



OUTLINES

July / August 2010

Walking: the most ancient exercise and still the best modern exercise - Carrie Latet

He who limps is still walking - Stanislaw J. Lec

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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 - **click-on:** <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au> & see under 'What's New'.

NEWS & OFFERS

What holidays are still available & last minute offers for new reservations

FRANCE – SMALL GROUP GUIDED WALKS: Explore the Massif Central and headwaters of the Upper Loire. Our unique walking hotel is ideal for active people of all ages wanting to explore the magnificent countryside. The hotel is maintained for the exclusive use of guests who want a walking holiday in a relaxed small village environment. Each day there is a choice of walk offered: 'tranquille' & 'sportif' for those wanting more of a challenge. Both walks are led by knowledgeable & enthusiastic English speaking guides.

There are guided walks each day and a rest day where you can explore on your own, visit the local markets & nearby towns or villages or to just relax by the hotel's pool! On each walking day, you can always arrive or depart with the picnic vehicle - as the mood takes you! Guests are encouraged to make themselves at home. The hotels provide typical regional cuisine and dinners are enjoyed with fellow guests, sharing the table d'hote. French wine and drinks are available. Evenings are spent at a variety of pursuits, from boules to barbeques.

Departs: 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th September

Cost: \$1150 per person single or twin share

Includes: 7-nights twin/single accommodation with ensuite bathrooms in a comfortable family run hotel, breakfast & dinner each day with picnic lunches, optional daily guided walks (with one rest day), local transfers as necessary for walking & evening activities.

Click-on: [France - Auvergne guided walk 2010](#)

SAVE \$185 - NO SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT IN SEPTEMBER 2010

BIKE & BARGE FRANCE & BELGIUM: Last call for places cycling from Bruges to Paris in October 2010 onboard one of our favourite boats the Feniks which offers a high standard of meals and comfortable but simple twin or bunk-style cabin accommodation (all with ensuite bathrooms), This *value* cycling holiday offers the opportunity to explore this varied and interesting countryside, with visits to historic and cultural centres, sampling the wine, beer and local produce that makes this part of Belgium and France famous.

A highlight of this route for Australians will be the two-night stop in Peronne, a small town in the Somme region of Northern France, just 35km from Villers-Bretonneux where ANZAC Day was celebrated for the first time in 2008. These two nights will allow access to the many important World War One 'Western Front' battle sites and memorials. There is also free time to visit Amiens, Fromelles and Bullecourt.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Each day you join our cycle-guide or go by yourself by bike and meet up at the boat or stay on the boat to enjoy the cruise. In the evenings our guide will often offer a city-walk or a suggestion of other activities. Well-maintained multi-gear bicycles with panniers are provided – comfortable, easy to ride and ideal for this route – and a fascinating and varied guided cycling program with free time to explore each day's destination.

The ride from Paris or Bruges avoids the traffic wherever possible, taking small country roads, towpaths, paved forest trails and the occasional cobblestone road in cities and major towns. In France we follow country roads and bike paths. In Belgium we cycle through relatively flat country mostly along riverbanks or towpaths.

Departs: 2nd October

Duration: 15-days/ 14-nights

Cost: AU\$2990 per person twin share. Single cabin supplement \$1375

Includes: Breakfast, dinner on board (most nights), picnic lunch, cycling tour guide & bike hire

Highlights: Bruges, Ghent, the Ardennes, the Somme, Wallonia, Chateau de Chantilly, Auvers-sur-l'Oise, Palace of Versailles and one night in central Paris – forests, rolling hills, canal tunnels, great food

Click-on: [Bike Barge - Paris to Bruges or vv 2010](#)

SAVE \$1000 PER CABIN TWIN SHARE FOR NEW BOOKINGS MADE BEFORE 6th AUGUST 2010

SPAIN - CYCLING THE CAMINO: Last call for places on our small group cycling along the Camino de Santiago departing in September. Follow in the tracks of ancient travellers and join us as we make our way along the legendary Way of Saint James, the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route to the burial place of the apostle in the northwest corner of Spain. This is a gently paced tour in a land of miracles, mysteries and legends. Following quiet roads and well-surfaced tracks, we enjoy the Spanish sunshine as we cycle in hillsides alongside the Cantabrian Mountains.

Along the journey, you'll hear of King Charlemagne and St. Francis of Assisi and the stories of medieval hero El Cid, as we ride the paths once protected by the Templar Knights. Highlights include the stunning cathedrals of Leon and Santiago and the Celtic huts (pallozas) of Cebreiro and over everything, the great camaraderie of fellow travellers that you will meet on the route.

Accommodation is in small hotels, chosen for their location and quality. Breakfasts are taken at the accommodation, lunches picnic style, and evening meals at local restaurants allowing you to sample the delicious regional cuisine. As with all of our tours, the support vehicle is never far away, should you need a snack or a lift on a particular section of the route.

Cost: AU\$3600 per person (twin share) - Single room supplement AU\$500

Bike hire: AU\$250 if required

Departs: 2nd September 2010

Click-on: [Spain - Way of St James guided cycling 2010](#)

SAVE \$300 PER PERSON% FOR NEW BOOKINGS MADE BEFORE 6th AUGUST 2010

FRANCE – HOTEL BARGE CRUISES: Hotel barge cruises combine two popular ways of exploring Europe, canal or river cruising with guided sightseeing excursions by bus. Our smaller boats with just 10 – 12 cabins allow access to the smaller waterways linking smaller towns, villages chateaux or vineyards and our accompanying bus gives access to the larger sightseeing destinations such as Strasbourg, Beaune and Dijon. You unpack once, come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal, a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom.

These all-inclusive cruises offer a high standard of meals prepared by our onboard chef, serving traditional and regional cuisine with local wines and cheeses. In the afternoon or early evening there is an opportunity to take a stroll or bike ride along the towpaths or perhaps a guided city-walk or a host of other activities.

Cruise highlights include: **In Burgundy:** St Jean de Losne, Dijon, Beaune & vineyards, 12th century Clos de Vougeot winery, Chateau de Marguerite of Burgundy, wine tastings at Meursault. **In Alsace:** Sarrebourg, Strasbourg, Saverne & Colmar, Chapel of the Cordeliers & Chagall's window, the Arzviller barge lift,

Departs: Every Saturday to 30th October 2010

Cost: \$3620 per person twin share

Limited cabins are available for the rest of this season. Discounts are available on the Lorraine in Alsace on 9th October & on the Caprice cruise in Burgundy on 16th October 2010

SAVE \$1000 PER CABIN TWIN SHARE ON SELECTED DEPARTURES IN OCTOBER

VIETNAM - CYCLING HOLIDAY: Last call for places on our small group cycling tour created to include quiet roads and an extra day in the Highlands. Journey from Imperial City of Hue to historic Hoi An, the golden beaches of Nha Trang, Dalat - an old French spa resort, to the cosmopolitan city of Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City). We offer you the chance to see this captivating country alongside the friendly locals, as you pedal past rice fields, visit local ethnic villages and explore imperial cities.

We stay at mostly 3 and 4 star hotels and lodges that have been carefully chosen for their character and location. We run many custom tours for groups small or large, using the standard of accommodation of your choice. Groups larger than six cyclists qualify for a discount.

Distances between overnight lodgings in Vietnam are often too far to cycle, so we drive part way and cycle the best and most scenic sections, avoiding the busy highways. The trip is fully supported with drivers and English-speaking guides cycling with the clients and includes three meals a day most days.

Duration: 15-days / 14-nights

Cost: From AU\$3485 per person twin share Single room supplement: AU\$760

Bike hire: \$365 per bike if required

Departs: 22nd Nov, 14th Feb

Click-on: [Vietnam Cycling Holidays 2010](#)

PLACES ARE LIMITED – BOOK NOW BEFORE THE PRICE INCREASES - ASK FOR DETAILS

NZ - MILFORD TRACK GUIDED WALK:

Seasons: Low season: From 1st – 30th November 2010 & from 1st – 23rd April 2011
High season: From 1st December 2010 – 31st March 2011

Departs: Daily from Queenstown from 1st November 2010 to 20th April 2011

Duration: 5-days / 4-nights

Costs: From NZ\$1830 (low season) or NZ\$1995 (high season) in multi-share rooms

From NZ\$2240 (low season) or NZ\$2405 (high season) in twin/double with ensuite bathroom

Click-on: [NZ - Great Walks including the Milford Sound Track Guided walk 2010/2011](#)

One of the world's finest walking trails, the Milford Track will take you 55-kilometres from Lake Te Anau to Milford Sound the Fiordland National Park. It follows the Clinton River to its source in Lake Mintaro, crosses the Mackinnon Pass before descending to the Arthur Valley and the head of Milford Sound.

Includes: Pre-track briefing & return transfers from Queenstown, lodge accommodation with full board including all bedding & towels at the lodges, support of experienced guide & lodge staff, use of daypack & raincoat if necessary

Changes in the administration of these guided walks has seen **Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd** appointed as one of just a handful of recognised booking agents across the world. This appointment acknowledges our 20-year relationship with the concession owners in New Zealand and our expertise in organising and advising our clients about walking holidays in this wonderful walking destination. Not only do we cover the Milford Sound walks but also the 3-day Routeburn Track & the Classic weeklong combination of the Milford and Routeburn.

PLACES ARE LIMITED - ASK NOW FOR 2010/2011 AVAILABILITY

AUSTRALIA - GREAT OCEAN WALK: The Great Ocean Walk spans 104 kilometres of one of Australia's most spectacular coastlines. It follows a route of amazing coastal *and* forest scenery in the Otway Ranges, through two national parks, overlooks a marine national park and a marine sanctuary, yet sections will show you an isolation that only the Southern Ocean can offer.

Our lodge-based holiday is designed specifically for walkers. The luxury eco-style villas are set amidst the trees and complemented by stunning lounge, dining and outdoor recreational spaces. This fully licensed premises, offers tranquil places to unwind and reflect on your day on the trail.

The walk starts at Apollo Bay – a popular summer resort town - then climbs up the Cape Otway Light Station for an unforgettable view of the coastlines. This is the mid point of our walk and the next 2 days are spent walking west towards the further most point you can see to the spectacular sea-stacks called the Twelve

Apostles. With a choice of 3, 4 or 6-day walks there is something that will appeal to every interest and fitness level.

We have two walk choices over Easter on the Great Ocean Walk in Victoria. We have a new Weekend walk, which departs on Fridays: 22nd – 24th April 2011. And we have a 6-day walk, which will depart on the new day of Sundays: 24th April – 29th April 2011.

Anzac day and Easter Monday are one in the same this year and we have 2 places available on both walks

Click-on: [Australia - The Great Ocean Walk in Victoria 2010/2011 - departs from Melbourne](#)

[PLACES ARE LIMITED - ASK FOR DETAILS](#)

JORDAN & THE SINAI BIKE & BOAT TOUR

Departs: 2nd, 12th & 22nd March and 1st, 11th or 21st November 2011

Duration: 11-days / 10-nights

Distances: 185km of cycling

A new Bike & Boat itinerary for 2011 between the desert & the sea – **early bookings essential.**

This is a journey of discovery to explore the beautiful Sinai Peninsular and the desert kingdom of Jordan by boat, on foot and by bike. Visit inspirational biblical sites, swim in the crystal waters and corals of the Gulf of Aqaba, hike and cycle through spectacular canyons and desert landscapes and relax at night beside the fire of a Bedouin camp under an impressive canopy of stars.

Discover the many famous historical sites such as Saint Catherine's Monastery and the rock gorge of Petra, explore the underwater treasures of the Gulf of Aqaba (with its numerous diving and snorkelling locations) and marvel at the desert landscapes and fertile oases and countless Wadi's, dry riverbeds or valleys depicted in the movie Lawrence of Arabia.

[NEW FOR 2011 – PLACES ARE LIMITED - ASK FOR DETAILS](#)

HOLLAND & BELGIUM – FROM AMSTERDAM TO BRUGES

Duration: 8-days / 7-nights - easy to moderate cycling or a cruising only holiday

Cost: Now \$1395 per person (twin share) – was \$1795 per person

Departs: 16th October 2010

The Amsterdam to Bruges tour includes breakfast each day, packed lunch, dinner, bed linen, bike rental, and cycle tour guide. Well-maintained multi-geared bikes are provided (you can bring your own if you prefer) for up to 20-cyclists. The cycling is varied and fascinating with mostly flat terrain, exquisite woodlands, open river valleys and small country towns and villages. There are opportunities to reduce or extend the cycling distances each day, as you prefer.

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

Tour de France cycling this is definitely not. The daily cycling averages 40-60km but you can cycle part of the tour and to stay aboard for rest of the day. Cycling in Belgium and Holland is very easy and mostly flat with lots of sealed cycle paths. The rural scenery is wonderful. The tours are guided to make sure you see the many interesting sites along the route.

Non-cycling passengers are welcome.

[SAVE \\$500 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE ON THIS DEPARTURE](#)

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 2011

With our extensive fleet of over 1000 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.

CURRENT DISCOUNT OFFERS:

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

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%.

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

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

GENERAL TRAVEL NEWS

E-Bikes, the new trend in the cycle tourism - everybody will hear of E-Bikes over the next few years: They are clearly the new trend for cycle tourism. Outdoor Travel now offer a limited number of E-Bikes for hire on selected Bike & Barge or Boat tours in Germany, Croatia or Greece.

Cruising taboo: Some of you may already know this, especially if you have cruised on the canals and rivers of France, but there is one animal you must **never** mention when you are on any type of cruise vessel, whether a hotel barge or ocean-going liner, without invoking terrible bad luck. The taboo is such that I cannot state its name here but suffice to say this animal is furry with long ears, it is NOT a kangaroo and has had many names over the years including Peter and Roger. No one really knows the origin of this superstition but it is taken extremely seriously by all our barge crews and woe betide anyone who breaks the rule!

And if you are a fan of a certain dish served in a mustard sauce, you can be certain that your chef on board won't prepare it!

Glamping in the Wilderness in New Zealand: A new word to describe *Glamorous Camping*. A few minutes by helicopter (or a little longer on the back of a horse) and 1,600 square kilometers of wilderness is available for your personal use in the South Island near to Queenstown. With all the comforts of an exclusive Wilderness Hut in which to spend the night – top and tailed by a night in a luxury lodge near with the spectacular backdrop of the Remarkables Mountains why wouldn't you be tempted?

Glamorous Camping (Glamping) in the wilderness has never been so beautiful, so accessible and so comfortable:

- Chef prepared food helicoptered in
- Staff to add the final touches
- Ice cold wine – chilled in the river
- Hot showers and a roaring wood burner
- Crisp linen and cosy duvets
- Crystal clear lakes and rivers waiting to be fished
- Wild deer waiting to be spotted
- Not another person in sight (just your guide and his adorable dog)
- The unpolluted Southern Hemisphere sky

A three-night stay (2-nights at Remarkables Lodge and one-night in the wilderness) from just NZ\$2150 per person departing daily from December 2010 until April 2011 – call Outdoor Travel for more details

Editor's note: A few years ago we had the privilege of doing an Australian promotional tour for walking holidays in New Zealand with the late Sir Edmund Hilary. He talked about his favourites & showed a series of slides to packed audiences wherever we went & he finished his talk with a picture of a flock of fluffy white

sheep in a lush green paddock. "Come to New Zealand", the great man said, " you can choose any route you want".

And for all those who hold a similar opinion of our near neighbours across the Tasman I guess this cloud formation picture (sent by regular clients Jenny and Alex who hail from that fair country) just about confirms your suspicions **click-on:** http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4034/4710559770_e73c331013.jpg

Must see destinations in France: **Le Puy-en-Velay** has been a pilgrimage destination for centuries. The town in the Massif Centrale is famous for its lace, its country market (full of wild food ingredients & local cheeses is also a treasure hunt destination for students of history & architecture. The extraordinary chapel dedicated to Saint-Michael at Aiguilhe, the cathedral (classed world heritage by UNESCO) and its 12th century cloisters, the religious art museum, the Corneille rock and the huge statue of Notre Dame de France, are all highlights to be discovered.

The whole upper town is included in the protected heritage sector of some 35-hectares where elements of ancient homes are preserved including turrets, sculpted doorways and mullioned windows. There are museums, festivals, summer events, families activities & it is the start of our Camino De Santiago or Way of St James walking route to Spain - **click on:** [Le Puy en Velay](#)

Gypsies: or *gitanos* as they are commonly referred to in Spain are actually a group of people called the *Romani*. The Romanies from Spain belong to the Iberian Kale Romani group and they tend to speak *Caló*, which is a jargon of Spanish grammar and Romani vocabulary. The origins of Romani people come from the migrants of the Sindh, Rajasthan and Punjab regions of the Indian subcontinent and they migrated west in Europe in the eleventh century.

The music and culture of the *Gitanos* was highly influenced soon after they reached Al-Andalus through North Africa. Flamenco, the heart of Gitano culture, is complex fusion of Moorish, Arabic and Sephardic Jewish influences and although many *gachos* (non-gitanos) think of only the *Espectaculo Flamenco* (flamenco show), the *Zapateo* or intense foot tap is only done in the "*Espectaculos*". At *juergas* (gypsy parties), flamenco is more reserved in its form.

We regularly play flamenco music in our office, including modern flamenco as we are often talking to our walkers or cyclist about holidays in Spain. Our musical offering in this newsletter is from three of our favourites:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reTx5ivdotA&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBqsK3kEeIM&NR=1>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjFWCbrhz_s&feature=related

Your comments on this selection would be welcome as are your own You Tube music links

WHERE DO WE RECOMMEND?

For 2011 we have added some very interesting destinations & have appointed some new local operators. Here are a few you might like to consider – **click on** the links to see the details:

[Germany Bike & Barge from Bremen to Magdeburg 2011](#)

[Germany Bike & Barge from Berlin to Magdeburg 2011](#)

[Germany & Poland Bike & Barge from Malchin to Berlin 2011](#)

[New Zealand - Queen Charlotte Track Walk 2010/2011](#)

[New Zealand - Hollyford Valley Walk 2010/2011](#)

Contact Yvette at the Outdoor Travel Fares Desk at fares@outdoortravel.com.au or (03) 57501 441 for all your air ticket & general travel needs.

WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT OUR HOLIDAYS

HOLLAND BIKE & BARGE: The tour was great despite a few showery days. The food was good home cooked style & the new owners of the Holland barge Miranda & John did a good job in making everyone feel at home & enjoy themselves. (13 people from Canada, Australia, NZ + Italy).

Martyn's comment about a gel bike seat cover is good and instead of carrying one from Australia which may not fit the local wide bike seats, you can buy at a bike shop for about ten to twelve euros when you get there.

Brian

ITALY BIKE & BARGE: The plans for our client were very successful on the Po River barge trip. He really enjoyed it – more than he suspected I'd say! Main comments seemed to be about the excellent food, terrific tour manager "Hugo" and the good company. He said that the accommodation was modest, but the happy environment made up for all. I'm sure he'll do another similar tour one day soon.

For your interest, an extract of one of his daily emails to us, taken from a mid-way point on the tour:

We started the morning to visit a local bell tower, Hugo had found out it was one of the 2 oldest clock mechanisms in the world dating from around 1370 (see pic). The Professor came to tell us all about it... god could he talk, and only in Italian, even the Italian speakers had trouble keeping up with him. And then we got to hear the bells go at 10 a.m. in the actual tower. Talk about ringing in the ears.

Then Hugo took us to see Roberto an Italian marble sculptor at his studio. Hugo had only met him the day before but he graciously allowed us to come to see him work. He showed us the various panels he was working on for churches. I think we were the first tourist group that had ever visited. At the end Hugo suggested we take up a little collection by way of a thank you, but they wouldn't hear of it, in fact, they had bought a bottle of champagne and a box of chocolates to celebrate our visit!

There were a few sore bums but everyone was in good spirits as we continued to meander through the Italian countryside. There is very little traffic where we are going so you have the opportunity to ride side by side and chat with people. The quality of the chat usually depends on the level of English.

*Our cook Erica keeps producing every evening, all the meals have been excellent, and even when there was an orgy of seafood last night, she prepared a lovely alternative for me. **Shayne***

VIA FRANCIGENA, ITALY: A wonderful walk of almost 500 kms with some very beautiful scenery, especially in Northern Tuscany and the Val d'Orcia. While shorter overall, it was a much tougher walk than the Chemin de St Jacques in France (le Puy en Velay to St Jean Pied du Port).

In Italy we also found that many parts of the trail were overgrown with weeds, including blackberries and nettles. In Spain and France trails are properly maintained and hence more attractive to hikers. The Via Francigena should be a major pilgrim route like Santiago de Compostela but it will not happen unless proper attention is paid to the state of the track. This investment pays rich dividends for Spain as many tens of thousands follow the Santiago trails each year. We met only six hikers on 500 kms of the Via Francigena in the whole month (not counting day walkers on local outings).

In Rome I tried to buy an English language *Via Francigena* guide book. I bought two in Italian at the Vatican bookstore but nothing exists in English as far as I (and the man in the bookstore) can tell. Here are some of the highlights:

- The Castello di Brunello, above Aulla, though its cellar magazine has an unsettling aura of death
- The homemade and varied pastas of our restaurant in Sarzana
- The high track between Sarzana and Carrara with views to the Mediterranean
- The impromptu organ recital, a wondrous free concert, in the Massa Cathedral
- The high trails above Camaiore with views across the valleys seen through the rain and mists
- The authentic cuisine of "Leo's" Restaurant in Lucca to which we were taken by local friends
- The day's walk into San Gimignano with sweeping sunlit views of Tuscany
- The breathtakingly beautiful Pieve di Collele, a Romanesque church surrounded by cypress trees outside San Gimignano whose simplicity outshone the luxurious excesses of the Sienna Cathedral
- "Il Pino" Restaurant in San Gimignano with a quite exceptional vegetarian carbonara of peas, beans, broad beans and asparagus
- Mother Gabriella's bounteous breakfast, home-made cakes, home-grown strawberries & grapefruit in Murlo

- Excellent small Etruscan Museum in Murlo
- The glorious Michelangelo orange clouds at sunset above the grey stone houses of Rocca d'Orcia
- Fiesta day, dancing and street markets in Radicofani
- The fine walking and great views down the long ridge from Radicofani to the River Rigo
- The Castello del Proceno (though the standard of the two rooms varied enormously) and especially the lovely gardens and restaurant, and the dignified service
- The beautiful crypt in the Basilica del Santo Sepolcro at Acquapendente
- The impeccable and old fashioned service offered by the desk manager of the Urban V Hotel in Montefiascone
- The interesting Roman tombs on the Via Amerina between Fabrica di Roma and Nepi
- Climbing the three fosso (deep ravines) between Nepi and Campagnano di Roma
- The best of the Italian wines: 'Santa Pia' 2005, VINO Nobile di Montepulciano Reserva', 'San Nicolo' 2004, Brunello di Montalcino, 'Vorberg', Pinot Bianco 2007, Kelleri Cantina Terlan, Sud Tirol
- The many spring wild flowers, and especially the fields of red poppies.

We had a fascinating time in beautiful country and look back on the walk with enormous pleasure and sense of achievement. I have lots of stamina and a high discomfort threshold, but it was not a breeze. **Carillo**

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO IN FRANCE: Just a note to say thank you for arranging my trip at short notice. Highlight was the walk, always changing – hills, valleys, rivers, forests and beautiful fields with lots of small villages along the way for refreshment.

Le Puy en Velay - hotel was very good, central with a lovely courtyard to the rear. Food was excellent and staff very friendly. Town was the most interesting we stayed at with historic centre close to the Hotel, large cathedral and statue of Virgin on a hill with great views over the town and countryside. Walking over the next two days was quite hard as long climbs but wonderful scenery and views. Good time of year as all the wildflowers were out

St. Privat - small village on great setting over the gorge. Hotel was so-so but very quiet. Food was pretty ordinary and they could do with improving this

Sauges – a tiny village with no shops. Hotel was wonderful, lovely stone building with nice rooms. Great food and the staff were very good

Le Faux - larger town with good shops and lovely historic centre. Hotel was excellent and that is where we shared a room but it was a suite with two bedrooms and living area. Excellent restaurant

Aumont – a busy village. Not much to look at but Hotel was good and food was excellent.

It was fantastic and all the bookings worked out. Didn't get lost and not even wet. I have been raving about it to everyone here. **John**

FOOTLOOSE OR FANCY-FREE: I now have a confession to make. John & I went on a trip in April/May to France & Italy. The 'confession' is because included in the 4 weeks' trip was a weeklong walking tour. We searched around your Footloose & other walking groups & couldn't find anything that fitted into our 'area'. We found a walk (self-guided as is our wont) south east from Avignon. Our agent thought the company were reputable.

Well! Certainly the towns and villages were wonderful, every one, and the inns, or small hotels were welcoming and offered superb French cuisine each night BUT the first hotel in Barbentane gave us a big envelope with 7 huge one page maps which had no inserts with the exit track from each town and the most appalling written directions you could imagine. Done by an amateur with no idea of what is needed. We couldn't believe the difference between this & the Footloose quality stuff! First day we got totally lost & ended up walking 8 kms along a narrow busy road; at least there was a water-filled ditch to dive into if the 130 kph traffic got too close to us on our tiny strip of walking space!

At the inn that first night we met a woman from Perth, also on the same trip, same starting day. She had got lost also, having interpreted the 'map' & 'directions' differently to us but with the same result. We then teamed up, all getting lost each day, despite having bought a large map. We did have lots of laughs in the midst of daily despair. And somehow managed to find the right town at the end of each day.

Next time, we'll surely go Footloose! **Jan**

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

AIRFARE BARGAINS TO EUROPE & AROUND THE WORLD

Now available:



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Our Fares Desk is your complete travel solution:

Yvette, our Senior Retail Consultant can assist with your travel arrangements to make your holiday a most wonderful experience. She has access to accommodation, car hire, rail travel, tours, cruises and lots more to make your itinerary complete. She will work together with you to make all the travel arrangements work in together with your Outdoor Travel holiday, cruise or tour.

For those travelling particularly to Europe, each year most major airlines bring out what they call ' Early Bird Airfares', an opportunity to save on your flight costs when booking early for your next year's holiday. The same is applicable to car hire or leasing and often rail passes too. Mostly you need have your bookings in place by December (conditions do vary from year to year & from airline to airline) to take advantage of these special offers Yvette recommends you ask about these savings and book early - particularly for the busier periods such as May/June & September / October & during school holidays.

Call Yvette directly on (03) 57 501441 or email fares@outdoortravel.com.au with your request and she will then be in contact with you to start making all the required arrangements including travel insurance.

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

To buy **SURESAVE TRAVEL INSURANCE** **Click on here: for Suresave policy details & application form**

SMART TRAVELLER – Government travel advisories - all countries **click-on: Smartraveller.gov.au**

WHERE ON EARTH IS.....?

Internet map & route finders

Looking for a map to get you from A to B then you now have several internet choices on our website:

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

Outdoortravel.com.au/content/europe

Go to the **Mappy.com** website for a host of easy to read options

Go to **Google Earth.com** for a graphic view of the world we visit walking or cycling

Want help finding you way around Australia see **Travelmate.com.au** for Travel Mate Mapmaker.

To see all the destinations on our website: **http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/whats_new_holiday**

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:

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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