON JUNE 12, 2026

ITHF Welcomes the Following New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Club</u>
Hildah Birungi	Uganda	Kampala District	Kampala District	Kampala Ssesse Islands
Chris Sturdevant	United States	Wisconsin	Milwaukee	River Cities
BIJU POTTEK-KAD	India	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Rotary Club of Trivandrum South
SUBIR KUMAR DHAR	India	Karnataka	Bengaluru	E-Connect
Chuck Schroyer	United States	South Dakota	Pierre	Pierre-Ft. Pierre
Deepak.H. Patil	India	Karnataka	Hubli	Hubli west
Peter Huisking	United States	California	Altadena	Rotary Club of Altadena
Dennis Wickham	United States	Washington	Vancouver	Greater Clark County
thomas cella	United States	Colorado	Denver	Denver Mile High
Duane Pelkey	United States	New York	Potsdam	Potsdam
Bob Fonarow	United States	Utah	Salt Lake City	Salt Lake City
Linda Simmons	United States	Indiana	Decatur County	Greensburg Rotary Club

March 2026 Trips on Polio Immunization with Rotary Projects at Agra, India

We Rotarians of Agra, looking forward welcoming you all in March 2026 making End Polio Now and Keeping India Polio Free Campaign a great success.

<https://polionid.agratajmahalarotary.org/default.aspx>

This is not an ITHF Tour but might be of interest to some members.

Dwayne is an ITHF member.

“Return to the D-Day Beaches of Normandy”



Booking now for 2026! Beat any price increases!

July 12 – 18, 2026

September 21 - 27, 2026

Who can attend?

People of all walks of life and ages who have a desire to visit one of the most iconic World War II invasion sites. These Adventures are limited to 10-12 people. The itinerary is jam-packed with lots of exploring around the entire northern Normandy invasion area.

Look what all is included in this Adventure!

- **All GROUND transportation.** From Paris to Normandy, throughout the week, and return to Paris, we will all travel together comfortably and in style in a luxurious 16-passenger Mercedes motor coach with a professional driver.
- **4-STAR ACCOMMODATIONS** in classic 4-star hotel with each bedroom having a private bathroom.
- **Full BREAKFAST every morning** – a full range of breakfast options await you every morning.
- **EVENING MEALS** are also included to accommodate a wide range of tastes and variety.
- **D-Day History lessons** – tons of videos, articles, and photos sent to you via email for several months prior to your departure to better prepare you for your visit.
- **An expertly prepared, jam-packed itinerary** for all seven days to maximize your D-Day experience.
- **Professionally guided tours** throughout the entire D-Day invasion area of Normandy.
- **All entry fees are taken care of** at historic sites, museums, and cinemas.
- **Jam packed days of touring and exploring the entire area**, including several museums, all five Beaches and Point du Hoc, Bayeux, Pegasus Bridge, several German Gun Batteries, the Mulberry “B” Harbor, St. Mere Eglise, the American Cemetery, and much, much more
- **Concierge services** by Dwayne Lee. Assistance in booking flights, hotel arrangements, and sight-seeing options in the Paris area.

What does this Adventure cost?

Pricing for this Overlord Adventure has been reduced!

Pricing for this Adventure is now only \$4,450 pp.

Please note: Because there are so many options for air travel, airfare is not included in the Adventure price. To reserve your spot, a deposit of \$750 pp is due at registration.

To reserve your D-Day Adventure spots, contact:

Dwayne Lee, Historian/Author/Guide/Professional Photographer

www.OverlordAdventures.net

Email: OverlordAdventures@att.net

Phone/Text: 817.300.4477

Overlord Adventures is a private enterprise designed by Dwayne Lee. The “Return to the D-Day Beaches” Adventure is the flagship tour of Overlord Adventures. We provide a fantastic week-long travel Adventure for groups of up to twelve guests touring the entire D-Day invasion site in the Normandy, France area.

Discounts available to all U.S Military Veterans.

MORE PICTURES FROM THE ITHF TOUR TO EQUADOR AND PERU

