



# OUTLINES

April / May 2010

*Habit is Heaven's own redress: it takes the place of happiness* – Pushkin

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For those receiving this newsletter for the first time, welcome. If you are interested in past copies they are stored on our website <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au> under 'What's New'.

## WALKING HOLIDAYS - ITALY

### The Road to Rome – The Via Francigena - *By Malcolm & Kim Wells*

To reach the Gr. Colle Del San Bernardo Pass of 2472m in September 2009 we certainly understood how, in May 1800, the Emperor of France, Napoleon Bonaparte, and his 40,000 troops must have felt. Following in his footsteps and those of the many thousands of pilgrims and travellers who have walked before us it is a very challenging seven hours walk from the Swiss alpine village of Bourg-St-Pierre.

Having previously walked in the pilgrims' footsteps on the Spanish *Camino de Santiago* in late 2006 (the subject of our first book, *Camino Footsteps*) and followed two years later by a 400km journey along the French Camino from Le Puy-en-Velay, we were invited by Outdoor Travel in Bright, Victoria to explore the possibility of a book about walking the Italian section of the *Via Francigena*, a pilgrim route from Bourg-St-Pierre on the Swiss/Italian border south to Rome.

### *The History of the Via Francigena*

Since Roman times, straight, well-designed roads have led wagons and legions in and out of Rome. With the disintegration of this mighty Empire, and during a time of unrest, a collection of winding paths, trails and roads created safer, more secure routes for pilgrims and travellers and became known as the *Via Francigena (the Road of the Franks)*.

Almost one thousand years before Napoleon's crossing, Sigeric, the Archbishop of Canterbury, recorded his return journey to Canterbury on the *Via Francigena* after making a pilgrimage to Rome where he received his Cope and Pallium from Pope John VI.

The lively record of his travels is treasured by the British Library and notes that the route was "well-defined" and "well-served by travellers' inns"

Since then the journey has been undertaken by thousands of travellers and pilgrims, and Sigeric's route extending as far as England, through France and over the Alpine Passes into Italy has been proclaimed as the official *Via Francigena* pilgrims' way.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

## ***The Journey***

Filled with excitement we commenced our new adventure. Little did we know that we would find hidden wildernesses full of surprises and unknown challenges tucked away along an ancient route?

We were on a road, which was spiritually and historically powerful offering traditions, culture and architecture borne of centuries of civilization, food and wine and filled with the joy of meeting the Italian people. A route, which took us through amazing and varied landscapes, along old Roman roads, country paths and modern roadways into wondrous villages and towns.

Our Italian journey commenced in Milan, which we happily explored for a few days before travelling by train to Aosta and then on to Bourg-St-Pierre by bus.

It was to be an exciting 28-day walk with eight lay days, covering 500 kms of the 950km route from the Swiss border through eight Italian regions to finally reach St Peters Square in Rome.

Like Archbishop Sigeric, we found the route well served by “hospitable inns”. Our pre-booked accommodation was excellent (with many restaurants Michelin rated) ranging from charming small hotels to a castle, a monastery and old manor houses. In Proceno we stayed in its 12thC Castle, one of 19 Italian castles still possessing a working drawbridge.

However, the signage was less predictable ranging from excellent to non-existent and at times highway walking was unavoidable. We were prepared to be forgiving about this, given that the Italian Government, the Vatican and the Council of Europe have only been promoting the Via Francigena over recent years.

Even along its most well known sections in Italy the *Via Francigena* is not well trodden, making the walk quite solitary and lacking the camaraderie found between walkers on other pilgrim routes. Time and again, however, we found it very special and adventurous to be alone in silent places such as in the deep and shady mountain forests out of the Cisa Pass or along the lush and green valley following the Treja River.

We were also very well guided each day by an extremely detailed itinerary (we believe a pedometer is essential) and on the very odd occasion when we managed to be “temporarily” lost we found the locals to be friendly, helpful and kind - especially when we said “*sono Australiano*” (I am Australian)!!

Averaging approximately 18 kms a day we kept up with Sigeric's pace despite the fact that he rode a horse most of the time! Occasionally, on longer stretches with hot weather forecast, or to avoid busy highway walking we enlisted the luxury of a train or taxi.

Unlike our earlier Camino walks, when we carried our rucksacks, our agents had arranged a “baggage car” to transport our luggage between each nights accommodation. It is an added bonus to have only a small daypack on your back.

As in a dream, the ever changing scenery presents itself before us like paintings - hilltop fortress towns standing like sentinels proudly surveying the quiet green leafy forests and silent valleys below. At Lake Viverone the setting sun drapes its waters in soft shades of pinks and purples whilst Lake Bolsena sparkles under a bright blue midday sky.

The evocative rolling hills of Tuscany are lined with cypress trees, and outside Sienna the Val d'Orcia (Valley of d'Orcia) is soft and hazy in the early morning mist before the views grow more rugged as Mount Amiata dominates the horizon.

We wondered if Sigeric had encountered the farm dogs, always safely behind fences or gates their noisy barks relaying our presence along the route!!

Each day was so different, and time and again we were spellbound by the ancient history we found along the Way. Among our ‘discoveries’ were an amphitheatre and triumphal arch of Augusta (35BC) in the Roman town of Aosta. We could understand why the Benedictine Monastery of St. Antimo, glowing in the late afternoon sun, is regarded as one of the most beautiful abbeys in Italy.

We were extremely fortunate to arrange a side trip to see the breathtaking Etruscan tombs and walkways in the archaeological park of Tomba Ildebranda near Sovana and the stone hilltop towns of Pitigliano and Sorano

built upon their Etruscan past. We also accepted an invitation to visit Perugia, enjoying this remarkable city for a day, including tasting many of its famous chocolates, before recommencing our walk from Viterbo.

Nearly every day we found ourselves wandering inside a Duomo (cathedral), or beside medieval towers, fortified walls or castles. On the outskirts of Nepi we walked the *Via Amerina*, a beautifully preserved Roman road flanked by dozens of Roman and Etruscan tombs. We spent that night in a simple, peaceful bedroom in the local Monastery.

Earlier in the walk a couple of days were spent walking through endless bright yellow rice fields of the Po Valley and onto Garlasco where we visited the very special Sanctuary of the Madonna della Bozzola which was built at the request of the Virgin Mary to protect the local people. The region is also famous for its fog, frogs, rice and mosquitoes!!

Our two days in Parma coincided with the Annual Medieval Festival (Palio di Parma) and we were entertained by a magical array of costumed locals engaged in flag throwing competitions and sword fights, with artisans at their work benches, prancing horses and much more. It is a city reflecting its medieval past.

The *Via Francigena* passes near so many famous and tempting destinations. Near Aulla we pass a road leading to La Spezia the gateway to the much-loved Cinque Terra. Pisa, Milan and Florence are also close by.

Walking through the Apennine Mountains which form the backbone of Italy we cross the Cisa Pass into Tuscany and catch distant glimpses of the Tyrrhenian Sea. We are entering another thrilling section of our walk. From Marta's delightful B&B situated in the centre of the old city of Lucca, we explore the birthplace of Puccini. A former Roman colony, Lucca became part of the early silk route in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

The undulating countryside of Tuscany with its open fields, acres of vine yards, drying sunflowers and olive orchards lead us to one of its many jewels – the fortified tower town of San Gimignano where 14 of its original 72 towers remain. In the delightful small-fortified town of Monteriggioni we luxuriate in a gorgeous three room apartment with its protective stone defensive walls only metres away.

Lay days are always essential to allow time to relax and explore. In Sienna we spent much of our day “people watching” in the famous Piazza del Campo, enjoying a cooling glass, or two, of Prosecco, a delicious dry sparkling champagne.

### ***The journey ends***

On our final walking day our luggage driver, Roberto, skirts Rome and drops us off on its southern edge so that we could walk the final 13 kms along the Appian Way. Built in 312BC this magnificent Roman Road is like a museum entering the Eternal City displaying Roman artefacts, tombs, and ruins of castles, mausoleums - even an aqueduct! Magnificent villas set in huge gardens and sheep farms also line the route. We stop at the Saint Sebastian Catacombs dating back to the Constantine age of the 4<sup>th</sup> Century.

As always on our pilgrim walks, we are filled with a mixture of achievement and sadness when our journey ends, nevertheless we surrender to the welcoming arms of St Peter's Square.

Staying in a beautiful room in a small B&B just 50m from the Vatican walls we are able to explore and enjoy Rome for three days.

Sigeric's route allowed us to enter a voyage of discovery by opening up parts of Italy that were so new and exciting to us. We absorbed and were enchanted by what we saw, and walked upon the *Via Francigena* as an adventure, each day unfolding like a book, its pages, diverse and splendid. The people we met and our memories will remain with us always.

*Malcolm and Kim Wells*  
*Perth, WA*

## OUTDOOR TRAVEL'S SELF-GUIDED INN-TO-INN WALKS

Eight linked 8-day walking routes – daily departures April to October – from AU\$1485

See: [http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/whats\\_new\\_holiday#italy](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/whats_new_holiday#italy)



Outdoor Travel's self-guided walking itineraries start at the San Bernardo pass and they have divided the itinerary into eight weekly sections all the way to Rome. In each overnight stop, you will be able to have your *credential* (Pilgrims Passport) stamped as a record of your visit. At our starting points they have arranged for a priest's benediction for those following a more spiritual journey.

This approximately 950km route travels from Bourg St Pierre near Monginevro just across the Swiss border in the Alps, into Italy and on to Rome via Ivrea, Pavia, Fidenza, Aulla, San Miniato, San Quirico d'Orcia and Montefiascone. It offers ever-changing landscapes; from steep alpine meadows to the vineyards and 'creten' hills of Tuscany; from traditional villages bypassed by time to large modern towns and urban centres, passing Roman ruins and Etruscan tombs.

Walks can start daily on demand from eight easy to reach starting points. Outdoor Travel offer pre-booked accommodation & daily baggage transfers, they include comprehensive travel kit with the route notes, maps and a *credential* or for true pilgrims, a priest's benediction.

Self-guided tour cost includes:

- \* Self-guided Inn to Inn walking
- \* 1, 2 or 3-star accommodation as shown
- \* Daily baggage transfers from Inn to Inn
- \* Breakfasts & most dinners each day

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

## PILGRIMAGE WALKS - CAMINO DE SANTIAGO IN FRANCE & SPAIN

Places still available on our guided our self-guided walks for 2009.

2010 is a Holy Year - **Xacobeo** – in Santiago de Compostela with many thousands of pilgrims converging on the city for an exiting season of events and activities to celebrate the St James' birth date falling on a Sunday (a dispensation given to the city of Santiago by the Pope many centuries ago). Xacobeo happens every 5, 6, 5 and 11 years and the next one will be in 11 years time.

To celebrate the event we have introduced several new walks in and around Santiago for both guided groups, expert guided groups, value conscious guided groups and self-guided individuals. These are listed on our website see under What's New - New Holiday Ideas:

**France & Spain - Camino de Santiago - The Way of St James self-guided walks 2010**

**Spain - France - The 'Premium' small group guided walk on the Camino De Santiago 2010**

**Spain – Camino de Santiago guided 'Value' tour from Sarria to Santiago 2010**

**Camino de Santiago - Holy Week Guided Walk 2010 - LIMITED SPACE BOOK EARLY**

**Spain - Camino de Estrellas self-guided walk to Finisterre 2010**

**Spain - Camino Primitivo - the original route - Group self-guided walk 2010**

**Spain – Cycling the Camino de Santiago 2010**

**Early bookings for small group or self-guided walks are essential – ask for details – call (03) 57551743**

## **WALKING IN FRANCE**

**Bottled essence of the Quercy by James Tamlyn**

*Old Quercy saying:* On St Thomas' Day, if you have a pig, kill it. Whoever hasn't got one just go and steal one, St Thomas will forgive you.

The Quercy is a unique and little known part of France, which is just south of the famous Dordogne region rich with the pre-historic caves. It is our home and we would not want to live anywhere else in the world. The traditions brought about by history and man's basic need to survive have seeped into the very rock that acts as bones to these lands only to be thrown back as the rock relentlessly resurfaces like a blazing defiance. These traditions will never disappear and in a world where tradition is losing grip as 'unified' Europe tries to sweep it into oblivion, we remain in awe and enjoy the quality of, and the love for, life that the Quercy and Dordogne give us.

It is a land where Cro-Magnon man dwelled in caves measureless to man creating masterpieces some twenty thousand years ago. A land where many a bloody battle has passed over. Where Caesar eventually conquered Gaul at Uxellodunum. Where Simon de Montfort (father of the better known English version) slaughtered the Cathars in the name of God. Where the Lombards settled to make Cahors a den of dirty dealing so renowned that Dante assimilates Cahors to Sodom in his 'Inferno'. Where the sons of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine bloodied the soil for personal gain the one against the other. Where Catholics and Protestants enjoyed the word 'massacre' to an awesome degree resulting in the Bartholomew's Day frenzy in Cahors. Where the Ducs and Seigneurs abandoned their lands and their workers for the pleasures of the new 'drawing room of Europe' at Versailles. Where the Revolution (in this area centred in Montauban) stemming from this abandonment, struck terror in the hearts of all as did the Gestapo and the 'collabos' (collaborators) a hundred and fifty odd years later.

It is a land where the pig is king. It is said that the best ornament in the house is the pig hanging from the beams. One good pig (250 kilos normally, sometimes 300 kilos) was one family's meat intake for the year. Not force-fed like the goose, but stuffed with as much as possible. The higher quality the feed, the longer the longevity of the cured hams and the better quality the meat. The three important festivals of the year have been known as 'The Ascension, The Assumption and the Fête du Cochon'. Killing the pig was as important to the French *paysan* as mummifying the Pharaoh was to the Egyptians. Each organ had its pot almost, and all was preserved to last the year. Everything was eaten. It is interesting to note that the French devote one shop to the pig, being the charcuterie.

It is a land of the Peasant Farmer. The term peasant in the French language is by no means derogatory as in English. It has always been a term of respect. In the old days it meant worker of the land (*pays* = land ... *paysan* = peasant) as opposed to Baron. Someone who would work on and live off his farm. Here we are in the heart of peasant farming land. Not only does the subsistence farming maintain a beauty of landscape but it now represents a mark of unadulterated goodness versus the idea of plastic globalisation. The market places on market day are teeming with fresh produce bursting with flavour. Sights may not be appealing to the eyes of animal lovers as young fowl are stuffed into baskets for a couple of hours waiting for prospective buyers but these are practices that go back centuries and these are birds that, if not sold, will be running and scratching around the farmyard until the following week.

It is a land of truffle, of confit, of snails, of foie gras ..... many of the practices in French cuisine renowned today have come from the south west of France. Traditions of cuisine that have been brought about by a basic necessity to survive; the art of preserving meat by slow cooking the marinated pieces in their own fat and allowing the meat to last by letting the fat solidify around it creating an air-impregnable seal; it keeps the meat for months. Smothering the pieces in coarse salt and ashes in vast stone or stoneware vessels has the same success in preservations. Every morsel that could last was made to last. In the old days, the farms were so poor in this area that the cows were made to work the fields. Oxen were too expensive ... a cow would at

least give a calf .... Snails were eaten not because someone had the idea they might be fantastic to eat. A snail was free meat. The art of the cuisine of the southwest was how to make it appealing to the palate!

Lastly it is a land where the accent sings. The syllables are pronounced as if the Lotois enjoy every bit of the word. Wine is 'vang'. Twenty is 'vang'. Tomorrow is 'demang'. Always hitting the G with pride. Bread 'pang'.

It is a land that we enjoy and live and we hope you enjoy it and live it as we walk the week away.

For more details of our small group guided walking holidays in Dordogne or the Lot region of France and to make a reservation see [http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/whats\\_new\\_holiday#france](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/whats_new_holiday#france)

## **BIKE & BARGE & ISLAND HOPPING CYCLING CRUISES FOR 2010**

### **FRANCE, BELGIUM, HOLLAND, GERMANY, GREECE, CROATIA, TURKEY**

Bike and Barge cruises combine two popular ways to explore Europe (cycling & river cruising), allowing partners of different abilities & interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for non-cycling partners, leisure cyclist OR enthusiasts), unpack once & come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom.

**Those interested in longer cycling distances will find opportunity for extra kilometres and optional hill climbs on most days. Those who plan to take a good book should talk to us about which boats are ideal for more days of cruising than cycling.**

Our most popular Bike & barge cruise is the two-week journey from **Bruges to Paris** or return. We have 3-boats operating on these routes as guided cycling tours with just a couple of sailings from each year. We also have a smaller, perhaps more luxurious 'gentleman's yacht' that offers the route from **Maastricht to Paris** or return but the cycling is independent as there is no cycling guide.

If you are interested in either please contact us soon as almost all the 2010 places are now sold – here is what we still have available (all cabins have their own bathrooms):

5th – 12th June	Venice to Mantova
12th – 19th June	Northern Holland
19th – 26th June	Paris to Montargis
19th – 26th June	Koblenz to Ludwigsburg
3rd – 10th July	Frankfurt to Cochem
17th – 24th July	Holland – Gourmet cycling from Haarlem
17th – 24th July	Venice to Mantova
26th July – 3rd July	Paris to Rheims
31st July to 7th August	Venice to Mantova
8th – 15th August	Holland from Amsterdam
28th August – 4th September	Venice to Mantova
16th – 25th September	Würzburg to Koblenz
18th September – 2nd October	Amsterdam to Bruges
25th September – 2nd October	Bruges to Amsterdam
25th September – 9th October	Maastricht to Paris
26 <sup>th</sup> September – 10th October	Bruges to Paris
2nd – 16th October	Paris to Bruges
10th – 24th October	Paris to Bruges
9th – 16th October	Merzig to Koblenz
16th – 23rd October	Koblenz to Amsterdam
16th – 23rd October	Trier to Amsterdam

Other Bike & barge or Bike & Boat cruises are available in many areas of Europe – our more popular destinations include island hopping in Greece, Turkey, and Croatia or self-guided cycling with boat accommodation on the River Danube - call for details on **1800 331 582** or see:

[http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/bike\\_barge\\_holidays](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/bike_barge_holidays)

**SPECIAL OFFER FOR CYCLING CLUBS & BUGS:** If 6 or more members of your club decide to take any of these Bike & Barge trips we will offer them an additional 5% discount off the tour price when the book directly with our staff in Bright - call (03) 57551743 for details

**Bookings for 2011** are already filling fast so please contact us early if you plan any of our bike & barge cycling cruises. Here is all we have left for 3 of our most popular boats in 2011:

<b>Iris</b>	
<b>Jul 2 - Jul 9</b>	Bruges – Amsterdam
<b>Jul 16 - Jul 23</b>	Bruges – Amsterdam
<b>Aug 6 - Aug 13</b>	Amsterdam – Bruges
<b>Sailing Home</b>	
<b>Jul 2 - Jul 9</b>	Cochem – Metz
<b>Jul 30 - Aug 6</b>	Cochem – Metz
<b>Oct 15 - Oct 22</b>	Metz – Cochem
<b>Fleur</b>	
<b>Apr 30 - May 7</b>	Bruges – Paris
<b>Jul 30 - Aug 6</b>	Montargis – Paris
<b>Aug 6 - Aug 13</b>	Paris – Montargis
<b>Aug 13 - Aug 20</b>	Montargis – Paris

## BIKE & BARGE IN CANADA

Plus free tickets to Cirque du Soleil in Montreal

Just an update of these wonderful trips along the St Lawrence River between Montreal & Ottawa. The 14 August 2010 and 21 August 2010 departures are now converted to **Lock Keepers Tours**. Popular demand for the Lock Keepers in the August and September timeframe dictates this change.

Our first 2010 Bike & Boat Tour will depart on 5<sup>th</sup> June & cyclists can join us one day early, on Friday 4 June, and participate in the Montreal Bike Fest Night Tour, a popular ride in the street of Montreal that brings together over 10,000 cycling enthusiasts.

Also, all passengers on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> June and 16<sup>th</sup> June departures will receive tickets to attend the new Cirque du Soleil road show, named TOTEM. The show is written and directed by world-renowned Robert Lepage. Additional details on the new show can be found on the Cirque du Soleil web site at: <http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/en/shows/totem/show/about.aspx>

## HOTEL BARGING

Cruise the canals & rivers of France

We are very pleased to announce the re-launch of the hotel barge Rosa in South West France, available for her first cruise on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2010. The Rosa is an old friend, having been part of the European Waterways fleet for a number of years, including when she was enjoyed by Celebrity Chef Rick Stein during the filming of the BBC French Odyssey TV series. Rick's televised journey between Agen and Toulouse will form part of Rosa's new cruise route, and we are delighted that she is underway again.

The new cruise route from Agen to Montauban and the meeting point of Toulouse, features the best that Gascony has to offer, including private Almanac and Foie Gras tastings, the motorised inclined water plane of

Montauban, private wine tasting in the Cote de Frontonnais, visit to Moissac's 7<sup>th</sup> century Abbey and Valence D'Agen's beautifully preserved 4<sup>th</sup> century *bastide* architecture.

Rosa's flexible accommodation layout will retain two double bedded and two twin bedded staterooms and the saloon will be remodelled, ensuring easier access directly onto the good sized sundeck and avoiding the previous access via the side decks. Rosa has an enthusiastic new French owner and an experienced crew of 4. The Rosa is in our new 2010 brochure – call 1800 331 582 to receive a copy

### Current Hotel Barge Special Offers on NEW bookings for 2010

Some offers are for the season, some for new bookings confirmed before April 30<sup>th</sup> & some by May 31<sup>st</sup> ask for details:

Cruise Area	Hotel Barge		Departures
<b>\$2000 OFF PER CABIN ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKS</b>			
Canal du Midi, France	Enchanté	\$2000 OFF per cabin	May 9, 23 & 30

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### \$1000 OFF PER CABIN ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKS

Burgundy, France	Renaissance	\$1000 OFF per cabin	May 16
Burgundy, France	L'Art de Vivre	\$1000 OFF per cabin	May 9 & 16
Burgundy, France	La Belle Epoque	\$1000 OFF per cabin	May 16 & 23
Burgundy, France	L'Impressionniste	\$1000 OFF per cabin	May 2
Canal du Midi, France	Enchanté	\$1000 OFF per cabin	All 2010
Scottish Highlands	Scottish Highlander	\$1000 OFF per cabin	May 9 & 16
Thames, England	Magna Carta	\$1000 OFF per cabin	Apr 18, 25, May 30

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### \$500 OFF PER CABIN ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKS

Burgundy, France	Renaissance	\$500 OFF per cabin	June 6 & 27
Burgundy, France	La Belle Epoque	\$500 OFF per cabin	June 20
Burgundy, France	L'Impressionniste	\$500 OFF per cabin	June 6
Canal du Midi, France	Anjodi	\$500 OFF per cabin	May 2
Scottish Highlands	Scottish Highlander	\$500 OFF per cabin	June 6 & 20

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

## BEAUTIFUL BOATING HOLIDAYS / LE BOAT

**Self-skipped motor cruisers - save up to 15% on early bookings for 2009**

With our extensive fleet of over 600 Crown Blue Line, Connoisseur or Emerald star self-drive boats in over 40 bases - easy to operate (no licence required) - we are able to offer a host of special holiday ideas in destinations in France, Holland, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Scotland & England.

New for 2010 is the opening of a base in **GENT** Belgium, Belgium's ancient capital. This is an exciting new cruising route to offer your customers. This base will be open from **April 1st till October 30th 2010** and is located 250m from the historical centre of GENT. The nearest local supermarket is 100m from the base. Location and Name of the Marina: Portus Grande, Veerkai, Ghent, Belgium

## CURRENT DISCOUNT OFFERS:

Valid for all new bookings made up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 for May & June 2010 departures only:

Cruise on the Royal Magnifique for 7 nights or more and receive:

10% discount from Trebes, Narbonne, Migennes or from Gray

These offers are not combinable with any other offer. All Canal du Midi departures in September and October 2010, on any 4 anchor vessel or under, for any duration and receive a 10% discount.

## BOOK NOW FOR 2011 at 2010 RATES PLUS RECEIVE UP TO 15% DISCOUNT

5 anchor	no discount
4 anchor	10% discount
3 anchor	12% discount
2 anchor	15% discount

Conditions apply - for terms & conditions see our *Beautiful Boating Holidays* brochure for full details – call **1800 331 582** to receive a copy.

Discounts not applicable to any 5 anchor (premium) boats, area and boat offers cannot be combined. Discounts can be used in conjunction with group booking, extended booking and family booking discounts up to a maximum of 15%.

**Breaking news:** We have been advised about some lock/river/canals closures in Brittany, France for those planning a self-skipped motor cruiser holiday at the end of the 2010 season:

Between Redon and Josselin the canal will be closed from 26<sup>th</sup> September onwards  
Between Redon and La Gacilly the river will be closed from 3<sup>rd</sup> October onwards.

## CLASSIC HOUSEBOATS ON THE CANAL DU MIDI OR NIVERNAIS

### Self-skipped motor cruisers in France

Two of the prettiest canals in France are the Canal du Midi and the Nivernais – here is your opportunity to see these remarkable areas in arguably the best-designed and most comfortable self-skipped houseboats.



Cruising the canals of France is a magnificent and relaxing way to have a holiday. Self-skipping a quality motor cruiser gives you both freedom and flexibility. Life along the canals and in the many towns and villages along our cruising routes is colourful and often breathtaking. Special events such as spring festivals, summer fetes or "vendange" the wine harvest in autumn are best enjoyed amidst the numerous vineyards of the Canal Du Midi and in Burgundy. Hire a self-contained Classic Houseboat for a week and the adventure begins.....

**Departs:** Every Friday, Saturday and Monday from early April to late October

**From:** **Canal du Midi** - Capestang with railway stations at Beziers or Narbonne (20 minutes by taxi) or **Burgundy** - Vermenton and Marigny sur Yonne, on the Canal du Nivernais. Vermenton has a railway station; the closest to Marigny is Clamecy (about 30 minute by taxi).

We offer one-way cruising on the Nivernais only, from Vermenton and Marigny (or vice-versa). The one-way cruise supplement is \$250 irrespective of the boat.

**Hire period:** A week is usually 7 nights – hire times are 3.00pm pick-up and 9.00am drop-off

<b>2010 Boat Hire (per week):</b>	<b>Season A</b>	<b>Season B</b>	<b>Season C</b>	<b>Season D</b>	<b>Season E</b>
	4 Apr - 23 Apr & after 2 Oct	24 Apr-7 May 18 Sep-1 Oct	8 May-4 Jun 28 Aug-17 Sep	5 Jun-2 Jul	3 Jul-20 Aug 21 Aug-27 Aug
Classic 129 Grand Cru (2 berth)	\$2220	\$2770	\$3120	\$3770	\$3870
Classic 139 Grand Cru (4 berth)	\$2670	\$3170	\$3750	\$3995	\$4200
Classic 139 (6 berth)	\$3235	\$3825	\$4225	\$4650	\$4960
Classic 149 (8 berth)	\$4185	\$4710	\$5145	\$5560	\$5995

Plus compulsory fuel costs (calculated on engine hours), one-way fee if required, any extras or provisioning.

On boat collection, you will also need to pay a security deposit (950€) and cleaning deposit (100-110€). These are refundable if your boat is returned clean, undamaged and on time to the appropriate base.

## **EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR OCTOBER 2010**

**9 days for the cost of 7 PLUS free wine & bike hire**

Enjoy **Nine days for the price of seven – from just \$2220 for a full week** cruising on any Classic House Boat in France departing on the Canal du Midi or Canal du Nivernais for any new reservations departing on any Monday or Friday during **October 2010**. (Offer subject to availability).

**PLUS** hire of two bikes free **PLUS** a case of fine regional wine per hire **at no extra cost**.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

## **TALL SHIP SAILING CRUISE**

**Join our crew sailing the Pacific in 2010 – includes Sydney to Auckland cruise**



**Join the crew and sail this authentic square-rigged sailing ship.** The romance and splendour of sailing as our forefathers did is available to all ages, no previous experience is required. Later this year there will be two special cruises that will allow Australian's to discover for themselves the magic and the challenges faced by explorers, sailors, whalers and mariners, by Captain James Cook, Wallis and Bougainville, as they sailed the waters between Sydney and New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Join Søren Larsen – star of the BBC TV series 'the Onedin Line' - and be part of the ship's 22-person Voyage Crew in 2010. To see Søren Larsen lying at anchor in a remote and deserted bay recreates a scene straight out of an 18th century engraving of the early European voyages of exploration.

**New Caledonia to Sydney via Lord Howe Island or Sydney to Auckland  
Trans-Tasman & the Bay of Islands**

Voyage	Destinations	Nights	Voyage Type	Dates	Cost AU\$
V310	NZ to Tonga via Kermadec Is	22	Ocean & Island	05 May to 27 May	\$5395
V311	Tonga Cruising, Haapai & Vava'u	10	Island cruising	31 May to 10 Jun	\$2995
V312	Tonga to Fiji, via Vavau	17	Ocean & Island	14 Jun to 01 Jul	\$4950
V313	Fiji to Vanuatu	17	Island & Ocean	05 Jul to 22 Jul	\$4950
V314	Vanuatu Discovery	10	Island cruising	26 Jul to 05 Aug	\$2995
V315	Vanuatu Banks & Torres Islands	17	Island Cruising	09 Aug to 26 Aug	\$4950
V316	Vanuatu Discovery (2)	10	Island Cruising	30 Aug to 09 Sep	\$2995
V317	Vanuatu to New Caledonia	10	Island Cruising	13 Sep to 23 Sep	\$2995
V318	New Caledonia to Sydney	18	Ocean sailing	27 Sep to 15 Oct	\$4950
V319	Sydney to Auckland	14	Ocean Sailing	25 Oct to 08 Nov	\$4095

**Your Role as Voyage Crew** - This is an adventure holiday where the emphasis is placed on your enjoyment. Participation is part of that adventure and you will be taken on as a Voyage Crew, learning 'hands on' from the professional crew about shipboard life. Allowance is made for age and abilities and as part of the ship's watch system you can handle sail, take the helm, join-in and have fun.

**Ocean Sailing or Bluewater Voyages** you can be expected to stand watch and participate in all the activities of sailing the ship. The objective is to undertake an authentic blue water passage under square rig. You will be introduced to the traditions of tall ship sailing, working as part of a skilled crew within the watch system

On-board facilities include 2 or 4-berth cabins, a well-equipped saloon and galley, shower / bathrooms, inflatable boats, fishing tackle, windsurfer and snorkelling gear. Berth price includes all meals onboard, all excursions and activities, use of ship's wet-weather gear, inflatable boats and all safety equipment.

On arriving onboard you will be shown your berths, introduced to the crew, and signed on Ship's Articles as Voyage Crew. Much of the first morning will be spent introducing you to the ship and explaining the various routines, safety procedures and equipment and how the watch system works. For those who wish we try to give you a chance to be shown how to haul and rig the sails and climb the masts.

Sailing through Sydney Harbour, one of the world 's great harbours, is a thrilling occasion. It was here that Soren Larsen as Flagship of the First Fleet Re-enactment Voyage sailed in with the fleet of Tall ships for Australia's 200th birthday in 1988.

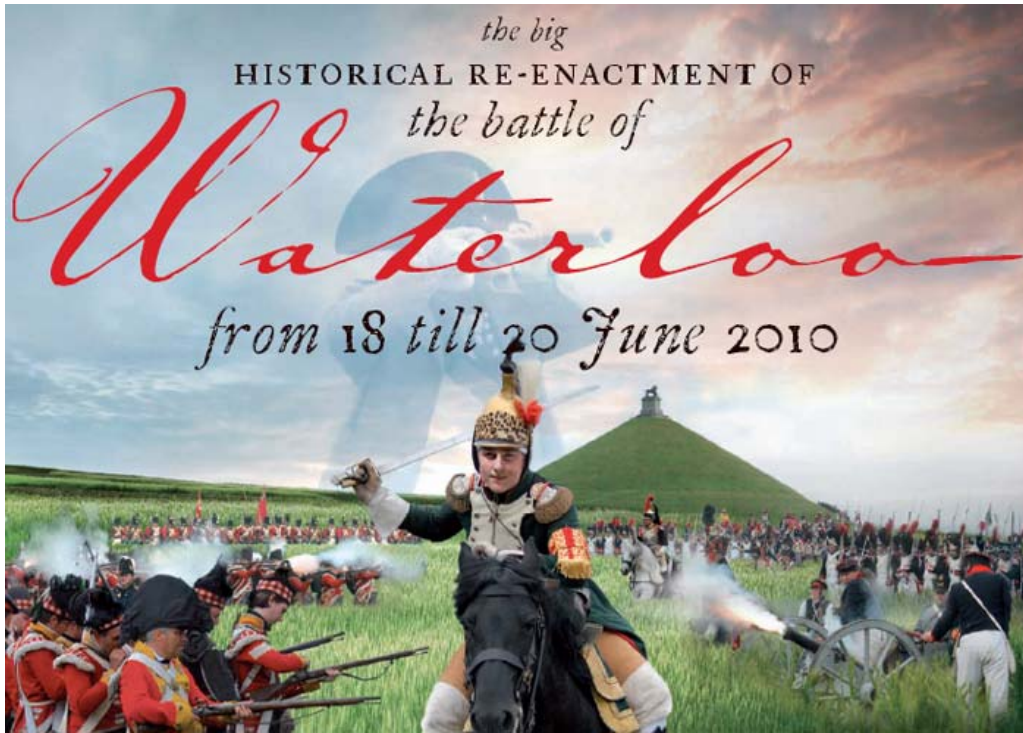
The trip across the Tasman will be an exciting and challenging sail for the first time novice and the experienced sailor. This voyage gives time for a good sailing passage of 1000 miles to the northern tip of New Zealand in the prevailing westerlies. This should take us about a week in reasonable conditions and during the sea passage from Australia the ship is sailing 24 hours a day and as voyage crew you will stand deck watches and work within a normal 4 hours on / 8 hours off watch system. This rotates during the course of the voyage to allow everyone to be on deck during different parts of the day.

There are 13-permanent crew who maintain and sail the ship that are there to assist and help you enjoy your time aboard. Once we drop anchor the deck watch is undertaken by the permanent crew and you the Voyage Crew are free to explore ashore. While on watch the voyage crew are under the care and instruction of the watch officer and two other permanent crew; everyone stands a turn on the helm, takes lookout on bow watch, helps fill in the ship's deck log and help handle the sails as required. The watches on deck will have to work the brigantine rig to best advantage to make the most of the changeable weather. On the longer sea passage there's time for talks about basic navigation, seamanship theory, rope work, history and development of square rigged ships. The timeless routines of the sea and unique beauty and grandeur of the ocean can only really be appreciated by those who have undertaken a blue water passage several days out from land.

Sighting Cape Reinga at the northern tip of North Island will be our first glimpse of New Zealand and soon we shall enter the beautiful Bay of Islands to clear NZ Customs at the tiny fishing village of Opua. A good ocean passage will allow us time to enjoy 'the Bay' including the historic town of Russell and the picturesque Roberton Island. Dolphins usually delight in escorting us to Cape Brett and the Hole in the Rock archway. Once we drop anchor at the Bay of Islands the deck watch is taken by the permanent crew and the Voyage Crew are free to explore ashore. With 4 or 5 nights in hand we make our way south through the Hauraki Gulf, visiting the marine reserve and the Poor Knights islands and perhaps Kawau or Tiri Tiri island before we arrive at our final destination, Auckland and home-port.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

## GENERAL TRAVEL NEWS



**DID YOU KNOW:** France has once again taken top honours in the 2010 *Quality of Life Index* for the fifth consecutive year, edging out Australia, Switzerland and Germany. International Living's *Quality of Life Index* is compiled through rankings in the categories Cost of Living (15% of final ranking), Culture and Leisure (10%), Economy (15%), Environment (10%), Freedom (10%), Health (10%), Infrastructure (15%), Safety and Risk (10%), and Climate (10%).

France received an average score of 82, just edging out Australia, Switzerland and Germany with an average of 81. Rounding out the top five was New Zealand with a score of 79.

### International Living's top 20 countries read as:

1. France
2. Australia
3. Switzerland
4. Germany
5. New Zealand
6. Luxembourg
7. United States
8. Belgium
9. Canada
10. Italy

The world's top airports for 2009 have been released and Seoul's Incheon Airport has been named best airport in the world for the fifth year in a row.

Singapore's Changi took second place and Hong Kong third. The ratings are based on feedback gathered by the Airports International Council from flyers at 118 airports in 45 countries:

### Best worldwide

1. Incheon (ICN), 2. Singapore (SIN), 3. Hong Kong (HKG), 4. Beijing (PEK), 5. Hyderabad (HYD)

### Europe

1. Keflavik (KEF), 2. Zurich (ZRH), 3. Porto (OPO), 4. Malta (MLA), 5. Southampton (SOU)

That's right, not a single one in Australia – but I would have rated Albury, for its efficiency, practicality, cleanliness & the smile on the faces of all the staff who work there – how do you rate their decision?

**HIDDEN GREECE:** In the last few decades Greece has become one of the top tourist destinations in the world. Mass tourism has flourished and places like Crete, Rhodes, Corfu, Zante have become synonyms of “two weeks of fun in the sun,” attracting thousands of tourists every summer. Yet there are still places not frequently visited or barely known to the majority of prospective tourists. British newspaper "The Observer" assembled a panel of experts to reveal their personal favourites in an article called “Greece: the inside track,”

Favourites included many little-known islands - such as Kythnos, Milos, Kastellorizo (Megisti), Ikaria and Antipaxoi – as well as special places to stay such as the fishermen’s boathouses on Alonissos.

Crete is a large island, which combines snow-capped mountains, rolling hills covered with olive trees and over 1000 km of varied coastline with astonishing beaches. By going off the beaten track, walkers discover the rugged splendour of the south-western part of the island behind the Lefka Ori (White Mountains). The village of Paleochora, a resort perched on a peninsula, is the starting point of a beautiful coastal route leading to a lush, green region built on the remains of ancient Lissos. The route passes through a small gorge and ends in Sougia, a settlement located on the site of ancient Syia. Along their route from Paleochora to Sfakia, trekkers come upon some of the most impressive sections of the *E4 European path* along the steep slopes of Lefka Ori with a view to the Libyan Sea.

**READING NEWSLETTERS:** If seeing words in this newsletter is a challenge? Try this...

Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the ltteres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. If you can raed tihs, psot it to yuor wla. Olny 55% of plepoe can!

**MAY WE ENTERTAIN YOU:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2CY65y-4wY>

**AIRLINE LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE:** Emirates' new baggage policy. Emirates have applied a new simplified baggage policy across its complete network – which will be a real blessing for long-haul travellers from Australia to Europe: 30kg for Economy Class passengers, 40kg for Business and 50kg for First Class passengers. This generous free baggage allowance will give Emirates' passengers the flexibility to carry significantly more baggage, whether gifts for family and friends or taking advantage of the excellent shopping in Dubai and across our extensive network of destinations.

Contact Yvette at the Outdoor Travel Fares Desk at [fares@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:fares@outdoortravel.com.au) or **(03) 57501 441** for all your air ticket needs.

## WHERE DO WE RECOMMEND

For 2010 we have added some very interesting destinations & have appointed some new local operators to look after our clients. Here are a few you might like to consider – click on the links to see the details or see What’s New – New Holiday Ideas on our website:

**France - Hotel Barging from Auxerre in Burgundy 2010**

**Ireland – Celtic Kerry - small group walking sightseeing & traditional highlights 2010**

**Italy - Chianti - Horse Riding holidays 2010**

**Italy - Val D’Aosta & Gran Paradiso guided walk 2010**

**Italy – Umbria - Assisi to Spoleto Self guided walk 2010**

**Portugal - Douro Valley guided walk 2010**

**Spain - Northern Spain Self -Guided Cycling Holidays 2010**

**England - South Downs Abingworth - one-hotel guided walk 2010**

**Australia - Photography Tour Great Ocean Road walk in Victoria 2010**

## WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT OUR HOLIDAYS

**Self-guided walking in Cornwall:** - *Just to let you know we had a great time on our walk, it was great ..we are even thinking of doing something similar in 2011 in Scotland.* Brenda

**Walking in Ireland:** Just wanted to thank you for recommending this hiking holiday, absolutely fantastic hiking and scenery, great accommodation and the tour company were friendly and fabulous. Had a great holiday, thanks. Jane

**Walking in Bulgaria:** The whole arrangement went off without a single problem. The walks were all good and varied, although I did get a little off course on one because, in heavy rain and thick fog (the only day that was not perfect), I missed a marker. It caused no difficulty and simply added to the adventure. The accommodation was as good as I would ever have needed. The food was excellent. The walks were not as attractive as those in Western Europe but the villages and the people were friendly and interesting. Not being able to converse was interesting but no real problem. I was easily able to mime my need for ice in a glass of scotch.

I would recommend the trip to anyone who wants to see and go somewhere that is a little different, interesting, well catered, more than reasonably priced and perfectly organised. As I indicated it is not the most beautiful part of the world but I found it to be an exciting adventure. Again, many thanks for making the holiday so easy. Ray

**Walking in New Zealand:** Queen Charlotte Walk in the Marlborough Sounds of New Zealand. Where can one start of course with Outdoor Travel's excellent product knowledge, attention, advice and compassion of a family-like team who are firmly committed to ensuring every detail is covered without taking our independence away.

Guides were excellent and very well organised. Accommodation was more than satisfactory; we opted for the upgrade and loved every room we stayed in especially the first night at Furneaux Lodge. All accommodation and meals on the walk were good and to our liking; Picton also has some good restaurants. Finally again thank you we had a wonderful experience. Dennis and Marilyn

**Bike & Barge in Europe (Elodie):** I thought you would be interested in receiving some positive feedback on our trip to France. Firstly, the running of the "Elodie" and the cycling was nothing short of super excellent. Michel, who is the owner and skipper, has gathered around him people who are as keen as he to create the best experience possible. The chef, Paulo, was a six foot six Caribbean, who was an absolute master of his kitchen and absolutely charming to everybody on board. His meals were a highlight. The guide was a gorgeous Dutch lady who was equally at home riding like Lance Armstrong or sitting in the gutter repairing punctures, or presenting the details of the next day's ride. She made everybody feel good. We also had a deck hand to help through the locks, and for the last day, a substitute guide as Nina had to leave for another job. Both of these guys were also excellent and did everything to make our experiences special. An innovation which they introduced to avoid riding into Paris on the last day, is to pick up the riders on the outskirts of Paris and to travel to the mooring at Port D'Arsenal, under the bridges of Paris, past Place de la Concorde, Musée d'Orsay, Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower, while celebrating one of the guests' birthday with champagne. It was a truly triumphant arrival into Paris.

The riding was as described, not Tour de France, but requiring a good deal of preparation to be able to cope. We had very strong head winds for the first six days, and the terrain gets quite hilly towards Paris, so it is not a stroll in the park. The option of staying on the barge is apparently quite boring, but it is there if somebody cannot cope. There are not many days when it is possible to have a half-day ride and then re-join the barge. Give "Elodie" ten out of ten. John and Louise

**Bike & Barge in Europe (Fleur):** We wanted to let you know how we went on the trip. We had the most wonderful time. Every bit of the trip worked perfectly. The bike & Barge was fantastic & even though I didn't ride as much as some I thoroughly enjoyed being on the barge when not riding as the scenery was always interesting. I did take a book in case but did not get to read it as too much going on. Also non-riders had some interesting train trips instead, so over all no one missed out on anything. We could not recommend it more highly. The crew were lovely & looked after us so well & the food was the best I have ever eaten. Baz the chef must be a five star chef. The guides were great & Reint the captain, very obliging & friendly. The boat was very clean & well maintained.

We enjoyed all other parts of our trip & happy with all the arrangements you had organized. Every thing went very smoothly. Thank you Patsy & John.

**Bike & Barge in Europe (Fleur):** Just a short note to say how much we enjoyed our Fleur (who I fell in love with) barge trip in March from Bruges to Paris. We so happened to be with a group of 6 from Victoria, and

other Aussies, which was absolutely wonderful, we all got on so well, the crew were very helpful, and the Chef, called Bas, for short, was a wonderful cook, even served snails for dinner one night.

Our bike rides were sometimes hard and sometimes easy, Belgium rain and strong winds for a few days, and flat thank goodness, when we reached France up came the climbs, sometimes a big effort was put in, but we made it. I rode for the 13 days with my husband, and the 4 others in our group, did the same. Our guides did a great job, Hugo very funny and helped us up the hills, when necessary, Ruley (sorry not sure of her correct name) was just so full of information where ever we were. Our cabins small but truly very comfortable, and of course having our own bathroom just made it seem like a 5 star.

We could have stayed on for another week, but of course all good things come to an end. Thank you once again, for your help in organising our trip. Charlyn and Tony

**Bike & Barge in Europe (Fleur):** *Just a note to tell you how much we enjoyed our recent bike/barge trip on the Fleur from Paris to Bruges. We loved every minute and could happily do it all again. The crew were fantastic-especially the chef Markus. It was nice to know that at the end of a day's cycling a delicious 3-course meal would be served and in the 2 weeks on the boat not one meal was repeated.*

*It was lovely exploring the French and Belgian countryside on bikes and having little surprises like visiting Van Gogh's grave in the little village of Auver by torchlight and having our guide sing to us in some of the churches we visited.*

*All in all it was a fantastic holiday and we will certainly keep Outdoor Travel in our sights when planning our next trip. Regards Jan & Volker*

**Boating in France (Beautiful Boating Holidays):** Just a quick note to thank you for arranging the fabulous canal boat holiday for us. We loved the Nivernais canal and the Yonne River area. We took a taxi to Vezelay, which was magnificent and very easy to arrange from the boat harbour at Chatel Censoir. The staff at Chatel Censoir and Laroche Migennes were all very welcoming and helpful. The boat was in excellent condition and very comfortable and easy to manipulate. It is certainly a holiday, which I would recommend to my clients and would repeat again with family or friends. Thank you once again, Leonore

**Tuscan farmhouse apartments (Castellare Di Tonda):** We have just returned from our amazing holiday. We loved every minute of our time in Tuscany. The farm itself is simply beautiful and the amenities fantastic. The staff on reception went above and beyond to make our stay a truly memorable experience. The kids went horse riding, I took advantage of the well being centre and Phil loved hitting golf balls all over the place. The restaurant was also very good. Our biggest rapt however must go to the staff on reception who enable us to realise our dream. With their assistance we managed a side trip to Florence and Venice. I can not recommend this farm stay highly enough for anyone wishing to venture to Tuscany. It was simply fantastic and the location postcard perfect.

Thanks also for giving us some useful information on Corsica. It was another highlight of our holiday. Standing on the beach in Calvi and looking at a snow-capped mountain is not something you can do everyday. We also loved winding away around the 'goat track' called the artisan trail. The tiny villages clinging to the side of the mountain is something worth seeing. We also managed a trip to Corte and a boat trip to a remote fishing village south of Calvi.

So thank you for helping us realise a part of our dream holiday. Jill, Phil, Lauren and Nicholas

**Cycling in Vietnam:** Just wanted to let you know that we have just returned from the most AMAZING trip! Weather was awful - very wet and very un-seasonal so I am told but nevertheless we had a ball. Covered something like 750km over 10 cycling days doing some incredible hills - 10% lasting for 3km!!! Some slightly smaller (7%) going for 5km - have returned nice and fit! Our guide Nhan was the best as were the support staff. Nhan was so interesting and looked after us like small children! He gave us all the history, cultural, political etc all with his personal touch esp times concerning his life. Again thank you for such a great trip. Emmy

**Walking in Victoria:** I have just returned from the 3-Day Great Ocean Walk... I must say it was one of the most amazing trips I have ever done. Certainly first class in all aspects. The superb, designer eco-lodge accommodation was brand spanking new & uniquely situated in a very beautiful rainforest gully tucked behind Johanna Beach. The clean, light, timber & glass of the lodge, with pleasing curved rooflines, had an organic & airy feel, making you feel part of the surrounding environment. Waking up under a cloud of white doona to a chorus of wild birdsong certainly set the tone for the day. The lodge was also home to an exceptionally

talented & welcoming chef (no 'make up a sandwich from the breakfast buffet' & scroggin on this trip - instead, a lunch box of crisp Thai beef salad & densely rich date & fruit muffins). Meals around the big, recycled Blackwood table were worthy of any city restaurant. All clean, crisp flavours, carefully designed to fuel walkers in the nicest possible way.

The walk organisation was seamless, the guides professional, entertaining & gregarious and the little 'extras' just delightful. The landscape was a surprise - I think we expected more coastal dunes & were delighted to find large walking sections of lush sub-temperate rainforest, eucalypt forest with grass tree understoreys, dropping down into wet gullies full of ferns, fungi & delicate wild orchids & then onto hidden, golden beaches, before climbing up to spectacular views of the wildly, stunning, shipwreck coast. Coming along the cliff tops, up to the Twelve Apostles on the last day gave a fantastic sense of completing a journey. The walks themselves were incredibly scenic, over undulating terrain & with enough challenge for serious walkers, while giving the average walker a chance to stretch their legs & themselves, so the pampering at the end of the day felt well earned & a just reward.

My travelling companion, Yvette, was equally impressed & did remark it would be the perfect way to celebrate her or her husband's 50th birthday with a group of friends. I think it would fit the bill perfectly for a Christmas gift! Not cheap, but all the inclusions make it great value...Sue

**Cycling in South Australia:** My friend and I have just returned from our 5-day bike trip to Adelaide/Barossa Valley and Clare. The guide Ben was absolutely brilliant. Only 24-years old, but incredibly mature, responsible, patient great cook and very CAN DO. We had a great time, even though every day the temp was over 36-degrees. Just wanted you to know this is a beauty. Lisa

## WHERE ON EARTH IS.....?

### Internet map & route finders

Looking for a map to get you from A to B then you now have 4 great Internet choices:

1) Click-on our website & the Michelin Guide link on our Active Europe page:

<http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/europe>

2) Go to the <http://www.mappy.com/> website for a host of easy to read options

3) Go to <http://www.googleearth.com/> for a graphic view of the world we visit walking or cycling

4) Want help in finding you way around Australia – <http://www.travelmate.com.au/> for help from Travel Mate Mapmaker to generate a map of your proposed trip along with driving directions.

**SMART TRAVELLER** – Government travel advisories - all countries see: <http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au>

**TRAVEL INSURANCE** - Please don't forget travel insurance too, this is very important when paying for your holiday especially a long way in advance. We have fully comprehensive travel insurance available – call us or see the SureSave link on our website

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**Call our travel experts & talk to us about our personal recollections and experience – we regularly visit the areas we offer – call Martyn, Lucie, Sue or Yvette:**

## OUTDOOR TRAVEL Pty Ltd

The Active Holiday Company

PO Box 286, Bright, Victoria 3741,

Tel (03) 57 501 441 Toll free 1800 331 582

Fax (03) 57 501020

Email [info@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:info@outdoortravel.com.au)

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- ) FRANCE WALKING HOLIDAYS - Small Group Guided Walking with a donkey to carry your lunch in the Lot Valley & in Tuscany, cooking, truffles & wine tours also available
- ) CAMINO DE SANTIAGO – Walking or cycling the Way of St James (France or Spain)
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# CARBON & THE HOLIDAY & WORK ENVIRONMENT

## What we can do to make a difference?

With the release of reports into the global impact to the environment by carbon emissions & the use of cars, planes & of power generation there have been some creative new information sites that can give you some ideas about how you can look at a personal contribution to the issue of global warming.



Offsets made simple - '[Carbon Offsetting Explained](http://www.climatecare.org)' (website homepage <http://www.climatecare.org>)

## PC Power Consumption, Does it Really Matter?

More than **30 billion kilowatt-hours of energy are wasted** because many of us simply forget to shut down our computers when we're not using them. If we could just improve the efficiency of how we use our PCs, the savings in energy costs would be over \$3 billion dollars! The CO2 emissions from just 15 computers are equivalent in energy terms to the gas consumption used by one car.

[Learn More About PC Power Consumption...](#)

Our goal is to introduce 100,000,000 PC users into the Local Cooling community. If just 100 million of us optimise the efficiency of our computers' energy consumption, we could prevent over 300 billion kg of CO2 gas emissions, equivalent to over 1.8 billion gallons of oil, in just the first year alone. [Take Part in Our Project to Spread the Word about LocalCooling](#)



See: <http://www.localcooling.com/facts/> & please spread the word



A Victorian based solution - <http://www.treesmart.com.au>

Each year, the average Australian vehicle emits about 4.3 tonnes of carbon dioxide - the major Greenhouse Gas. While various attempts are being made in the transport sector to reduce vehicle use and emissions, through programs such as [TravelSmart](#), an alternative way of reducing Greenhouse Gases in the atmosphere is to remove them after they have been emitted via carbon sequestration in trees.

The **TreeSmart** program aims to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by planting, maintaining and harvesting plantation eucalypt trees. The **TreeSmart** program is different to some other carbon sequestration programs that plant trees and leave them un-maintained as a perpetual forest.

The **TreeSmart** program will operate by selling subscriptions to Australian travellers ([motorists](#), [road freight operators](#), [public transport travellers](#), [air travellers](#), [conference attendees](#)) to enable the CO2 emissions from their travel to be absorbed (sequestered) in eucalypt trees grown for eventual harvesting and replanting.

**OUTDOOR TRAVEL Pty Ltd do not specifically endorse any of these options & do not vouch for their effectiveness or credibility but we believe this information will help make an informed decision**