



WWW.ITHF.ORG



International Travel and
Hosting Fellowship

February 2026

READY TO HOST IN INDONESIA!

My name is Brigitta Stellani Sukamto, a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Yogyakarta Malioboro. I am delighted to welcome you to our culturally rich city in the heart of Java.

Yogyakarta

The Soul of Java, Where Tradition Meets Modernity

Yogyakarta, fondly called Jogja, lies in the shadow of the majestic Mount Merapi. It is the only province in Indonesia still led by a Sultanate, making it a unique center of Javanese heritage. The cityscape blends ancient palaces (Keraton), dynamic arts



streets, and serene green rice fields. Mornings in Jogja are cool, with a gentle rhythm of life that feels welcoming, restorative, and peaceful.

Culture at Every Corner

Yogyakarta's culture lies at the heart of the city. The stunning Prambanan Temple is just a short drive away, while the world-famous Borobudur Temple is a rewarding destination slightly further out, ideal for a full-day cultural excursion.

Visitors will encounter batik—traditional patterned cloth made using wax—and gamelan music, a classical Indonesian ensemble, with Gudeg as Yogyakarta's signature dish.



Beyond sightseeing, Jogja offers local friendliness, inclusive artist communities, and the philosophy of “mangan ora mangan kumpul”—togetherness above all.

A City to Remember

Jogja presents another side of Indonesia—spiritual, artistic, and peaceful. Meaningful conversations unfold over local coffee at an angkringan, leisurely walks around the alun-alun, and the genuine smiles of its people leave lasting impressions.

Contacts:

Brigitta Stellani Sukamto, Yogyakarta, Indonesia: email: stellanishark@gmail.com
WhatsApp: +62 878-8666-3899



Top News

- **READY TO HOST IN INDONESIA!**
- **ITHF HOSTING EXPERIENCE**
ELANA'S FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE IN NEW ZEALAND
- **ITHF VIRTUAL TRAVEL COMMITTEE**
- **HELP NEEDED**



ELANA'S FANTASTIC ITHF HOSTING EXPERIENCE IN NEW ZEALAND



I just got back from a wonderful ITHF experience in Christchurch, New Zealand. My name is Elana and I live in San Diego, CA (District 5340). I was going to visit a PDG friend in Southern New Zealand but had a few extra days that were unplanned and she was not available. I sent emails to the ITHF members who live in Christchurch and they all answered me within 24 hours. Since it was around the holidays, some had plans, but Deryn T answered me with the kindest, most welcoming email. She even offered to host me at her home.

We had such a great time together. Before I even got there, she sent me a spreadsheet with links and ideas for things to do, as well as all of the meeting dates and locations for local Rotary clubs. I had plans the first day, but she picked me up and we went to dinner that night. I knew right away that we would get along when she took me to a local restaurant in her neighborhood and the waiter knew her. She is that friendly of a person. The next day she offered to take me around to some fun, but less touristy sites. We had so much fun (once

I got in the right side of the car since it is opposite from the US). She knew about incredible street art locations and found me the most wonderful man to describe the cardboard cathedral. Then she took me to look out points that most tourists never get to see. We even watched the ships, trucks and containers at the busy port overlooking a gorgeous harbor. After that we went to a great little beach town and waited in the longest line at a famous ice cream place her son recommended (even though it was raining). She pointed out Rotary signs and projects along the way as we were driving too.

One of the most fun things we did is when she took me to her business. She sells rare rocks and has a warehouse full of the most beautiful, colorful rocks from around the world. I had so much fun looking around and asking tons of questions. She also made sure that there were food and drinks I liked at her house. The room she had for me was perfect and she thought of everything (even having plugs, converters and toiletries available for me). She was super flexible with her schedule and so accommodating to me with bed and wake up times.



This was my first experience actually utilizing contacts on ITHF and I am so glad I did. I hope all of you take advantage of this amazing opportunity to meet wonderful Rotarians around the globe. Please reach out to me if you come to the San Diego area and if you are ever in Christchurch, definitely reach out to Deryn.

Yours in Service,

Elana Levens-Craig Rotarian, District 5340

Contact: levenscraig@hotmail.com

ITHF VIRTUAL TRAVEL COMMITTEE

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.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL TOUR PRESENTATIONS

- February 27-28 – Poland. Michal Skup
- March 27-28 – Preparing for your in-person Travel with ITHF Tours. Simmy Ahluwalia
- April 25-26 – Cambodia.- Gabor Karsai

Contact: **Alicia Ruiz-Orbin**, ITHF Virtual Travel Chair, Macungie, Pennsylvania, USA: rorbina@ptd.net

Upcoming Tours and Events

- **ITHF Japan Tour, May 11-21, 2026.**
ITHF Japan Tour, May 11-21, 2026. Steve Yoshida is still looking for 2 couples and 2 single females for this tour.
More info at
<https://www.ithf.org/events/ithf-japan-tour>
- **Traveling to the Rotary Convention in Taipei?**
Register for the ITHF Dinner at United Hotel Taipei, June 12, 2026. More info at
<https://www.ithf.org/events/ithf-dinner-at-united-hotel-taipei>
- **Uganda Safari Tour, September 26-October 8, 2026**
Details coming soon. Will include gorilla tracking and chimpanzee tracking!
Contact: Andy Ullman at andyuco@gmail.com or Rosette Nabuuma at rosettenabuuma3@gmail.com for more info.

HELP NEEDED-ITHF CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

1. **ITHF travel experiences:** Please send us stories and photos from your most memorable ITHF hosting/travel experiences. We would like to publish at least one story per month to encourage ITHF members to engage with other members in hosting experiences.
2. **ITHF members "Ready to Host":** If you are interested in hosting other ITHF members, please send a brief description and photos of a unique attraction or experience available in your area/region. We hope to post at least one "Ready to Host" listing for each newsletter issue.

As before, any ITHF member who submits material which is published in one of these categories will receive an additional year of ITHF membership as thanks for their assistance.

Please send your submissions to Andy Ullman, ITHF Membership Chair at andyuco@gmail.com

Thanks in advance for your contribution to the ITHF Connections newsletter!

Your ITHF Connections Newsletter Team:

Andy Ullman, Chicago, USA
Michael Chen, Taipei, Taiwan
Olurotimi (Sam) Adeleye, Lagos, Nigeria
Fredi Bochnick, Bonn, Germany

Rosette Nabuuma, Vancouver, Canada
Gizem Bastas, Ankara, Turkey
Nma Onuigbo, Abuja, Nigeria

January New Members

- **Sarah Berry**
Janesville,
Minnesota, USA
- **Marie Janus**
Ludvika, Dalarna
County, Sweden
- **Russell Marnock,**
Emerald, Victoria,
Australia
- **Tracy Henry,**
San Diego,
California, USA
- **Donald**
Woodhouse,
Antrim, New
Hampshire, USA