

Dear All,

Happy new year 2010 to all SERVAS family members.

**SERVAS International is celebrating its 60th Birth Anniversary in GOA, India.** It is our pleasure to invite you to Goa, India to participate in the great celebration around the festival of New year 2010.

You know, I always wanted to have an organization where people can stay with a family as their guests, where ever they travel in the world, can learn about their food habits, their culture etc. Now I have found that OPEN DOORS organization "**SERVAS**" (means serve all) and I am sharing with you all. This organization is based on the philosophy of "**Vasudhaive Kutumbkam**" means "**Global Family**".

**If you are interested in meeting new people in the countries that you travel and be their guest, learn their culture, food habits, make new friendship etc:**

- Dream a little.
- Meet new people at their kitchen tables.
- Become part of a community of global peace-seekers.
- Learn a new way of talking.
- A new way of traveling.
- A new way of listening.

**OR**

**If you are interested in hosting guests from other countries ("Atithi Devo Bhava" - guests are like god - they visit you/us with God's wish) and welcoming them to stay comfortably with you:**

- Open your door to Servas International.
- A Peace Network.
- A door you will never close.
- Friends you will never forget.

Then SERVAS International is for you. please check the web sites:  
<http://www.servas.org/newsite/>. **If you are in India then can join:**  
<http://www.servasbharat.org/>.

**Meet new people from different cultures - Travelers & Hosts**  
**Process for Hosts and Travellers**

1. Apply
2. Be interviewed

To become a Servas Host or Traveller, please contact a Servas coordinator in your country. For the national web pages of other countries, see our [member countries page](#) and find the contact person for your own country (or a neighbouring country if yours is not there).

Or if that doesn't work, please write to [helpdesk@servas.org](mailto:helpdesk@servas.org). If you have questions about Servas, please see our [FAQ](#) page.

## **Becoming a Servas Host**

### **Are you:**

- 18 years of age or over
- Open-minded
- Reliable
- Someone who is comfortable opening their home to new people of different backgrounds and cultures
- Able to provide a bed (or even a couch) and a meal to Servas travellers for a minimum of two nights

## **Host Responsibilities**

- Respond promptly to letters from travelers
- host may decline a request if it is inconvenient
- may suggest alternative hosts in the area
- when traveler arrives, asks to see Letter of Introduction
- explain the rules of the house to the traveler
- set aside some time to talk and visit with traveler

## **Becoming a Servas Traveller**

Are you:

- 18 years of age or over
- Responsible and trustworthy
- Open-minded and flexible
- Someone who enjoys meeting new people

To apply, you need to contact your local Servas representative (see our [list of coordinators](#) ) to be interviewed and approved as a Traveller. Select your country. Select "contact".

If you cannot find your local Servas representative, please write to the help desk at [helpdesk@servas.org](mailto:helpdesk@servas.org).

#### Process:

1. Contact National Secretary in your own country.
2. Interview process - minimum 4 weeks
3. If approved, wait for Servas Letter of Introduction [LOI-Servas Passport]
4. Contact potential hosts
5. Travel

The National Secretary in your own country or the International General Secretary will send you further information and will arrange an interview for you. If there is no National Secretary in your country, you will be sent a Letter of Introduction (LOI) form for you to fill in and instructions on how you can contact the most convenient Servas interviewer.

Servas Officers are all volunteers. It takes time to prepare, schedule and perform an interview. Allow plenty of time for the interview and approval process.

Contact Servas at least four weeks before your departure date. It is important to understand that no one can be approved as a Servas traveller without an interview by an authorized Servas member.

You will also need time to contact the hosts you would like to visit.

When you meet with your local Servas interviewer, remember to bring your passport and an additional passport photo with you.

There may be a small travel fee involved. Your local Servas representative will provide you with this information.

When approved, the new Servas traveller will receive a Letter of Introduction (LOI), which is signed, stamped and dated. This is known as the traveller's Servas passport and is valid for one year.

#### **Traveller's Responsibilities:**

1. Payment of deposit for Host List
2. Return Host List when leaving host country
3. Produce the Letter of Introduction to the host
4. Write a travel report

5. Submit the travel report to the National Secretary upon completion of travel

Host Lists are provided for the countries a traveller will be visiting. A deposit is required for Host Lists, and this is refunded when the lists are returned, together with a travel report.

**Become a Servas Helper / Volunteer:**

Servas is recognized by the United Nations. You can apply to become a **UN Observer** in your community, or a **Servas Leader**.

Be a **Local Interviewer** for Servas and welcome new members.

Be a **Reporter**, and tell the world what we do.

For more information on volunteer positions, please click [here](#).

[http://dolphin.servas.org/form/application\\_form](http://dolphin.servas.org/form/application_form)

**Join us. Open a door. Knock on another. And get involved.**

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