



# 2017 Garden Cruise to Baltic & St Petersburg the Cotswolds and London

with Deryn Thorpe

**Deryn Thorpe** has worked as a journalist for more than 30 years and writes a gardening column in *Habitat*, regular garden stories for *The West Australian* newspaper and regularly for *Gardening Australia* magazine. Her experience includes presenting on garden television, gardening talkback on ABC and commercial radio, editing garden books and event compere. Deryn volunteered for six years with Australia's Open Garden Scheme where she was Chair of WA Selectors. Her own beautiful cottage-style garden opened for the scheme. She runs a successful Perth garden consultancy and assists in the family revegetation and land care business. In 2011 she was made a Life Member of the Horticultural Media Association Australia (HMA) and in 2015 a Life Member of the Nursery and Garden Industry of WA. **www.derynthorpe.com.au** 



The MS Zuiderdam was launched in 2002. Built at the Fincantieri shipyard in Marghera, Italy, the MS Zuiderdam blends the very latest in shipbuilding technology with the artistry, personalized touches and superior service that has made Holland America Line one of the highest-rated cruise lines in the world. At the heart of the MS Zuiderdam is the Vista Dining room spanning two floors. For casual eating there is an extensive Lido Café and an alternative dining option with the Pinnacle Grill. Dutch heritage and tradition is clearly displayed throughout the ship with a wonderful art collection.

#### Clothing on board MS Zuiderdam

You will need the following types of clothing on board: casual shipboard attire or day wear, and evening wear. Casual nights on board may be sports shirt and slacks and equivalent for ladies. During the evening on formal nights a dinner suit or dark suit for gentlemen and eveningwear for ladies is recommended. There is usually two formal nights on the cruise. The self-service restaurants are casual.

#### **Itinerary**

#### **DAY 1** Sunday May 21, 2017

Today we depart Australia on our flight to London.

#### **DAY 2** Monday May 22, 2017

#### Stratford-upon-Avon

Departure

On arrival at Heathrow airport, we are met by our first-class coach to travel north to visit Pettifer's Garden in Oxfordshire. The 18 year-old garden was designed by the Hon. Mrs Gina Price and has developed into a plantsman's garden. Paths feature elegant patterns and the borders are deep and varied. The Botticelli meadow at the bottom of the garden, alongside two crocus lawns, looks beautiful in Spring. After the garden visit we will stop for lunch before continuing to Stratford-upon-Avon where the rest of the day will be free. Deryn Thorpe will suggest restaurants for dinner.

#### **DAY 3** Tuesday May 23, 2017

#### Stratford-upon-Avon

Today we will visit two of the finest gardens in England. We first visit Hidcote, in Gloucestershire, north Cotswolds, one of the most notable gardens in the world. It was created by self-taught gardener, Lawrence Johnson in the early part of the 20th century with a fabulous design and great planting skills, using mainly 19th-century plant varieties in outstanding herbaceous borders. After lunch at leisure at Hidcote, we travel the short distance to Kiftsgate Court. This garden is full of colour and scent. The magnificent old species of roses are the glory of the garden. We return to Stratford-upon-Avon, where we will enjoy an included welcome dinner, so that group members can get to know each other. D

#### DAY 4 Wednesday May 24, 2017

#### Stratford-upon-Avon

We travel south to the beautiful Cotswolds today. We first visit Bourton House, an award winning three acre garden surrounding a fine 18th-century Manor House. The geometric potager is a particular delight. Well-kept lawns, quiet gardens, a knot garden and Cotswold stone walls are set off by herbaceous borders. In the afternoon we visit The Temple Guiting Manor, near Stowe on the Wold, where there is a major new garden designed by award winning landscape designer Jinny Blom. Luxuriant planting provides this garden with a richly romantic atmosphere. A simple box parterre contrasts with the lavish planting of the long borders.

#### **DAY 5** Thursday May 25, 2017

#### London

Today we travel by coach to London for three nights. To begin our exploration of this fascinating and historic city, we meet our London Blue Badge guide for a comprehensive tour of the main sights. We take in Buckingham Palace, Whitehall, Trafalgar Square, The Strand, St Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to shop or sightsee amidst the bustle of the city. Deryn will meet those wishing to dine with the group in the lobby to go to a nearby restaurant for dinner or you may like to take in a show in London's theatre district.

#### **DAY 6** Friday May 26, 2017

#### London

The highlight of our time in London is our escorted visit with Deryn Thorpe to the famous Chelsea Flower Show. It is the summer event in the English horticultural calendar and boasts about 20 amazing landscaped gardens built by prominent landscapers and more than 500 displays featuring the best flowers, plants and trees and many new introductions. For gardeners, it is the experience of a lifetime and a highlight of our garden tour and Deryn, who has been to the show many times, will ensure that you are able to make the most of the experience.

#### **DAY 7** Saturday May 27, 2017

#### London

This morning we visit Hampton Court Palace and Garden. The Palace is an interesting place to visit to study the activities of British monarchs from Henry VIII onwards. The garden is most famous for its Great Vine, planted in 1768, which still produces hundreds of Black Hamburg grapes each year. The Pond Gardens offer a magnificent display of bedding plants. The newly restored Privy Garden of William III is a spectacular example of the Baroque, with parterres, cut work, clipped yews and spring and summer displays of 17th century plants. In the afternoon, we visit a private garden in West London. This is a true collectors' garden, with perennial borders, a knot garden, bog garden, conservatory and views to a private park.

#### **DAY 8** Sunday May 28, 2017

#### Copenhagen, Denmark

We fly to Copenhagen this morning. Upon arrival, our private coach will take us on a guided tour of the city, home of the world's oldest monarchy — now with an Australian connection. We will see the Amalienborg Palace, home of the royal family since 1794. We will also see the Radhus, (city hall), Kongens Nytorv, a square surrounded by gracious old buildings, including the Royal Theatre and Charlottenborg, a 17th-century Dutch baroque palace.

#### **DAY 9** Monday May 29, 2017

#### Emharkation

This morning is free to explore Copenhagen individually. Early afternoon we travel to the dock to embark MS Zuiderdam.

#### **DAY 10** Tuesday May 30, 2017

#### Keil, Germany

We dock in Keil today. We travel to Ascheberg–Glasholz to visit the private garden of Fenna and Friedrich Graf. We will enjoy their gorgeous perennial borders and the many roses that grow over the house and purpose built trellises. The garden incorporates two ponds and a bog area where water loving plants are grown. We return to Kiel, where the afternoon is free for individual activity.

#### **DAY 11** Wednesday May 31, 2017

At sea

Our first day at sea. During the day, why not explore and enjoy the fantastic facilities available on the ship. This afternoon you are invited to join Deryn Thorpe for an informal chat and find out what drives her passion for gardening. The group will meet at dinner on our reserved tables.

#### DAY 12 Thursday June 1, 2017

#### Tallinn, Estonia

Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, is known for its medieval city centre with its cobblestone streets and gingerbread-style houses. We will have a guided visit to the historic centre and learn about the history of this fascinating town from the middle ages to its 1991 independence from the Soviet Union, and how the country is adapting to a western-style economy. During our time exploring Tallinn, we will see the Toompea (the old town), the Viru Gate and Raekoja Plats.

#### **DAY 13** Friday June 2, 2017

#### St Petersburg, Russia

We will be in for a special treat today, exploring beautiful St Petersburg. Founded in 1703 by Peter the Great, who was determined to establish a northern port with an unrestricted passage to the Baltic. Peter the Great was the first Tsar to travel to Europe, returning with many ideas for reform and different architectural styles. During our guided tour today, we will visit the oldest part of the city: SS Peter and Paul Cathedral and fortress, the world famous Hermitage Palace, with its wonderful art collection and see the city's most famous theatre, the Mariinsky.

#### **DAY 14** Saturday June 3, 2017

#### St Petersburg, Russia

Today we will travel to Petrovorets, the summer house of Peter the Great who wanted his gardens to surpass those at Versailles. The centrepiece of this wonderful garden is the Grand Cascade and Water Avenue, a symphony of fountains and canals powered by gravity. We continue the day with a visit to the Imperial Palace at Tsarskoe Selo; the Catherine Palace. During our time at the Palace our local guide will show us many of the wonderful rooms including the Amber Room, the Green Dining Room and the Great Hall. There will also be time to see some of the formal gardens that are also a feature of this palace. This will be a truly memorable day.

#### **DAY 15** Sunday June 4, 2017

#### Helsinki, Finland

We have a sightseeing tour of Helsinki, the capital of Finland, this morning and see the modern architecture of the city, the Sibelius Monument and the unusual underground Temppeliaukio Church, carved straight out of the bedrock. In the afternoon we will visit the Kaisaniemi Botanic Garden. We will have a tour of the historic greenhouses, which have eco-systems ranging from tropical rain forests to dry deserts.

#### **DAY 16** Monday June 5, 2017

#### Stockholm, Sweden

This morning we call in to the very beautiful city of Stockholm, capital of Sweden. It is surrounded by clear water and unspoiled countryside stretching into the heart of the urban area. Stockholm's 750-year history has produced many beautiful buildings and cultural treasures. We will have a tour of the city, with a local guide, and visit the old centre of Stockhom, Gamla Stan, with its Royal Palace, City Hall, the location of the Nobel Prize Award dinner each year. With its many waterways and archipelago to the east, Stockholm is often regarded as the Venice of the north. We travel to Drottningholms Slottsparken, the most impressive of Stockholm's palaces with gardens featuring 9000 species. The extensive baroque garden was laid out in the 1690s for Queen Hedvig Eleonora. A series of small water gardens with lots of fountains and round pools, are fed by a wall of cascades.

#### **DAY 17** Tuesday June 6, 2017

#### Stockholm, Sweden

We travel to Uppsala today to visit the Carl Linnaeus' Botanic Garden. The garden became one of the finest in Europe because of Linnaeus' zeal and his development of a new classification system. The garden moved to its current site in 1807 where it suffered neglect until 1917 when the Swedish Linnaeus society began restructuring the garden. In the afternoon we travel to Enkoping to visit several of the remarkable series of 17 public green spaces and garden parks. Afzelius Place was created at the end of the 19th century. The focal point in the garden is the Johanna Fountain with a formal layout of parterres filled with bedding plants. This contrasts with Piet Oudolf's dream park designed in 1966, which features 220 different perennials.

#### DAY 18 Wednesday June 7, 2017

#### At sea

A day at sea to enjoy the facilities of the ship. In the afternoon we will enjoy a game of gardening Trivial Pursuit led by Deryn. We will divide our group into teams with prizes for the winners.

#### **DAY 19** Thursday June 8, 2017

#### Warnemunde, Germany

We arrive in Warnemunde today. Once a fishing village but now a major port, Warnemunde has a pleasant waterfront, including a popular beach. We will travel to Schwerin Castle which was completed in 1857 and symbolised the powerful dynasty of its founder, Friedrich Franz II. Set in a romantic location on a small island in Lake Schwerin, Schwerin Castle is a fairytale fortress with beautiful baroque garden with spectacular shell fountain, grotto and neoclassical terraces. On our return to Warnemunde, we will have free time to explore the seaside resort.

#### **DAY 20** Friday June 9, 2017

#### Copenhagen, Denmark

We travel north to first visit Fredensborg Palace. Denmark's largest historic gardens complete with a magnificently restored baroque gardens. This is the summer and autumn palace of the Danish Royal family. Long straight avenues of trees extend from the palace in a star shape and between them are wooded areas with winding paths. We then visit the author Karen Blixen's Manor House and garden. She wrote most of her books at this house, which is now a museum. The house is surrounded by a beautiful garden and bird sanctuary with hornbeam hedges, perennial beds and a cut flower and herb area in the old fruit garden. We will see the white rose named Karen Blixen surrounded by lavender. We will return to the ship for our last night, where we enjoy a drinks party before our last dinner onboard.

#### **DAY 21** Saturday June 10, 2017

Disembark

Today we disembark in Copenhagen and travel to the airport for departure for Australia.

#### **DAY 22** Sunday June 11, 2017

**Australia** 

This evening we arrive in Australia and the tour concludes.

## The advantages of the escorted garden cruise:

The cruise is fully escorted and will be a great, fun holiday with plenty of activities. Each evening you can dine with the group on our reserved tables. You will meet an interesting group of people and have a fabulous time on shore with private tours, including visits to beautiful gardens!





#### DAY 1 Saturday March 25, 2017

#### **Ballarat**

On arrival at Melbourne Airport we will be met by our private coach and drive to Ballarat. A welcome dinner is included this evening for tour members to get to know one another. Deryn Thorpe will outline the activities and program of the tour.

#### **DAY 2** Sunday March 26, 2017

#### **Ballarat**

This morning we visit David Glen's garden, Lambley, situated around an old farmhouse in the hot dry windswept plains of the Central Victorian Goldfields. It features frost-hardy plants requiring very little watering. The extensive organic veggie garden has trial gardens for vegetables and flowers. In the afternoon we visit the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, started in 1858 and covering an area of forty hectares divided into three distinct zones with a central area preserving the "Gardenesque" style of the Victorian pleasure garden. Located on the western shore of picturesque Lake Wendouree, a highlight of the gardens is the conservatory, full of spectacular begonias. In the later afternoon we'll have free time to enjoy Ballarat's ornate architecture, fine regional art gallery and coffee shops. Deryn will meet those wishing to dine with the group.

#### DAY 3 Monday March 27, 2017

#### **Ballarat**

This morning our garden visit is to Stonefields, Paul Bangay's spectacular garden developed using knowledge gained during twenty years designing gardens all around the world. This garden is one of the many highlights of our tour and includes stone paths that meander through garden rooms that open out to a spectacular country view. We travel to Daylesford for free time for lunch and to explore Daylesford's array of boutique shops. We continue our travels to visit Frogmore Gardens. Twelve years ago, Zena Bethell and Jack Marshall bought eight acres near Trentham, turning three hectares into a stunning garden and nursery specializing in flowering perennials for the herbaceous border and drought tolerant prairie style gardens. This evening Deryn will meet those wishing to dine with the group.

#### DAY 4 Tuesday March 28, 2017

#### Melbourne

This morning we return to Melbourne first stopping at the Fitzroy gardens where we will see the Conservatory. We continue to the Melbourne Botanic Gardens which covers thirty six hectares. We will visit Guilfoyle's Volcano. Built in 1876 as a water storage for the gardens, it was recently restored as part of a landscape development project. It has commanding views of the city and showcases low water use plants. Boardwalks and a viewing platform give visitors an opportunity to explore this remarkable feature of Melbourne Botanic Gardens. We will continue on to the Observatory with free time to walk with Deryn to see the lan Potter Foundation Children's Garden and the Shrine of Remembrance. We will lunch at the Observatory Café. You may wander around the gardens or continue on the coach with a drop off in the center of Melbourne. The afternoon is free for sightseeing or shopping.

#### DAY 5 Wednesday March 29, 2017

#### Melbourne

Today we visit the 22nd Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, the biggest and best show of its type in the Southern Hemisphere and is ranked in the top five flower shows in the world. Floral displays fill the world heritage listed Royal Exhibition Building and the surrounding Carlton Gardens. Around the building are landscape displays created by some of Australia's most talented landscape designers. Deryn will give those interested a tour of the display gardens — pointing out elements used by the designers that we can incorporate in our own backyards. While keen gardeners will want to spend all day at the show, others may also take time to visit the adjacent Melbourne Museum.

#### DAY 6 Thursday March 30, 2017

#### Melbourne

Today we travel through the picturesque countryside on the Mornington Peninsula to visit some of the best gardens in Australia. We first visit The Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne. Deryn will take us on a exploration of the spectacular landscape which has a dramatic red sand garden, rock pool waterways, Eucalypt walk and exhibition gardens all featuring Australian plants. We continue to Heronswood Gardens, home of Diggers Seeds. We will have lunch at the Fork to Fork restaurant, where the vegetables and fruits served are heirloom selections picked straight from the gardens. This is followed by a tour of Diggers, who have Australia's largest range of heirloom vegetables, cottage and fruit plants for sale. We continue to the Garden Vineyard, featured in Monte Don's *Around the World in 80 Gardens*. We return to Melbourne and Deryn will meet those wishing to dine as a group to recommend a restaurant.

#### **DAY 7** Friday March 31, 2017

#### Melbourne

Today we travel to the Dandenong Ranges to visit two of Deryn's favourite gardens. We first visit Cloudehill where a maze of stone walls and jewel like garden rooms are set within woodlands of historic cool climate trees. We will have an included lunch here as the food is as good as the gorgeous views. This afternoon we travel to Olinda, the home garden of Phillip Johnson. Phillip's spectacular design for Fleming's Nurseries won Best Garden in Show at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2013. His gorgeous home garden has a sustainable billabong that doubles as a chemical free swimming pool. Beautifully positioned walkways meander through the garden featuring many indigenous plants. We return to Melbourne for a farewell dinner on the Colonial Tramcar Restaurant. The historic tram will drive us around the city where we can admire Melbourne's quaint streets while enjoying a fine meal with drinks included.

#### DAY 8 Saturday April 1, 2017

#### Departure

The morning is free for individual activity. We travel to the airport in the early afternoon for a flight home and the tour concludes.

2017 Garden Cruise to

## Baltic & St Petersburg the Cotswolds and London

with Deryn Thorpe May 21 to June 11, 2017



#### Twin-share fares per person:

Cabin / Description		Twin-share	Single Fare
INSIDE			
L	U Prom, Prom, Ver, U Ver, Rott	\$ 9,495	\$ 12,790
K	Main, Observation, U Prom, Ver, U Ver	\$ 9,550	\$ 12,850
J	Main	\$ 9,595	\$ 12,910
OCEAN VIEW			
G	U Prom (Obstucted)	\$ 9,895	\$ 13,550
F	Main, U Ver	\$ 9,950	\$ 13,650
Ε	Main	\$ 9,995	\$ 13,700
DD	Main	\$ 10,095	\$ 13,775
BALCONY			
VD	Ver, Rott	\$ 10,395	\$ 15,250
VC	Ver, U Ver, U Prom, Nav	\$ 10,495	\$ 15,350
VB	U Prom, Ver, U Ver, Rott, Observation	\$ 10,595	\$ 15,390
Air taxes from Perth, Syd, Melb, Bris as at 20/4/16			\$1,050 p person

**Availability:** All cabins are subject to cabin 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.** 



to be added to your invoice

### Price for the Ballarat and Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show:

March 25 to April 1, 2017

The price per person twin-share \$ 2995 Single supplement \$ 516 includes GST

#### Included in the price:

- Return economy-class air travel from Melbourne, Sydney Brisbane and Perth to London and return to Australia from Copenhagen.
- Travel in first-class chartered coaches.
- Accommodation and breakfast in first-class and moderate first-class hotels, including taxes and service charges. A welcome dinner and a farewell drinks party.
- Travel on Zuiderdam in the selected cabin. All meals and entertainment whilst on the ship.
- Sightseeing tours as listed in the itinerary
- Entry to the Chelsea Flower Show and attractions as detailed in itinerary
- · Tour leadership and tour management by Deryn Thorpe
- Port and handling charges and gratuities on Zuiderdam
- Cruise taxes at 20/4/16
- · A Travelrite travel bag

#### Not included in the price for both tours:

- Passport and visa fee for Russia
- Air taxes at 20/4/16
- Travel insurance
- Meals 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 extra cost. Please contact Travelrite on 1800 630 343 for more information.

#### Included in the price:

- Travel in first-class coaches
- Accommodation in first-class and moderate first-class hotels, taxes and service charges
- Buffet breakfast during the tour, two lunches and two dinners
- Sightseeing and entrances as listed in the itinerary
- · Tour leadership by Deryn Thorpe

Not included in the price: Airfares. Please talk to our travel consultant for the cheapest airfares.

#### **General Information and Booking Conditions**

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 tour without the need of assistance from others.

TOUR OPERATOR: Travelrite International Pty Ltd, (ABN 64 005 817 078) is the tour operator.

**TOUR COSTS:** The tour costs are based on airfare, general transport, accommodation costs and foreign exchange rate at 20/4/16. 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 60 days of departure from Australia.

**DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS:** A deposit of \$1000 per passenger for is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 92 days before departure for the Gardening tour. Paying by cheque or cash a 1.5% administration fee will be charged on payment by Visa or Mastercard and 3% on payment by AMEX or Diners Club cards.

AIR TAXES: from Sydney/Melbourne/Brisbane/Perth as listed in the itinerary. Please contact us for air taxes from different cities. Air taxes are as at 20/4/16. If they change due to government and airline charges and currency variations, Travelrite International reserves the right to charge additional amounts.

CANCELLATION CHARGES: Number of days before sailing.

Days prior to DepartureCancellation Fee:Over 120 daysloss of \$800120 - 91 daysLoss of fist deposit91 - 76 days60% of full fare76 days or less100% of full fareNon appearance/no written notice 100% of full fare.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Travel insurance is recommended to cover the costs of cancellation fees due to illness, death in family, etc.

MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS AND CONDITIONS: The tour has been priced on the basis of a minimum number of passengers having booked 92 days prior to departure. Travelrite reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of all monies paid or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified cost.

**TOUR ORGANISATION:** Travelrite reserves the right to change advertised entrances if necessary for the smooth operation of the tour.

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

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:** All passengers will require a valid passport. Visas are required for Russia. If you hold another passport please check with Travelrite.

**BAGGAGE:** All passengers qualify for the 20kg (441b) free baggage allowance.

RESPONSIBILITY: Travelrite International Pty Ltd. (ABN 64 005 817 078) is the tour organizer. Travelrite acts only as an agent in the making of arrangements for hotels, transportation, restaurants or any other service and does 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 the tour, or by act of God. Further no responsibilities are accepted for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labour disputes, machinery break-down, 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. The passage contract between the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of this tour and/or the passengers. The right is reserved to withdraw any tour and/ or make such changes in the tour as may be found desirable or necessary for the convenience of the parties and the proper carrying out of the tour. This contract shall be construed in accordance of the laws of the State of Victoria and any action must be undertaken in Victoria, Australia

**HOW TO BOOK:** Bookings can be made by sending full names and addresses of intending tour members with a deposit of \$1000 for the Garden Tour.

Please send to:

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

Further information or a booking form can be obtained by telephoning Travelrite International on the following numbers:

#### Toll Free 1800 630 343

Phone: (03) 8803 6868 or Fax: (03) 9836 8068

Email: balwyn@travelrite.com.au www.travelrite.com.au







ABOUT TRAVELRITE: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (A.B.N.64 005 817 078) is a well established travel company which has been operating in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne for more than 30 years. It is fully ATAS accredited (No. A10538) and has two fully credited IATA offices in Heathmont and Balwyn. As such, it directly represents the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international tour and transport operators. Travelrite International has been operating special interest tours for Z5 years, and now runs over 90 tours a year. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents - AFTA.