

During a pre-board meeting I learned that Melinda and Paulien had the intention to join the AGM in Bangalore. "Wow" is my first thought, "that is really something and why not! You only live once!" Bangalore, India. Not exactly a close visit but nevertheless a unique opportunity to visit this part of the world. Most probably not the first choice for a family holiday so the more the reason to think it over very seriously to join them. And then make the decision; Bangalore, here we come!!

A couple of practical things have to be arranged as the date of this event does not really fit; schools have just started up again, the same goes for my work after 3 weeks of company summer holidays. So this will mean piles of work on my desk, restlessly waiting for my return from India. But after having arranged all, at home and at my work, let the fun begin! At first it is not much more than just an event, to take place somewhere in the (near) future. But after a while, the mails with all sorts of information start coming in; the first travel guides are bought and I try to understand a country which, on its own, represents a complete continent. More than 1 billion inhabitants?!?!?

A diversity of people, cultures and landscapes. Huge contrasts and not to forget the important Do's and Don'ts which also are sent to us by Fiesta@50. First let's get together and study the program. Soon we decide that we definitely want to take part in the Opening Ceremony, Welcome Party, AGM, AGM lunch, Home Party and Gala dinner. Furthermore we want to, prior to the AGM, make a short tour to see the Golden Triangle, Delhi-Jaipur-Agra, but organized by ourselves. We want to travel fast, you could say the Japanese-way, in order to get some impressions of this country, but at the same time being able to deal with our time in a flexible way. Meaning that we would like to travel just with the 4 of us so we will not lose too much time waiting for other people. Paulien has been scrolling the internet and has found and booked us some beautiful hotels and at the same time, in doing so, bringing down the "adventure-rate" of our trip. But we prefer to do it like this; we want to minimize the chance of a Delhi-belly and on arrival in the evening in our hotel, having to kill a number of cockroaches.

As we now have determined our global travel plan, it is about time to get started: renewal of our passports, visa applications, vaccinations en in between having a dinner with the complete Dutch delegation at the Taj Mahal restaurant in The Hague. It is fun though meeting all the ladies before the big trip. We exchange some Delft Blue fabric for our costumes, we decide what to wear on our heads during AGM and some friends are already made. We are starting to look more and more forward to this exciting event!

One more night and the day is finally there; just pack our bags (not too full as we want to bring lots and lots of souvenirs) and let our adventure begin....

Best regards,  
José Tiggeler

LC23/De Cogge Rondte