



# **2025 CHALLENGE** **Trips and Travels**

Using imagination and creativity  
to make a quilt that tells the story of a favorite trip

# INSTRUCTIONS

Sixteen members answered the challenge to create a quilt to depict a favorite trip. The quilt could be any shape, have at least 1 button on the front, and use any technique as long as the quilt was within 120" perimeter.

- ☐ Take your time to scroll through the entries and write down the numbers for your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice.
- ☐ Then go online to register your vote.  
[2025 Challenge Voting Form](#)



# #1 Scottish Coo

16" x 21"



In 2023 my husband and I took a trip to Ireland and Scotland. While we were in Scotland we took a three-day tour on the Isle of Skye. One day we stopped at a mini market for a snack and potty break. I decided to stretch my legs and took a walk behind the market. There in a pasture was a Highland cow or coo as they are called in Scotland. She came up to the fence and rubbed my hand. I scratched her nose and petted her. She was so sweet I wanted to put her in my suitcase and bring her home.

The way to identify males versus female is by their horns. The male's horns point out and the female's horns curve in. Their coat is made up of several layers of different types of hair and they are impervious to Scottish winters.



## #2 Tracks Across South Africa

30" x 30"



Our 10-day Photo Safari began with a very long flight from Portland, Oregon to Johannesburg, South Africa. From Johannesburg we were driven to Zulu Nyala, our home for the next week. Every day we traveled throughout the region looking for wildlife with our very trusted guide in the open- aired vehicle. Our guide knew just how close he could get to the native animals; which sometimes we thought was a little too close. This was a once in a lifetime trip and we cherish the many memories we have. To this date we have never received our missing luggage, but we learned two very valuable lessons. We could either let the missing luggage ruin our trip, or we could make the best of it and totally enjoy our trip. We chose the latter. The other big lesson is there is a huge difference between want and need.



# #3 Dancing Southern Lights

22" x 16"



On a photography trip to the center of Australia where Uluru, the iconic red rock is located, we were treated to a spectacular and rare sight.

As the photographers were setting up to capture the Milky Way in the late-night sky, a strange red glow on the horizon was interfering with their calibrations. At first, we thought it was light pollution from lights in a town, but Uluru is in a park in the middle of nowhere, so that idea was soon discarded. A park ranger who happened by told us that we were seeing the Southern Lights, a phenomenon usually associated with areas closer to the poles. The sun's powerful magnetic storm had caused the lights to appear.

While the Southern Lights played in Uluru, the Northern Lights were dancing back home, invigorated by that same magnetic storm.



# #4 Seaside Retreat

15" x 16"



This wall hanging hangs over my TV with all of my other ocean sea creatures. It's called Seaside Retreat. In February of 2021, my friends & I rented a house in Seaside for 5 days. Oh by the way, the house was horrible! We sewed, went to quilt shops, & ate too much chocolate. I did not complete one project but did have fun - despite the accommodations.



# #5 Sunday in the Park in Istanbul

21" x 21"



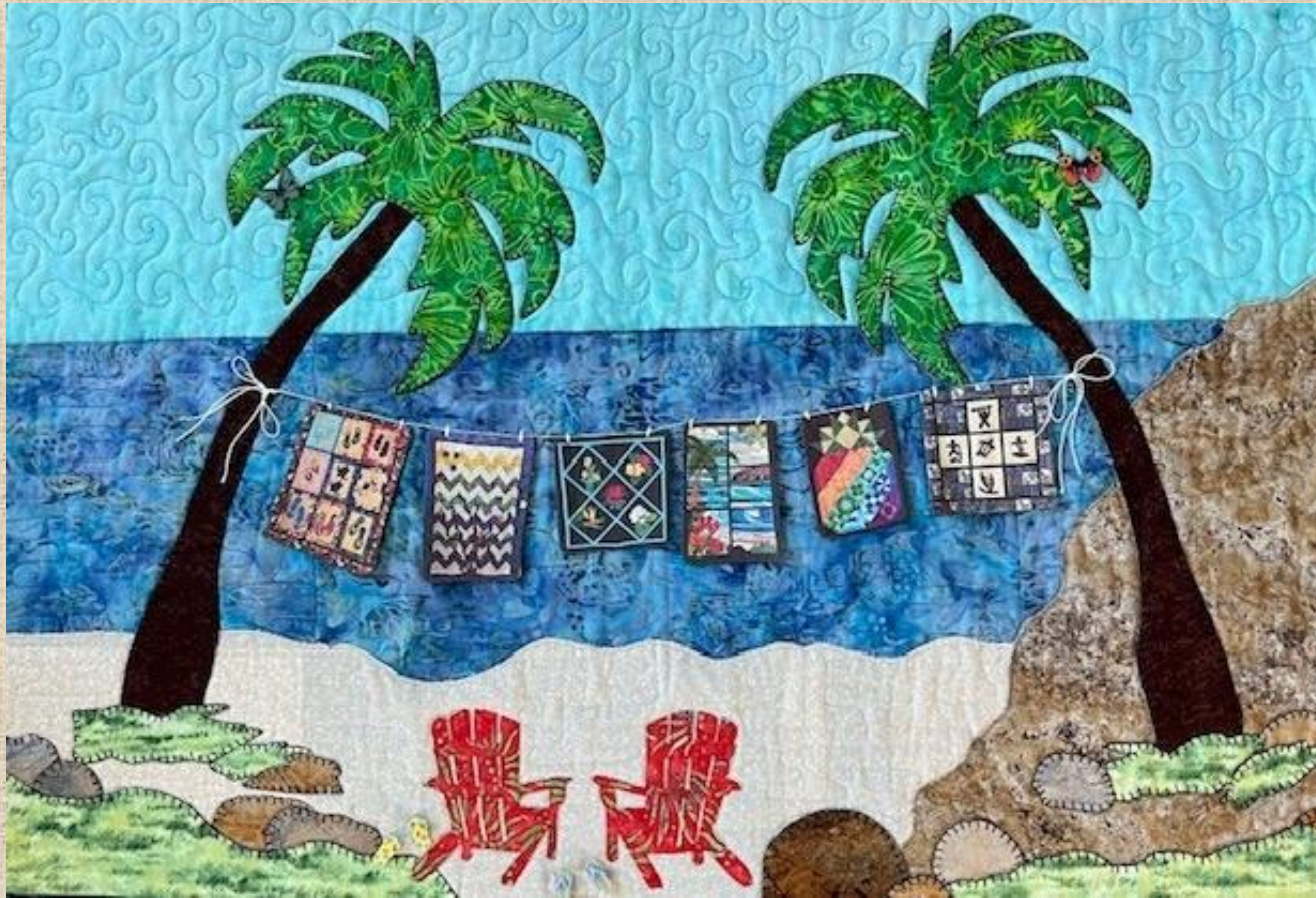
In the spring of 2024, my husband and I went on a cruise from Venice, Italy to Istanbul, Turkey. It was a fabulous trip! I loved it all. Istanbul is an amazing city. It is gigantic, multi-cultural and part of it is in Asia and part in Europe. The Bosphorus Strait splits the city and is the border between Asia and Europe.

Ever since taking Art History classes in college, I have wanted to see the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia and I finally got that opportunity while in Istanbul. My quilt, Sunday in the Park in Istanbul, represents that visit. It is a mash-up of the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia and the beautiful Sunday afternoon in Sultan Ahmet Park which is sandwiched between the two.



# #6 Big Island Shop Hops

34" x 25"



Our most memorable trips have been to Hawaii's Big Island. But the best part of these trips is the Shop Hops that take place every year in the month of February. For six consecutive years my hubby and I have visited all the shops around the Island from way up north at Kohala, down the eastern coast to Hilo, around the southern tip to Volcano, and up the western coast to Kona. The first year (2015) there were 8 quilt shops. In 2016 there were 6 shops and 2020, 5 shops.

Hanging on the clothesline left to right - Slippas, Play Day in Hawaiian Waters, Hawaiian Flowers, Hawaiian Tropical Stain Glass, Hawaiian Hospitality, and Petroglyphs of the Pacific. Each quilt is a wonderful reminder of our time on this beautiful island seeing the amazing sights and enjoying the Hawaiian hospitality.



# #7 Thirteen Days in Alaska

16" x 33"

In August 2024, we embarked on an 8-day cruise through Alaska's inside passage with stops in Ward Cove (Ketchikan), Juneau, Skagway, Icy Strait where we hiked up to see (what's left of) Hubbard Glacier. The cruise ended in Seward.

Upon leaving the "The Jewel" we hopped on a bus stopping at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center in Seward where we saw moose and other animals indigenous to Alaska then we were off to Whittier. We cruised through Prince William sound to Valdez. We had a close up view of Meares Glacier, saw hundreds of salmon jumping in the water and some very cute otters who put on a show for us! We docked in Valdez and learned about the pipeline. Journeyed to Fairbanks over the Richardson Hwy, visited Gold Dredge #8 and panned for gold, then off to Denali. Denali was amazing – the Mountain even came out for us to see! Perhaps the highlight of the trip was when we got to visit an Iditarod kennel and HOLD a puppy! Finally, we boarded the Alaska Railroad bound for Anchorage where our adventure came to an end.





# #8 Kelly's Family Vacation

15" x 16"



My daughter-in-law Kelly wanted to go on a family vacation to Hawaii. Kelly had been fighting a long hard-fought battle with cancer for over a dozen years. Kelly, her husband, her two children and I went to the big island of Hawaii March of 2022.

While in Hawaii we went on a submarine tour in the Pacific Ocean. We were amazed by large schools of fish and a couple of shipwrecks.

We visited the Hawai'i Tropical Botanical Gardens. It was a peaceful venture in which we enjoyed a hike through fascinating gardens and enjoyed waterfall and ocean views.

One day we went to the beaches of Punalu'u and saw the large green turtles "Honu" struggle out of the rocky ocean onto the warm black sand. It was a memorable sunny day.

On a warm late afternoon, we went to a luau. We enjoyed music, dancing and good food. We saw a beautiful sunset over the ocean behind the stage. Our eyes lit up when the fire dancers came out after dark. Kelly and the rest of us were enthralled.

My son, my grandchildren and I will always remember this special time we enjoyed with Kelly.

**Kelly. Born April 1983. Died April 2023.**



# #9

**Unfortunately, this entry was disqualified because it exceeded the 120” perimeter size limit.**

Vacations and day trips were often at the beach. Now we live at the beautiful Oregon coast, so why go someplace that just can't measure up to what we have here. There's no place like home.



# #10 I Love Paris

16" x 18"

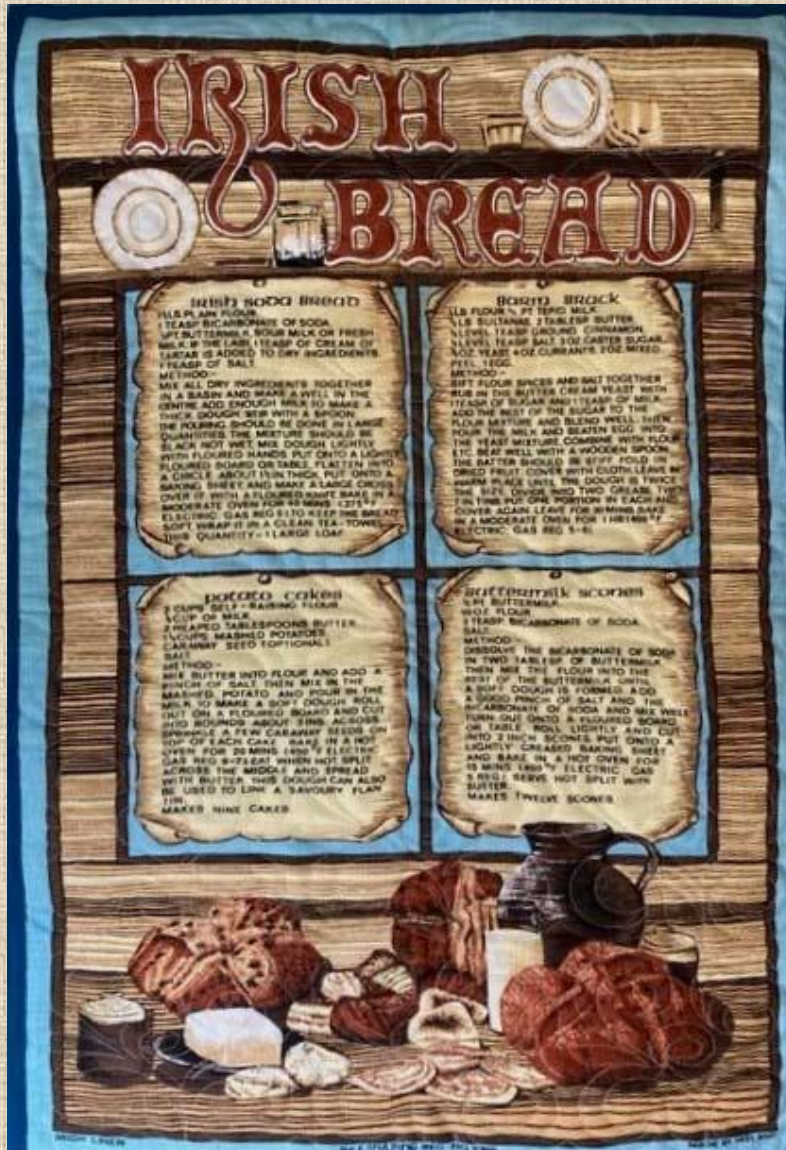


After graduating high school, my parents allowed me to go on a youth Tour of Europe. I toured with 250 students from around the country for 30 days from Italy to England. One stop, of course, was Paris France, and the **Eiffel Tower**. It was a dream come true and I enjoyed my trip very much.



# #11 Kilkenny Memories

18" x 29"



When I was about 13, I heard my first Irish rebel song on the radio, and it changed my whole life. Fast forward to high school graduation, and I was making plans to get to Ireland as soon as possible! So, Ireland evokes many memories for me from Dublin to Co. Meath including a gig as a female vocalist with an Irish band, marriage, children, and yearly visits from my parents. My mother loved Irish linen tea towels, so each year we would visit the Kilkenny Design Workshops where she would find the tea towels that she liked so much. I would occasionally buy one or two myself like this one. We could also watch many of the artists at work making jewelry, wool scarves, etc.

I have many fond memories of Kilkenny (well, the Kilkenny Beer Festival shall remain in the silent shadows) and have also used a couple of these recipes (soda bread and barm brack) many times. Barm brack is a cake made with yeast, (recipe on the tea towel), sultanas and currants, and it is a traditional treat at Halloween. To be really traditional, you insert a coin, a piece of wood, a ring, a thimble, etc., to predict the future of the recipient of a slice.



# #12 First Light: Felucca Boat on the Nile

23" x 27"



My interest in Egypt was piqued in sixth grade when classmate Jimmie Goss gave a report on the discovery of Pharaoh Tutankhamen's tomb. This fascination continued into adulthood; we even stood in line in Washington D.C. for four hours in 1977 to view some of the artifacts from the tomb!

So, when some friends invited us to tour Egypt with them in 2008, we said yes! It was a wonderful trip: Cairo, Alexandria, the pyramids at Giza, mosques and churches, Aswan Dam, Luxor, traditional handcrafts such as making papyrus, the Valley of the Kings, lots of ancient ruins, and a cruise on the Nile. And yes, we took a boat ride on a felucca (although not at dawn)!

It was truly a memorable trip—a childhood dream come true—and something I had never expected to experience all those years ago. Thanks, Jimmie!



# #13 Watching Over You

21" x 30"



In October 2019, my husband and I traveled to Thailand. We were there to visit our daughter, her partner, and to meet our teenage step-granddaughter, Benz. She doesn't speak much English, and I don't speak Thai. We communicated with smiles, hugs, nods and pointing.

During part of the trip, we visited a National Park off the Coast of Thailand, Mo Ku Surin. We learned that we both enjoyed snorkeling together! We would point out fish and corals as we floated around together. At one point, I looked down and saw a shark below us. That caught her attention, and we quickly surfaced and swam away.

On the last day, we were able to snorkel with turtles.



# #14 Sapsucker Woods

13" x 12"



I have visited my son at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York a number of times. We always visit the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Sapsucker Woods. They have bird feeders set up with a bird cam so I can watch from here in Oregon when my son is there using the library to study, and we watch the same birds.

The Lab's logo is a sapsucker in the style of Charley Harper who is best known for his stylized wildlife illustrations. He called his style "minimal realism," and I love his many different bird illustrations.

Since the Northern Cardinal is one of my favorite birds with its bright red, and the fact that I love birding with my son, whether in New York or in Oregon, I decided my many expeditions to Sapsucker Woods would be a great inspiration for this travel quilt.



# #15 Lisbon

24" x 24"



This quilt was inspired by our visit to Portugal in the spring of 2022. All of the beautiful tiles reminded me of traditional quilt blocks. Near our AirBnB, we would walk over a bridge, and the colorful tiled wall along the roadway below us reminded me of the temperature blankets that were made during the pandemic by knitters, crocheters and quilters, which was the main inspiration on this mini quilt. I added the terracotta roof line above the wall and the setting sun to round out our memories of this wonderful trip. I couldn't help adding in the cork handrail to represent the cork trees and products made of cork sold in the gift shops.



# #16 Cave Explorers

18" x 18"



My late husband and I went to Cave Tanding East, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The cave was found accidentally by a man named Tanding. He was trying to find the well, but he couldn't find the water. Instead, he found a hole beside the well underneath. There was so much water, like a lake about 8 meters (26 feet) wide and 11 meters (36 feet) long. Now, the cave has become one of the many popular tourist destinations.

The cave is very dark. In order to explore it, they provide a professional tour guide. We were riding in a rubber boat, wearing flashlights on our heads, life jackets, rubber shoes, and helmets. It takes about two hours to finish the journey. There was plenty of oxygen, so we didn't have to worry about breathing. Stalactites and stalagmites were everywhere. The view was magnificent.

The tour guide said that if a water drop fell on our faces, it meant good luck.