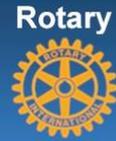




The International Travel & Hosting Fellowship



ITHF AGM in Hawaii

ITHF's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu on Monday, June 8, 2020, starting at 7:30 am - so that everyone can get to the Convention as it opens for the day! This meeting, with breakfast included, is the best opportunity to catch up on the state of the Fellowship, members' recent visits, and the plans for tours before and after the 2021 Convention in Taipei. These will be exciting tours of Taiwan and of Hokkaido, northern Japan - you won't want to miss them. Cost of the breakfast will be \$30 per person - please email r.harned@ithf.org with your plans to attend! Payment will not be due until invoices are sent out in February or March.

There are still lots of openings for the Post-Convention activities on Oahu! These are opportunities the average visitor never sees - check out the schedule on our website, and email r.harned@ithf.org that you want to participate. Payment will not be due until March 15.

Pre-Convention ITHF Cruise Group Shore Excursion on Hilo

Get Personal with Kilauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes

Date: Tuesday June 2, 2020 from 9am to 5 pm including a lunch stop

Cost: - US\$120 includes lunch, site admissions, transportation costs, donation to a specific project, tips.

Steve and Noko Yoshida of Hilo Hawaii are arranging a special day on their home island of Oahu, the big island of Hawaii. In May 2018, the Kilauea volcano erupted shooting lava 150 feet in the air. Molten rivers of lava flowed through neighbourhoods, created new land forms and had a devastating impact on many of the island's residents. Steve and Noko live in Hilo, 30 miles from the volcano, and have a personal knowledge about the volcano area and know many Rotarians who

were impacted by the effects of the eruption. They are creating a very special tour that will allow for participants to get up close and personal with the areas and people impacted by the eruptions. Paul Field, his wife Jane, and Jay Robinson all of the Rotary Club of Volcano are willing to act as tour guides.

The tour schedule is:

0800 ship arrives
 0800-0900 disembark and load up in vans
 09-1000 Travel time to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
 10-1200 Tour the Park
 1200-1300 Lunch at Volcano House
 1300-1445 Continue Park Tour
 1445-1500 Travel Time
 1500-1515 Akatsuka Orchid Garden
 1515-1545 Travel Time
 1545-1615 Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Farm
 1615-1700 Travel Time back to ship for arrival at 1700

For more information and to register contact Steve Yoshida at e-mail:

steveyoshida@gmail.com or Noko Yoshida at e-mail: nokoyoshida@gmail.com

Registration deadline and full payment of fees, payable to Steve Yoshida is April 15, 2020.

Amazon trip – 29 October to 11 November 2020

PDG Alonso Campoi, ITHF VP for South America, and owner/operator of Brazilian Travel Center AVLtda. has organized this special ITHF Tour to the Amazon and Brazil.

Full itinerary with details of what is included and not included can be found at https://www.ithf.org/images/tours/AMAZON_2020_Program.pdf

Price per person, special for ITHF participants

Double occupancy USD3.510,00 – for non ITHF member USD3.900,00
 Single supplement USD1.250,00



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* ask for special accommodation and additional program

camera stores, salons inside the restaurant. Ended the day with sumptuous dinner.

What's the best way to buy the program?

Visit the website www.brtravel.tur.br and buy there.

How to pay? You can use your credit card or bank deposit in USA or Europe. All details you will find on the website.

For the full tour brochure, with beautiful pictures, open the link above, visit the ITHF Website or watch for the **ITHF Update – Special Travel Edition** which will be distributed in early February.

Questions – Contact Alonso Campoi at: Alonso@brtravel.tur.br

A Sunday in Taiwan



Nancy Lien, an ITHF Member from Dadu, Taiwan, member of Rotary Dadu, District 3461 had taken me out to visit the Li Fen Family Garden and Confucius Temple in Taichung on 24th November 2019. We started the day with breakfast together and our visit to Li Fen Family Garden was exceptional with history on a rich family that was in the house from late 1800's to early 1900's. We had lunch of spicy Mala hotpot, a style from Sizuan style cooking from China followed by visit to Confucius Temple and I loved my visit. Such exquisite architecture, woodwork and enjoyed our coffee in a unique restaurant called Banana Garden which had quaint



Madhumita Bishnu, India, ITHF Sect. & VP

Keeping in touch with ITHF friends

I first met Peter and Rosemary Ibbotson on a trip to Taiwan we have kept in contact spasmodically over the years.

Peter and Rosemary visited me in Hamilton New Zealand it was a bit of a shambles as I was in the process of selling my home. They ended up helping me take stuff to the charity shop which I was very great full Then this year I was given the chance to join a friendship exchange to York I quickly contacted the Ibbotson's who offered to meet my plane and host me pre-trip to York. What a treat I was spoilt rotten taken to all the local sights. I went evensong, Coughton heard all about the Gun powder plot of the fifth on November and the Museum of Royal Worcester which was a wonderful experience. Mandatory on all good ITHF visits we enjoyed a drink or two in some very old pubs plus a special dinner or two. Just loved the time and effort, the



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history lessons and an introduction to pink gin that Peter and Rosemary put into my visit. Even got to watch the squirrel collect nuts in the back yard. Looking forward to them coming back to NZ.



The model of the Queen on a horse was at museum of Royal Worcester that displayed exactly how the model was made then dismantled prior to making the finished model



Peter, Rosemary and Jan at Chipping Campden at a very special Mediterranean restaurant called Michaels where we were treated as very special guests.

Jan Lawrence
Frankton Te Rapa New Zealand 9930

North to Alaska

We had a trip to Alaska this year and we had a great experience with ITHF! It was our first stay with an ITHF member and it couldn't have been better!!

Heather, a Rotarian from Anchorage, Alaska

was a fantastic hostess. My husband, daughter and I stayed with her for a couple of nights. My daughter had a great time playing with her grandchildren. Heather cooked us dinner one night and we had a nice visit from a neighbour. Heather also so graciously gave us tickets to the local museum too! She was so great and we had such a nice stay with her. We can't wait to do another stay with ITHF!

On our last night we all met up with some of our friends at a local hotspot.



Laurie Sears Deppa, Erik Jacobsen, Brian Deppa, Andrea Jacobsen, Tania Goss, David McKenzie and Heather Flynn (hostess).

Laurie, Brian and Ellie Deppa
Annapolis, Maryland, USA

A Southern Road Trip Plus New Friends

When you are making plans for a road trip, do you go to the ITHF on-line directory to see what members live near your destinations? Along your path of travel might be members eager to meet you! That was our positive experience!

In November 2019 when Rick was invited to speak to a Rotary Club in western Kentucky, we thought it might be a good opportunity to explore parts of Mississippi and Alabama. We were particularly interested in visiting the Civil War battlefield in Vicksburg. Rick discovered that our only ITHF member in Mississippi lived in Vicksburg and emailed him. Hal and Joan



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Morgan responded that they would be delighted to host us!

Hal had an audio disc in his car for our self-guided tour of the battlefield and then we stopped to see the unique USS Cairo, remnants of one of the first ironclad warships of the Civil War era.



Rick with the Morgans on battlefield

We were introduced to the best seafood restaurant in town (known only to locals!) and viewed the charming antebellum homes in their riverfront town. Since Hal had been with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, we visited its museum showing how the channels of the great Mississippi are maintained for ship traffic. We are grateful to the Morgans for such a splendid visit!

After a brief visit in Birmingham to learn more of our nation's civil rights history, our next destination was Huntsville. Planning to visit the U.S. Space and Rocket Centre the next day, we reached out to Sandy and Amy Patel, in nearby Madison, AL. They not only invited us to spend the night in their lovely home, they also invited members of their Rotary Club for a social evening! Our conversation covered their Club activities as well as Project Fairs in Central America and international service projects. We talked enthusiastically about our ITHF experiences and perhaps recruited a few new members! And when Amy comes to Louisville in a few months for a professional conference, we hope she'll consider our offer of home hospitality!



Rick & Mary with hosts Amy & Sandy Patel

*Mary Ellen and Rick Harned
Louisville, Kentucky USA*

The Joy of Rotary Relationships Just Grows and Grows

It all started out in 2001 when I was contacted by a Rotarian near Portland, Oregon about the possibility of my Rotary District 5080 being involved with a Rotary Friendship Exchange to Brazil. I had just been appointed as RFE Chair for the District and was not sure what I was getting myself into. Two couples from the Portland area came to visit my husband Bill and I in Nelson, BC and did a presentation at the Rotary Club of Nelson Daybreak about this amazing Rotary program. A mini-exchange followed. Then the planning to do an exchange with D4480 in São José do Rio Preto started. Only three couples from D5080 went on the exchange but we had an amazing experience and had our eyes opened to the richness of the Brazilian culture and the generosity of Brazilian Rotarians.

Bill and I had the opportunity to have our first ITHF experience when we were hosted in São Paulo. Next, I was asked to help the young RFE Chair Alonso Campoi in Brazilian District 4510 in Bauru, Brazil to organize an exchange



with D5080. A team of 15 from D5080 went to Bauru and had the time of their lives. D5080 was thrilled that we were able to reciprocate for a team of 16. In the years following more exchanges were organized, including a team from D4510 attending the D5080 convention in Colville, WA when ITHF VP for North West USA Michelle Lee was District Governor. Alonso had established himself as a superb RFE Chair and a tour leader that enabled RFE Team Members to travel to other parts of Brazil. He also has organized trips for Rotary Youth Exchange Students for many years.

I convinced Alonso and his wife Vania to join ITHF. In 2016 Alonso was appointed as VP for South America and in 2019 he was asked to join the Tour Committee as the Committee hoped he would organize an ITHF Tour of Brazil and the Amazon. This has been organized through Alonso's firm of Brazilian Travel Centre. www.brtravel.tur.br The trip starts on October 29, 2020 in Sao Paulo and visits will be made to São Paulo, Iguacu Falls, Rio de Janeiro, Manaus, and the Amazon, returning to São Paulo and ending on November 11, 2020 when participants fly home. Alonso's motto is "Travelling by your side: Feel safe and welcome wherever you are."



Vania & Alonso Campoi and Sheila Hart

Sheila Hart – Co-chair ITHF Tour Committee

Request from Editor

Connections relies on you as members of ITHF to provide the articles. I hope to send out the next issue in late April 2020. If you are able to contribute an article, including photographs, please send it to me at ithf.trumble@gmail.com by 15 April 2020.

Thank you

Tony Trumble