

OUTDOOR TRAVEL



OUTDOOR TRAVEL NEWS

December 2020

A newsletter a little different from the usual

If you are seeing our e-newsletter for the first time, welcome, and if you are a regular reader, welcome back. If you are interested in past copies they are stored on our website: <https://bit.ly/1NR5eqK>. To change your address, add the name of a friend or to stop receiving this material please contact us.



For those that don't know, our office is located in **North East Victoria**, in the beautiful little township of **Bright**. 2020 has not been our year. In December and January we had bushfires which lead to the evacuation of our office and homes on multiple occasions. We want to take this opportunity to thank all our remarkable clients for your support and understanding, we had a huge amount of our clients and agents reach out to us throughout the bushfires and it meant a lot us all at Outdoor Travel.

The world is now faced with the very difficult and unprecedented Corona Virus and it is not just the travel industry that is vastly impacted and suffering. Our thoughts are with everyone at this time, and we hope we can all be united and come through this together. All in our office are itching to travel again, of course when the time is right and we hope you are all too. For our latest update on Covid-19, please see our website: <https://bit.ly/3nnD6SB>



For over 30 years, Outdoor Travel have specialised in creating active holidays in some of the most beautiful and interesting destination around the world. We offer something a little different with our itineraries and each tour we offer has been trialled and tested by us and our operators.

So you can put face to name, pictured are the Outdoor Travel staff - from left to right: Janine, Yvette, Lucie, Kayla, Sue, Sera and Martyn.

On behalf of the entire team, we want to wish you all a very **Merry Christmas** and we hope to fill your new year with new adventures! Thank you all for your loyalty and support. We are so glad to have such wonderful clients.

In light of the current situation, we want to support the wonderful country we live in and promote some incredible products we have in our own backyard. If you want to stay closer to home on your next active holiday, here are a few of our favourite trips in Australia and New Zealand – you might notice a few of our Outdoor Travel staff pictured in action.

AUSTRALIAN WALKING HOLIDAYS - WHAT'S NEW



NORTHERN TERRITORY – LARAPINTA TRAIL

NEW 7-days / 6-nights guided walking with comfortable hotel/homestead lodge accommodation

Arguably one of the best desert trails in the world, the Larapinta Trail offers a unique walking setting through one of the most impressive outback destinations in Australia. Experience the rugged beauty of the famous West MacDonnell ranges, vast desert vistas, stunning gorges and cool waterholes framed by weeping ghost gums. Gain a deep understanding of the ancient Aboriginal culture (the traditional owners of the land) and walk amongst the abundant bird life to spot species such as the Zebra Finch, Southern Boobook and Whistling Kite.

This walking holiday takes you to some of the highlights of the 223km Larapinta trail with knowledgeable, experienced guides showing you the very best of the outback. Take a steady climb from the valley floor, a trek along the Reveal Saddle with its outstanding views and an afternoon walk between the ancient walls of Standley Chasm. Explore the gorges of the area including Ormiston Gorge and Serpentine Gorge. Visit Ochre Pits of great significance to the local Arrernte Aboriginal people and scale the mighty Mt Sonder with 360° views. Each evening transfer by air-conditioned 4WD outback tour coach to your ensuite accommodation for a shower and à la carte meal to round out the day.

For more details, see: <https://bit.ly/2FY5R83>



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

SOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA – CAPE TO CAPE TRACK

NEW 8-days / 7-nights guided walking based in Margaret River



Walk the length of Western Australia's iconic Cape to Cape Track on this 8-day guided walking tour. Stretching from the lighthouse at Cape Naturaliste right through to the waterwheel and lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin, the Cape to Cape Track covers 135 kilometres, predominantly along the ridge of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. With spectacular views, never far from the glorious **Margaret River** coastline, each day offers a plethora of cliff-top vistas, white sand beaches and seascapes. The scenery changes as you turn inland through the coastal heath with its pretty wildflowers in season and an entirely different landscape of peppermint and banksia trees to the tranquil beauty of the tall timbered karri forest, so unique to Australia's South West.

Carrying only a day pack, you are free to enjoy the sights of one of Australia's greatest multi-day walks. With transfers included to and from the track, each day the walk resumes from where it left off the day before, so you only unpack once to enjoy the track. Accommodation is based in the wine town of Margaret River, with the chance to taste some world-class wines that are produced locally.

Cost from: \$2300 per person, twin-share

Single supplement from \$400

Departs: 20th, 30th March; 1st, 8th, 10th, 17th, 20th April; 4th 14th May;
12th, 16th, 22nd, 24th, 30th September; 2nd, 8th, 10th, 16th, 20th, 24th, 28th October, 2021

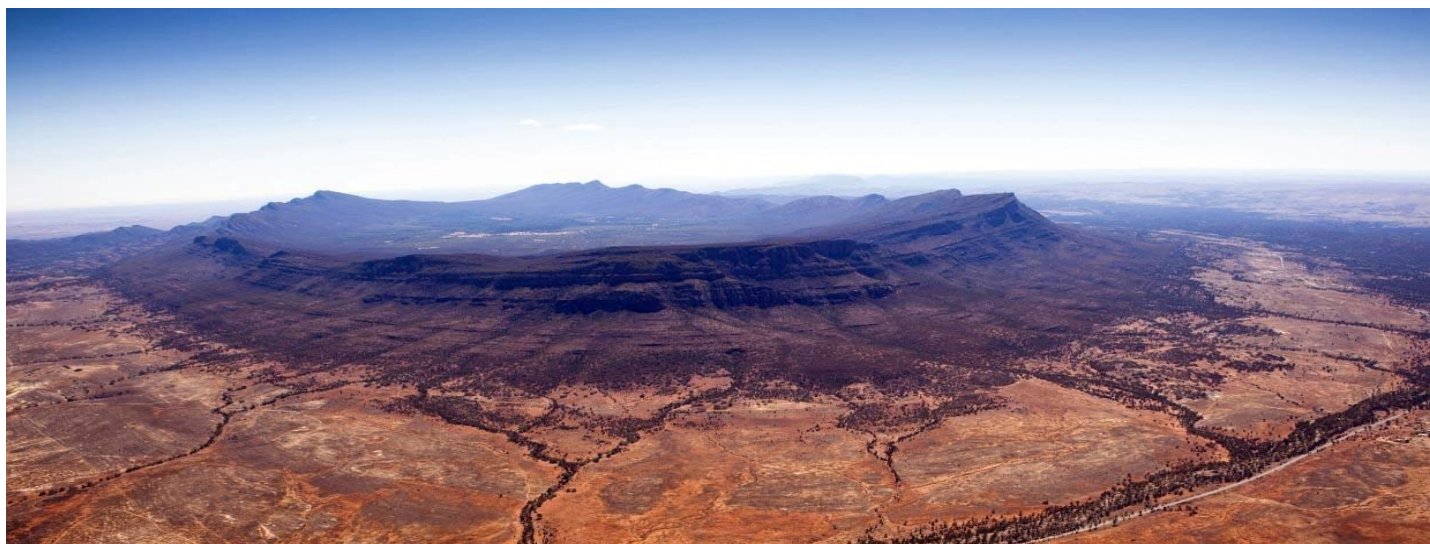
For more details: <https://bit.ly/3kLtZcJ> or contact Sue in our office who is our Western Australia expert.



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FLINDERS RANGES & WILPENA POUND IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

5-days / 4-nights guided walking with quality homestead accommodation



The **Flinders Ranges** offer one of the most accessible outback destinations in Australia, just a 5 hour drive from Adelaide (an hour from the airport at Port Augusta). This tour offers the unique blend of walking through wild bush landscapes each day and then spending your nights in the comfort of quality, historic lodge accommodation, situated on the southern edge of Wilpena Pound and the Flinders Ranges National Park.

Exploring the Flinders Ranges of South Australia this guided walk redefines the classic Aussie '*bush walk*', adding luxury touches to a four-day hike through 60,000 acres of private wildlife conservancy. Set against the backdrop of the Elder Range and Wilpena Pound, this is an opportunity to experience the sights and sounds, the scale and the space of outback Australia. This ancient landscape is moulded by millions of years of geological activity, the Flinders Ranges showcases a wondrous variety of birds and wildlife and offers some of South Australia's most spectacular outback scenery.

Departs: Fortnightly Sunday departures from 4th April – 21st November 2021

Details: <https://bit.ly/2TASZHG>



VICTORIA: GREAT OCEAN WALK & TWELVE APOSTLES

NEW 7-days/6-nights lodge-based small group guided walk along Victoria's iconic coast



Easily accessible from Melbourne, the Great Ocean Walk spans 104km of one of Australia's most spectacular coastlines. It follows a route of coastal *and* forest scenery through the Otway Ranges and is an ideal way to see native Australian bird, marine and animal wildlife. The trail itself passes through two national parks, overlooks a marine national park and a marine sanctuary, yet sections of it will show you an isolation that only the Southern Ocean can offer. Breathe fresh air, marvel at the power of the waves crashing on the cliffs, put your face to the wind and realise there is nothing but ocean between you and Antarctica.

Spend each night in comfortable motel or lodge accommodation and relax while the guides prepare delicious, home-style meals particularly suited to walkers. Each day transfers drop you back to resume walking where you finished on the previous day, so you continue on the route. The final day offers a short walk to the Twelve Apostles with time to view this natural wonder from land and the sky - a fitting end to a great walking holiday.

Departs: 2nd, 11th, 20th March, 7th, 15th April, 3rd, 11th, 19th, 28th September, 11th 19th, 27th October 2021

For more details, please see: <https://bit.ly/3gyUjpu>

AUSTRALIAN CYCLING HOLIDAYS - WHAT'S NEW

We are excited to share with you the beautiful region in which we live – and what better way to explore than by bike along the rail trails. Enjoy a relaxed pedal that is mostly flat and sealed on a multi-day adventure. The off-road Rail Trail network in Victoria's High Country is the longest and most spectacular in the Southern Hemisphere. If you love to ride and of course love local gourmet stops, historic villages, stunning scenery and comfortable accommodation, you'll love this tour.



NORTH EAST VICTORIA – MURRAY TO THE MOUNTAINS RAIL TRAIL

NEW 7-days / 6-nights QUALITY, guided cycling with gourmet food & wine from Rutherglen to Bright



Join us to explore North East Victoria, to experience the breathtaking alpine valleys and mountain scenery that were once the home of high country cattlemen, legendary bushrangers and the miners of the Australian gold rush in the late 1800's. This region is now known for world class local food and fine wines many which are widely exported.

This guided cycling tour follows the mostly sealed Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail, from one of Australia's most iconic rivers at Rutherglen to Bright in the foothills of the Victorian Alps. We ride mainly flat stretches of the trail through the Ovens and King valleys past impressive vineyards and fertile farmland where hops, nuts, apples, berries, truffles and black Australian Angus beef are grown. There are undulations of course which give views across the valleys to forested foothills and Mount Buffalo, one of Victoria's oldest National Parks and the Australian Alps.

For more details, please give us a call or see our flyer: <https://bit.ly/3oSB79p>



SOUTH AUSTRALIA – BAROSSA, CLARE VALLEY & McLAREN VALE

NEW 6-days / 5-nights small group, guided cycling between wine regions with gourmet food & wine



Regarded as home to one of the world's best wine regions, South Australia not only offers the Barossa Valley but also the diverse, yet equally outstanding wine and food of the Clare Valley and McLaren Vale. Explore all of this by bike on a network of wonderful off road trails that pass right through the heart of these beautiful regions. The scenery and cycling routes reflect the terroir and offer something different at each destination. This is a great chance to compare the unique differences each of the three regions have to offer in wine, food and of course, cycling!

Cost from: \$2010 per person, twin-share Single supplement from \$400

Departs: 4th March, 18th March, 1st April, 24th April, 2021, Ask us about additional departures

See detailed flyer here: <https://bit.ly/3nqfnBc>

We also offer this as a **SELF-GUIDED** tour with daily departures, from \$1770 per person twin share. Minimum of two people per departure. Supplements of \$190 - \$375 per person apply for groups of less than 6 people. Ask us for prices, dates and a detailed itinerary.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

AUSTRALIA - TASMANIA & THE FREYCINET PENINSULA

4-days / 3-nights - guided centre-based walk with quality lodge accommodation



A fully inclusive guided walk over four days in Tasmania where you can truly switch off from the world. Over four days, you will cover the entire length of the Freycinet Peninsula, including the iconic **Wineglass Bay**. You will discover forests of towering white gums, stunning coastal vistas, a unique boating experience and delicious, freshly prepared meals using the best Tasmanian produce. Return each evening to your accommodation in Freycinet, at the award-winning Friendly Beaches Lodge, where steaming hot showers, deep baths and comfortable beds await. Dine on freshly prepared Tasmanian produce at the sustainably built Friendly Beaches Lodge in the heart of Freycinet National Park. You and your walking companions, a maximum of 10, will feel like the only souls on earth.

See more details: <https://bit.ly/3gO4kiY>



NEW ZEALAND WALKS

Walking throughout New Zealand is the best way to see beautiful landscapes and explore vast wilderness areas. With thousands of kilometres of tracks, Outdoor Travel have guided or self-guided options to suit all fitness levels and experience. We cannot wait for the Trans-Tasman bubble to be official, with so much to explore on both the North and South Island.

See our website for full list: <https://bit.ly/3gRVgd1>

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

MILFORD SOUND TRACK GUIDED WALK

5-days / 4-nights small group guided walking



With many hundreds of kilometres of well-maintained walking trails to choose from, comfortable lodges and a high level of support from professional walking guides and track staff, New Zealand's Milford Sound Track is one of the world's most popular walks. The Fiordland National Park is the cornerstone of the Te Wahipounamu Southwest New Zealand World Heritage Area. Walkers on the track to Milford Sound can enjoy close encounters with the native wildlife; experience Fiordland at its most spectacular with its deep lakes; fiords and sheer canyons carved out of imposing granite; majestic waterfalls and luxuriant temperate rainforests.

The Milford Track Guided Walk is an all-inclusive guided walk through the heart of Fiordland National Park to Milford Sound. Walks include transport to and from the walk, expert walking guides, wilderness lodge accommodation, meals, snacks, backpacks, rain jackets and a scenic cruise on the majestic Milford Sound.

Departs Queenstown: Daily

Details: <https://bit.ly/2wpsVr2>

QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOUND – NORTH OF THE SOUTH ISLAND

4 or 5-day Marlborough Sounds GUIDED walking... in the footsteps of Captain James Cook



This is one of our most popular, scenic guided walking holidays, in the north of New Zealand's South Island. When English explorer Captain James Cook sailed into the calm waters of the Marlborough Sounds in the late 17th Century, he must have believed he was in paradise. Today you can follow in Cook's footsteps along the scenic 71km of the Queen Charlotte Track. Explore the vast network of drowned river valleys, lush coastal beech and tree fern forests with its ever-changing hues accompanied by knowledgeable walking guides. Each night stay at a comfortable accommodation and a superb setting complete with a private bathroom and access to restaurant meals, and fine local wines. Carrying only a small daypack during a walking day, this is the ideal introduction to the New Zealand wilderness in comfort. Our guided walks feature quality hotel-style accommodation and gourmet à la carte restaurant dining.

We offer you the choice of exploring the Queen Charlotte Track in 4 days, or to extend your experience with an extra day as a 5-day option. And for those wanting a more relaxed pace or if you are travelling with non-walking partners, we can shorten your walking by utilising water taxis and cruising through the beautiful Marlborough Sounds.

For more details see: <https://bit.ly/3oQGW72>

ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

3 or 5-day easy to moderate wilderness guided walking or kayaking with quality lodge accommodation



The Abel Tasman National Park, in a gloriously sunny corner of New Zealand, comprises a landscape of native Beech and Podocarp rainforest, ancient fern-filled grottos, mountain streams cascading into clear pools, granite headlands fringing legendary golden beaches and crystal clear waters. This extraordinary Park provides habitats for a plethora of wildlife including forest and sea birds, dolphins and a breeding seal colony on Tonga Island. With a year round mild climate, enjoy a walk through native forest or sea kayak the coast. Wander the golden sand beaches or paddle in a pristine clear water estuary. Come home to one of our private beachfront lodges for a gourmet meal, fine wine and good company. Stay out late, gazing at the stars, then retire to your own room, let the waves soothe you to sleep at the end of a day that can be as relaxing or adventurous as you like.

Departs: 5-days / 4-nights: Tuesday & Friday (November – March), Friday (April to October),
3-days / 2-nights: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, year round

Maximum group size is 26 (exclusive charters available), minimum of 4 people

Guided Holidays include: Return coach transfers/launch cruise from Nelson or Motueka, twin-share lodge accommodation with ensuite, all bedding and towels at the lodges, all meals from lunch on first to lunch on last day, experienced guide and lodge support staff, use of daypack, overnight bag and daily luggage transfers, use of sea-kayaking equipment (on kayaking trips), use of canoes at lodges.

Full Details: <https://bit.ly/2WqFwXm>

Sue our reservations manager visited Abel Tasman last Christmas with her husband Karl and enjoyed a multi-day trip. To read about her adventures, click on this link <https://bit.ly/32NGDjG>



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

HOLLYFORD VALLEY

3-day / 2-night Moderate guided wilderness walk with jet boat & scenic MILFORD SOUND flight



Step into the remote and dramatic Hollyford Valley; New Zealand's wilderness at its most primal and inspiring, spectacular and ever changing. At over 1.2 million hectares, Fiordland National Park is not only New Zealand's largest national park, but one of the biggest in the world. The Hollyford Walk experience is one of infinite views of snow-capped peaks and glaciers, of temperate rainforests, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, reefs, sand dunes and surf beaches. The diversity and wildlife in this valley is truly unparalleled. Join us on a small group adventure (maximum group size is 16) hiking through World Heritage wilderness, step aboard a captivating jet boat ride down the Hollyford River, across Lake McKerrow, see historical sites of the pioneers and leave with a scenic flight over Milford Sound. The remote and often wild coastline is inhabited by native New Zealand Fur Seals, families of Bottlenose Dolphins and rare Fiordland Crested Penguins. The mix of spectacular scenery and amazing native animals make the Hollyford Track a must do in Fiordland.

Cost per person from: 25th December 2020 – 28th April 2021 **\$2275*** Child (10-14 years) \$1850

Trip details can be found here: <https://bit.ly/34iyfuC>

A REFLECTION - WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT OUR HOLIDAYS



NEW ZEALAND SOUTH ISLAND CYCLE TOUR.

Overall very good trip. Accommodation was of very high standard. Catering was excellent. Riding -some of the days were quite long and tough (to be expected on an Alps tour I know) but maybe they could give some route profiles earlier than the night before. Also as the days were long you didn't get out and see much of some of the towns.

Rest days were in great locations with plenty to do. Group was a good mix. Great to meet people from all around the world. Guides were friendly, helpful and knowledgeable. Would certainly recommend tour to others.

Gavin

NEW ZEALAND LODGE BASED WALKING

It was easily the best family holiday we have had, and we have travelled the world a bit. We managed the walk without too much difficulty, though we were certainly very tired every day. We keep ourselves reasonably fit on a regular basis and I think any of your prospective clients would certainly benefit from reasonably regular training with a backpack and proper boots for several weeks prior to the walk.

We intend to do the walk again, and next time I will spend a bit more time doing some quadriceps strengthening exercises and do more stairs for a few weeks before.

I really think a walking stick was an essential item to take, which I did not have, but was very lucky as someone loaned me hers. I think the trip coming down from MacKinnon pass was the hardest part, and the walking stick honestly makes a huge difference, so I would encourage everyone to invest in one.

We also made sure we had carried the bare minimum in terms of clothes, etc, which also makes a huge difference.

Maya

GREAT OCEAN GUIDED WALK – AUSTRALIA

Just a quick thank you to you all for getting Lyn and myself onto the Great Ocean Walk last week, at late notice.

We had a wonderful time. The company of 3 other ladies plus 2 guides were great people and the accommodation worked out very well with those numbers. The Walk was amazingly beautiful, lots of coastal lookouts onto the Southern Ocean, sometimes-huge vistas, sometimes-just glimpses. The walk also went inland at times, this was not as interesting as the coast but it was quite green countryside for this time of year. The walk was challenging but not too difficult, moderate walking for most of the time with some very steep and sandy sections. The tide was in when we were on the beaches so we had to walk through the soft sand and this was hard on the legs and knees! We walked about 17km each day and did it easily within the times suggested by Parks Victoria. Some of our group were fast walkers but we walked at a comfortable speed with time to take in the vistas.

A highlight was our one night at Cape Otway Lighthouse - we were lucky enough to get our own special night-time guided tour of the lighthouse in the moonlight.

We were also fortunate that one of the guides was a local man and his knowledge of the area and its history was very interesting. Both guys were very good cooks and our meals were delicious!

A wonderful walk which we would recommend to anyone interested in that beautiful part of Victoria.

Jenny & Lyn

INN TO INN CYCLING IN NEW ZEALAND

We had a great time. The cycling is very serious so I did utilize the van. I was not alone although some of the group would cycle over anything!

The guides were very well informed and carried reference books about history, flora and fauna. The casual cyclist can ride in the van as much as desired and it was never an issue to load and unload the bike. You are still very much a part of the cycling trip as the guides are constantly waiting for and checking on the entire group.

To access the quieter and more scenic regions, the selection of accommodation is reduced and varies greatly. Everywhere was acceptable. This also applies to the food but mostly we were well catered for and had some really excellent meals.

New Zealand does not offer the secondary road structure found in Europe so riding on main roads becomes inevitable. Generally drivers were considerate.

An excellent experience and satisfying as you will improve through the course of the trip. I am happy to recommend these tours.

Susan

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

EUROPEAN TRAVEL IN 2021 and 2022

Whilst Europe is off the cards for Australians at the moment, we have been working to get our 2021 and 2022 seasons prepared. Bookings are now open right up until the end of 2022 –please get in touch for more details.

Click here to make an enquiry: <https://bit.ly/3noJIAi>



MERRY CHRISTMAS

from the team at

OUTDOOR TRAVEL – YOUR ACTIVE TRAVEL COMPANY

Don't quote us, as the numbers are changing all the time but we currently offer over **800 active holidays** worldwide with an amazing 151 different **Bike & Barge** routes with over 68 different barges or boats in 18 different countries mostly in Europe. You will find 257 **guided or self-guided walking tours** in 28 different countries and 115 **inn-to-inn cycling tours** in 17 countries mostly in Europe but also in Japan, China, Vietnam, South Africa, New Zealand, the USA and Canada.

For **boating** enthusiasts we offer 37 **hotel barge** itineraries on 25 different barges and 182 **self-skipped motor cruiser** destinations in Europe and in the UK a fleet of 44 different **narrowboats** at 16 different bases. There are itineraries for **sea kayaking, horse riding**, holiday apartments, **cooking** courses, wildlife **safaris** or expeditions in many countries around the world.

Click here for all tours

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Contact Outdoor Travel directly for more details and reservations

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