

Join Natalie Bird on the Travelrite International

# Patchwork

TOUR AND CRUISE OF

# Europe

Including the European Patchwork Meeting

14 September to 2 October 2025

Visiting Zurich, Obernai, Trieste, Zadar, Split, Valletta, Palma Majorca and Barcelona

With a relaxing seven-night cruise  
on the magnificent Queen Victoria



TRAVELRITE  
INTERNATIONAL



# Patchwork

## TOUR AND CRUISE OF

# Europe



with **Natalie Bird**

A scenic day tour into  
the Swiss Alps

A project to work on designed  
by Natalie while we travel\*

Visit the European  
Patchwork Meeting

Visit several Patchwork  
and Quilting shops

Visit the Musee de l'Impression  
sur Etoffes in Mulhouse

Visit the Emperor Diocletian's  
vast Roman Palace

\* We might not have ideal light during our travels.

## Itinerary

### DAY 1 Sunday, 14 September 2025

**Depart Australia**

We depart today on our overnight flights to Zurich, Switzerland.

### DAY 2 Monday, 15 September 2025

**Zurich, Switzerland**

Today we arrive in Zurich. On arrival, we have our first patchwork fix with a visit to the Patchwork Shop, which stocks interesting and different patterns, fabrics and trims.

### DAY 3 Tuesday, 16 September 2025

**Zurich**

Today we will enjoy a scenic day tour into the Swiss Alps. We first visit Interlaken, where we will soak in the stunning views of Lake Thun and Lake Brienz. Continue to Grindelwald, where we will admire the majestic Eiger mountain and stroll through Grindelwald's charming streets, exploring quaint shops and enjoying the stunning mountain backdrop. Natalie will reveal our stitching projects for the tour. In the evening we will enjoy a Welcome Dinner to meet Natalie Bird and other tour members.

### DAY 4 Wednesday, 17 September 2025

**Obernai, France**

Today we travel to Obernai in the Alsace region of France for the highlight of the tour, The European Patchwork Meeting (EPM) held each year in Ste Maire-aux-Mines, located in the Alsace region of France. We will first stop at Mulhouse, established as an Imperial city at the end of the 13th century. It was a textile centre already, when in 1746 three citizens founded the first mill producing calico cotton fabrics. This led to the establishment of large-scale production of fabrics and the development of printing techniques. We will visit the Musee de l'Impression sur Etoffes. Our visit will explain the history of printed fabric and the history of design. The first samples of indiennes, printed cotton fabric were imported to the area in the 19th century. The secret of the famous rouge turc dye was unravelled and bought riches to Mulhouse. We continue to Colmar a gorgeous old town with canals overhung with flowers. The journey from Colmar to Ribeauvillé and on to Obernai is a real highlight. We will see stork's nests among the tiled roof tops of beautiful buildings.



### DAY 5 Thursday, 18 September 2025

**Obernai**

We travel to Sainte Marie aux Mines to visit the European Patchwork Meeting. A quilt show like no other, the European Patchwork Meeting is held in four picturesque villages in the Alsace region of France. Between the villages are 21 different exhibition spaces, in such diverse places as churches, town halls and villas, displaying quilts in a unique manner. Quilts from all over the world are showcased, made with a wide variety of techniques, themes and styles. Vendors of patchwork related goods are grouped together in one town, making shopping easy. Shuttle buses run between the villages, for access to the quilt exhibitions. More than one thousand two hundred works from world-renowned artists will be exhibited during the event. Natalie will advise on how to make the most of our visit.

### DAY 6 Friday, 19 September 2025

**Obernai**

We travel to Sainte Marie aux Mines, where we spend the day at the Patchwork meeting.

### DAY 7 Saturday, 20 September 2025

**Trieste, Italy**

This morning, we travel to Trieste. This evening Natalie will meet those wishing to dine together in the lobby.

### DAY 8 Sunday, 21 September 2025

**Trieste**

Trieste has a rich historical and cultural background that played a strong role for the economy of the Hapsburg Empire and later the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. On our sightseeing tour we see some beautiful Catholic and Orthodox churches, palaces in Neo-Classical style and Italy's largest square overlooking the sea, Piazza Unità d'Italia. This afternoon we visit the castle of Miramare, the residence of Maximilian from Hapsburg and his wife Charlotte from Belgium. Surrounded by a wonderful park of 22 hectares with rare botanical species, the castle is an example of a noble residence of the mid-seventeenth century.

### DAY 9 Monday, 22 September 2025

**Embark Queen Victoria**

This morning, we visit the Patchwork Victim, which stocks a vast array of fabric. In the early afternoon we are transferred to the cruise terminal. Make sure that you are up on deck as the Queen Victoria sails out of Trieste and we commence our cruise.



**Natalie Bird** Natalie is an accomplished Australian designer with over 20 years' experience in the Patchwork and Quilting industry, as a quilt and small project designer, shop owner, fabric designer and teacher. Natalie's designs are featured in books, patterns, and fabric. Her style is uncomplicated, fun and heartfelt, with her own hand-drawn images used for stitchery and appliqué designs, as well as in her fabrics. "I'm inspired by my garden and nature's beauty around me, also my family and friends. My designs often feature sentimental sayings and cute critters, and I love to use multiple hand-stitching techniques together in projects." Her designs have been published in many Australian and International magazines, with Owl & Hare Hollow featuring in Homespun Magazine this year and A Letter To My Daughter in 2021. Natalie enjoys sharing her knowledge and love for handwork techniques in particular, through teaching workshops. She has taught in Europe, NZ and around Australia.



**DAY 10 Tuesday, 23 September 2025 Zadar, Croatia**

After disembarking our ship in Zadar this morning, we will enjoy a walking tour. We will see the Old City, stop by the Church of St. Donat that lies on the ancient Roman forum, built from the 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD. We will see the City Walls and the Square of Five Wells. We continue with a visit to Lilliput Gallery, Zadar's finest arts and crafts store. It presents a selection of the best locally made artworks and designer items. We will browse jewellery, bags, ceramics and puppets all designed and produced in the Zadar region.

**DAY 11 Wednesday, 24 September 2025 Split, Croatia**

Today we visit Split, the second largest city in Croatia. The old town grew up around the Emperor Diocletian's vast Roman Palace. We enjoy a morning sightseeing tour, during which we visit the interior courtyard of the Roman Palace and the Golden Gate, the main entrance to Diocletian's Palace. We visit the Baptistery of St John a small, beautiful building consecrated in the sixth century and see the Renaissance Town Hall on People's Square surrounded by Venetian buildings.

**DAY 12 Thursday, 25 September 2025 At Sea**

Today we are free to enjoy the many facilities of the ship while we travel. There will be an opportunity to gather together to work on our stitching on board also.



**Queen Victoria**

Queen Victoria is sleek and contemporary with the most advanced technological features and luxurious appointments. Queen Victoria continues the heritage of cruising of the 1930s and the great Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth 2 and Queen Mary 2. The great traditions of fine service, food and entertainment continue better than ever. Enjoy the facilities of the gourmet restaurants, swimming pools, the casino, theatres, the cinema, computer and internet access, the Health and Spa Club, seven bars and much more. Take part in the multitude of daily activities that include numerous lectures on an array of topics, the regular musical performances, ship sports and much more. A voyage on Queen Victoria is an experience to be savored and remembered!

**DAY 13 Friday, 26 September 2025**

**Valletta, Malta**

The capital of Malta, Valletta was founded by the Knights of St John in 1566. Its purpose was to strengthen the Order's position on the island, following the siege of Malta by the Turks in 1565. The sightseeing tour includes visits to St Johns Co- Cathedral and the magnificent Palace of the Grand Masters. This afternoon we visit the Joseph Busuttill souvenir shop. They have been selling handmade Maltese lace for more than 100 years, also Gozo glass and unique jewelry.

**DAY 14 Saturday, 27 September 2025**

**At Sea**

We will have time today to work on our project and to enjoy the facilities of the ship.

**DAY 15 Sunday, 28 September 2025**

**Palma Majorca, Spain**

Today we sail into the resort city and capital of the Spanish Island of Mallorca. Palma was in fact named after the Roman city of Palmaria. The roman city still exists, a metre or two beneath the ground, inhabitants of houses near the cathedral are still discovering Roman remains. We enjoy a sightseeing tour of Palma with a photo stop at the historic Gothic fortress of Bellver Castle. See the Gothic Quarter and visit the Gothic Cathedral, built in 1230 on the foundations of an ancient mosque.



**DAY 16 Monday, 29 September 2025 Disembark Barcelona, Spain**

Today we arrive in Barcelona, capital of Catalonia and second largest city in Spain. After disembarking the ship, we will have a sightseeing tour of the city. In Barcelona's gothic quarter, we will visit the historic cathedral and the medieval streets and the modernist Eixample district, known for the architecture of Antoni Gaudi. We see examples of Gaudi's architecture, including a tour of the famous Sagrada Familia. We then transfer to our hotel for check in.

**DAY 17 Tuesday, 30 September 2025**

**Barcelona**

This morning, we visit Authentic Patchwork. We can buy all kinds of patchwork accessories, as well as original kits that include all the material to make our own projects. They also have a wide variety of specialized books, threads, tools, accessories and buttons. In the afternoon we visit Oyambre, a family business dedicated to needlework for over 60 years, first with wool, later with cross-stitch, half-stitch, embroidery and patchwork. As true needlework enthusiasts, they love to look for the latest on the market to offer, which is why they continually add national and imported products to their catalogue. In the evening, we will enjoy a Farewell Dinner to say farewell to Natalie and other tour members.

**DAY 18 Wednesday, 1 October 2025**

**Departure**

We transfer to Barcelona Airport for our flights to Australia today.

**DAY 19 Thursday, 2 October 2025**

**Arrive Australia**

This evening, we arrive back in Australia and the tour concludes.





# Patchwork TOUR AND CRUISE OF Europe with Natalie Bird

14 September to 2 October 2025



## Included in the price:

- Economy-class flights from Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney to Zurich and back from Barcelona.
- Economy-class coach/flight from OBERNAI to Trieste.
- Travel in first-class chartered coaches.
- Travel on Queen Victoria in the selected cabin category.
- All meals, entertainment, and service charges on Queen Victoria.
- Accommodation in four-star and three-star hotels, including breakfast daily, taxes and service charges.
- Welcome and Farewell Dinners.
- Sightseeing tours as listed in the itinerary.
- Entrance to the European Patchwork Meeting.
- Tour leadership by Natalie Bird.
- Tour management by Travelrite International Pty. Ltd. with an experienced Tour Manager meeting the group in Zurich.
- Cruise taxes and port & handling charges.
- Gratuities on board Queen Victoria.

## Not included in the price:

- Passport and visa fees.
- Travel insurance.
- Meals or drinks unless specified in the itinerary.
- Sightseeing and general expenses unless specified in the itinerary.
- Additional travel arrangements not in the detailed itinerary. These will be quoted for separately.

**Extending:** You can stay longer in Europe for minimal additional cost. Please contact Travelrite on 1800 630 343 for more information.

## Prices per person in Australian Dollars

Cabin / Description		Deck	Twin-share	Single
IE	Inside	5, 6, 8	\$ 11595	\$ 14850
ID	Inside	5, 6, 7	\$ 11650	\$ 14895
EC	Oceanview	1	\$ 11950	\$ 15350
EB	Oceanview	1	\$ 11995	\$ 15395
BE	Balcony	5, 6, 7	\$ 12195	\$ 15800
BD	Balcony	5, 6, 7	\$ 12375	\$ 16095
BB	Balcony	5, 6, 7	\$ 12575	\$ 16450
P1	Princess Grill Suite	7, 8	\$ 15195	\$ 22395
Q4	Penthouse Suite	7	\$ 16450	\$ 24850
Included cruise taxes			\$ 245	\$ 429
Included air taxes as at 19 March 2024			\$ 238	\$ 238

**Availability:** All cabins are subject to availability. Please call for fares and information on other cabin categories. A limited number of cabins are available for single occupancy. **Please call for details on 1800 630 343.**

## General Information and Booking Conditions

International touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the assistance from others.

**TOUR OPERATOR:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is the tour organiser. Queen Victoria is operated by CUNARD Cruises and cruise arrangements are subject to the terms and conditions and general information detailed in the CUNARD cruises brochure for Queen Victoria. All passengers must complete a Cunard Line on-line check-in and Travelrite International booking form.

**TOUR COSTS:** The tour costs are based on airfare, general transport, accommodation costs and foreign exchange rate at 31 October 2024. Travelrite reserves the right to alter the costs if any of these factors change, giving any passenger that has booked the right to withdraw with full refund of monies paid or modify arrangements. No alterations to price will be made within 90 days of departure from Australia.

**AIR TAXES:** from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth as listed in the itinerary. Please contact us for fares and air taxes from different cities. Air taxes are as at 31 October 2024. If they change due to government and airline charges and currency variations, Travelrite International reserves the right to charge additional amounts.

**DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT:** A non-refundable deposit of \$900 per passenger should be sent with a completed Travelrite International booking form that lists your requested cabin category for the cruise. As soon as the booking is confirmed, (usually within 24 hours), a cruise confirmation advice will be posted to the client. The confirmation advice will contain all details. Final payments are due to be paid to Travelrite International 92 days prior to the commencement of the Queen Victoria cruise. A 1.5% administration fee will be added to payments by Visa, Mastercard or Amex.

**CANCELLATION CHARGES:** Number of days before sailing.

Days prior to Departure	Cancellation Fee
Over 90 days	loss of deposit
90 - 61 days	50% of full fare
60 days or less	100% of full fare
Non-appearance/no written notice	100% of full fare.

**REFUNDS:** The cruise is based on arrangements which do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals or other services not utilised after the tour has commenced.

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:** All passengers will require a valid passport. If not an Australian passport holder check with Travelrite International regarding visa requirements.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Adequate travel insurance is highly recommended to cover cruise members for the consequences of unforeseen events during the cruise and for cancellation fees which could result from events such as illness, accident, death etc.

**BAGGAGE:** Passengers qualify for a 20kg free baggage allowance on flights to join or return from the cruise. Baggage is at owners' risk throughout the cruise.

**MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS:** The cruise arrangements have been made on the basis of a minimum number of passengers travelling. In the event that less than the required number of passengers have confirmed their booking 90 days from the date of departure, Travelrite International reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of monies paid, or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified fare.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ATAS No. A10538) is the tour organizer Travelrite International Pty Ltd, its agents, officers, affiliates, and/or suppliers of services pursuant to, or in connection with these cruises, shall act only as agents in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, including transportation by ship, restaurants, or any other service and do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, death, loss, accident or delay to person or property due to an act of negligence or a default of any hotel, carrier restaurant company or person rendering any services included in cruise, or by act of God. Further no responsibilities are accepted for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labour disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather, terrorism or other causes beyond their control. No responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omission, delays, re-routing or acts of any government authority. Baggage is at owners' risk throughout the cruise. The passage contract between the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of this cruise and/or the passengers. The right is reserved to withdraw any cruise and/or make such changes in the cruise as may be found desirable or necessary for the convenience of the parties and the proper carrying out of the cruise. This contract shall be construed in accordance of the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia and any action must be taken in the State of Victoria. Attention is also directed to the terms and conditions of the Queen Victoria cruise passage contract with CUNARD Cruises, detailed in the Cunard website [www.cunard.com](http://www.cunard.com).

**DELAYS AND UNFORESEEN EVENTS:** You engage Travelrite International Pty Ltd to book this tour on your behalf and you acknowledge that Travelrite International acts as your agent for the purpose of making contracts between you and the various providers of accommodation, transportation and other services that comprise the tour. Travelrite International may without reference to you provide or make available to you, or may as your agent engage any third party to provide or make available to you, any good or service which Travelrite reasonably believes is necessary for your benefit to maintain the tour itinerary, repatriate you or otherwise accommodate, transport or sustain you in circumstances in which the tour itinerary fails wholly or partly for any reason. You appoint Travelrite International your attorney for this purpose. You agree to pay Travelrite International any cost thereof and you indemnify Travelrite International in respect of any cost it incurs in this regard. Travelrite International advises you to obtain travel insurance generally including in respect of the risk that any such good or service may become required.

**HOW TO BOOK:** Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and sending it with a non-refundable deposit of \$900 per person to:

**Travelrite International Pty. Ltd.**  
**423 Whitehorse Road**  
**Balwyn, Victoria 3103**

Further information can be obtained by telephoning

**Toll Free 1800 630 343**  
**Phone: (03) 8803 6868 or**  
**Email: [sales@travelrite.com.au](mailto:sales@travelrite.com.au)**  
**[www.travelrite.com.au](http://www.travelrite.com.au)**

**ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is a well-established travel company which has been marketing throughout Australia for over 34 years and operating in Victoria for more than 40 years. It runs over 100 Special Interest tours a year. It has a fully accredited (ATAS No A10538) office at Balwyn, which is also accredited with IATA. As such it directly represents the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international hotels, tour and transport operators. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Travel Industry Association - ATIA.