



International Travel and
Hosting Fellowship

WWW.ITHF.ORG

June 2026

READY TO HOST IN MUMBAI, INDIA!

I am Rotarian Kirty Vadalkar, from RI district 3142. My club is Rotary Club of Dombivli Saudamini, we are all women members in the club. Our club is 11 years old. We engage in various community development activities, and over the years we have gained a significant reputation in the district. I was involved in two Rotary Friendship exchanges, one to Uganda and recently to Canada. I also hosted a Youth Exchange student from Brazil this year.

I stay in a very busy and thickly populated town called Dombivli. We are in the vicinity of Mumbai, in fact many of us commute to various parts of Mumbai everyday. We have the same airports as that of Mumbai, the main Chatrapati Shivaji international airport and the new one, New Mumbai international airport.



Being a busy town, its well connected with main city Mumbai and various other parts of the country.

India is a vast country. We have everything, snow clad Himalayas, Desert of Rajasthan, plains of the central part, forests, Beaches, rivers, heritage structures, temples, churches, gardens, you name it we have it.

The food is very interesting too. Every state has its own cuisine, flavors and tastes. Indian attire is also very colourful. Similar to food, every state has its own traditional dress. We have a variety of festivals too, celebrated

during the year. Its very interesting to see people gather together to celebrate.

From my place, we have a good connectivity to various cities. India has the widest network of railway. We have good connecting roads. The air network is also quite good. There are certain specialty experience trains like , "The Palace on Wheels" which actually gives you the feeling of being a Maharaja. We also have the "Deccan Odyssey" taking the tourists to world heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora.



The forests are a must visit. You can drive through the greens, spotting the wildlife, of course, with the forest guards accompanying you. There are many Tiger reserves giving you the sight of the majestic animal. There are many birding sites too, offering you the pleasure of spotting some common, migratory and exotic species. There are a variety of sites in the hills, where you can go trekking too.

Indian handicrafts are very artistic. Many artisans showcase their art at a variety of exhibitions organised in different parts of India from time to time. Similarly, Indian Handloom textiles are in a class of its own. Wonderfully , intricately woven fabrics, in natural material like cotton and silk , with beautiful motifs, are a pleasure to your eyes and a pride to own.

I can help you plan your itinerary. I can suggest some wonderful sites too. For a colourful, flavorful experience, You are welcome to India, and to my place, too.

Contact: Kirty Hemant Vadalkar Mobile - +91 9324382911 Email - kirtyvadalkar@gmail.com

Top News

- **READY TO HOST IN MUMBAI, INDIA!**
- **UPCOMING TRIPS TO CAMBODIA**
Hosted by Sustainable Cambodia
- **ITHF VIRTUAL TRAVEL COMMITTEE**
- **HELP NEEDED**



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

- June - no session
- July 24 and 25 - Meet and Greet New ITHF members
- August 30 - Virtual tour of Poland by Michal Skup

Contact: **Simmy Ahluwalia**, – simmyithf@gmail.com

TAIPEI CONVENTION



Updates on Taipei Convention:

We are delighted to announce that the following International Travel and Hosting Fellowship (ITHF) events are scheduled during Rotary International Convention Taipei 2026 in Taipei this June (Please save the dates)

1. 12 June 2026 (Friday), 6:00 PM

**Venue: United Hotel, B1 Ballroom – Pei-Full Restaurant
(No. 200, Guangfu South Road, Taipei)**

Event: *ITHF President's Celebration Dinner & Variety Entertainment Program*

This much-awaited event has already been announced, and seats are filling up fast. We encourage you to reserve your seats at the earliest.

2. 13 June 2026 (Saturday), 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Venue: Room 504A, TaiNEx1 Floor 5F

Event: *ITHF Annual General Meeting(AGM) 2025-26*

A formal announcement regarding the AGM has already been emailed.

3. 15 June 2026 (Monday), 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

Venue: Room 500, TaiNEx1 Floor 5F

Event: *Beyond Borders & Boundaries – An Introduction to ITHF*

All ITHF members are requested to bring along friends, associates, and prospective members to this informative session.



2026 Post-Taipei Convention Trip: Friday, June 19 – Sunday, June 28, 2026
2027 Trip: Saturday, January 30 – Monday, February 8, 2027

Experience the beauty, history, and heart of Cambodia on an unforgettable 10-day journey with Sustainable Cambodia. Rotarians and friends from around the world are invited to join this safe, well-organized, and reasonably priced adventure through one of Southeast Asia's most fascinating countries. This unique trip combines cultural exploration, meaningful service, and authentic personal connections. You'll discover Cambodia's ancient wonders, vibrant cities, and remote rural villages while witnessing the life-changing impact of Rotary and Sustainable Cambodia projects firsthand.

Highlights of the Journey:

Phnom Penh – Cambodia's Capital

Our adventure begins in the energetic capital city of Phnom Penh, located at the meeting point of the mighty Mekong River and two other great rivers. Together, we will explore Cambodia's rich culture and complex history through visits to many of its most important landmarks, including:

- Royal Palace
- Silver Pagoda
- Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum
- National Museum of Cambodia
- Wat Phnom

Some of these sites will be included as part of the organized program, while others may be visited independently during your free time, allowing you flexibility to explore according to your interests. These experiences provide valuable insight into Cambodia's resilience and recovery following the tragedy of the Khmer Rouge era.

Visit Rural Cambodia with Sustainable Cambodia

We then travel into the heart of rural Cambodia to Pursat Province, home of Sustainable Cambodia's transformative work. Here, you will meet village families, students, teachers, and local leaders whose lives are being changed through education, clean water, agriculture, and community development programs.

Guided by members of the Rotary Club of Pursat, guests will visit schools, village projects, and Rotary-supported initiatives far beyond the normal tourist routes. For those who wish, there will also be opportunities to participate in hands-on service activities with local families and children.

For many travelers, this portion of the trip becomes the most meaningful and memorable experience of all.

Explore the Ancient Wonders of Angkor

The final part of our journey takes us to Siem Reap, gateway to the world-famous Angkor Archaeological Park and the breathtaking Angkor Wat — the largest religious monument in the world.

Beyond the ancient temples, Siem Reap offers lively night markets, excellent restaurants, cultural performances, and a vibrant modern atmosphere that blends beautifully with Cambodia's historic past.

More Than a Vacation

This is far more than a sightseeing tour. It is an opportunity to:

- Experience authentic Cambodian culture
- Witness meaningful humanitarian work firsthand
- Build friendships with travelers from around the world
- Connect personally with Cambodian families and children
- See how Rotary and Sustainable Cambodia are changing lives

Whether this is your first visit to Cambodia or your tenth, this journey promises unforgettable memories and meaningful experiences.

For brochures, trip details, and registration, please visit:

Sustainable Cambodia Trip Information <https://sustainablecambodia.org/visit-sc-in-cambodia/>

Contact: Gabor Karsai, President gaborkarsai456@gmail.com Mobile : +1-516-359-8028!



Upcoming Tours and Events

- **Post Convention Taiwan Cultural Discovery Tour, June 18-22, 2026.** *More info and a link to registration at <https://www.ithf.org/events/taiwan-cultural-discovery-tour>*
- **Discover the Magic of Mexico City, September 20-27, 2026.** *More info at <https://www.ithf.org/events/mexico-city>*
- **Uganda Safari Tour, RESCHEDULED: February 24th-March 6th, 2027.** *Will include gorilla tracking and chimpanzee tracking! Contact Andy Ullman at andyuco@gmail.com for more info. More info also at <https://www.ithf.org/events/tour-the-pearl-of-africa-uganda>*
- **An Amazing Journey to South America- Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego and Easter Island, February 26-March 12, 2027.**

May New Members

- **Heather Flynn**
Anchorage, AK, USA
- **Oluwole Okunsanya**
Duluth, GA, USA
- **Kate Thomas**
North Wollongong, NSW, Australia
- **Lee Halsted**
Howell, MI, USA
- **NEERAJ BHATNAGAR**
South West Delhi, Delhi, India
- **Jill Norman**
Ottawa, ON, Canada
- **David Easley**
Arlington Heights, IL, USA
- **Bhawani Thapa Ghimire**
Lalitpur, Bagmati, Nepal
- **Lanissa Grogan**
Wasilla, AK, USA
- **Kevin Miller**
Palmer, AK, USA
- **Lisa Engel**
Claremore, OK, USA
- **Wendy Oneil**
Riverton, UT, USA

HELP NEEDED-ITHF CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

We are seeking help from the ITHF members on these two items:

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
Rosette Nabuuma, Vancouver, Canada
Michael Chen, Taipei, Taiwan
Gizem Bastas, Ankara, Turkey
Olurotimi (Sam) Adeleye, Lagos, Nigeria
Nma Onuigbo, Abuja, Nigeria
Fredi Bochnick, Bonn, Germany

04/04

ITHF now has 1041 members