



OUTLINES NEWSLETTER

December / January 2011

*Too much work, and no vacation,
Deserves at least a small libation.
So hail! my friends, and raise your glasses,
Work's the curse of the drinking classes.* **Oscar Wilde**

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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'.

NEWS & OFFERS

What's new, still available & last minute offers for new reservations for 2011

GO BARGING - Hotel Barges - river or canal cruising in Europe

Outdoor Travel's **Go Barging** fleet offers both suites and cabins for a maximum of just 12 clients on a selection of 7-day/6-night cruises. They offer the highest level of comfort with spacious saloons, dining areas and bars aboard the barges. Each centrally heated, well furnished and carpeted throughout. The twin, double or single suites or cabins are well appointed, each with its own bathroom or shower en-suite. A minibus accompanies the cruise offering guided sightseeing, museum or gallery visits, wine tasting or transfers.



Discounts now available for bookings made before 7th January 2012:

Burgundy: Renaissance \$800 off per cabin for departures on **Apr 3, May 1 & 15**

Burgundy: L'Impressionniste \$400 off per cabin for departures on **May 1 & 22**

Gascony: Rosa \$400 off per cabin for departures on **April, May June 2011**

Scotland: Scottish Highlander \$400 off per cabin for departures on **May 1 & 8, June 5, 2011**

We also have added the latest 2011 as a click-on (page-turning) brochure on our website: [Click-on here](#)

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

BEAUTIFUL BOATING HOLIDAYS - Self-skipped motor cruisers – bases in Europe & the UK
Explore Burgundy or the Loire Nivernais region, taste the wines of Alsace or the exquisite cheeses of Brittany. Cruise the ancient Canal du Midi, The Lot, and Charente or discover the natural history of the Camargue in France. Outdoor Travel offer an extensive fleet of over 1000 self-skipped boats accommodating from 2 - 12 passengers.

All vessels are fully equipped with cabins, bathroom/toilets and well-equipped galleys. All boats are easy to handle - tuition given or skippers for hire if required - no experience or boat licence is necessary. Self-skipped motor cruisers are also available on the Royal River Thames in England, Norfolk Broads, and the Caledonian Canal near Lock Ness in Scotland, the Venice Lagoon in Italy, the River Shannon in Ireland, Friesland in Holland or the Mecklenburg Lakes in Germany.

Discounts now available for all NEW bookings made between 1st – 31st December 2010

Early booking discount on all boats & bases *

4 anchor vessels	8%
3 anchor vessels	10%
2 anchor vessels	12%

Area discounts - for all departures between 30th April – 20th May 2011

10% discount	Belgium
10% discount	Thames, England
10% discount	Italy
10% discount	Burgundy Franche Comte, France
10% discount	Charente, France

Boat discount – available all seasons

5% discount	Calypso
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Family discounts for hire with children aboard applicable all season (including high season)

5% - 10% discount

All **BEAUTIFUL BOATING HOLIDAYS** discounts are combinable up to a maximum of 20%

* 5 anchor vessels do not apply to the above.

Outdoor Travel have added a comprehensive website link which now includes an availability check search engine: [Click-on here](#) to link to our fully comprehensive website

New brochure now available – call 1800 331 582 for free copies or email info@outdoortravel.com.au

BIKE & BARGE CRUISES

Guided cycling cruises in Europe

Due to the overwhelming demand we have dramatically **increased the number of trips and the destinations available** for 2011.

For a full list see: **Bike & Barge/Boat cycling cruises - Europe, Middle East and Vietnam 2011**

Bike & Barge cruising combines two popular ways of exploring Europe (cycling and river cruising), these tours allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (tours are just as interesting for non-cycling partners, leisure cyclist OR cycling enthusiasts), you unpack once, come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin. Well-maintained multi-geared bikes are provided (you can bring your own if you prefer). The cycling is fascinating and varied with free time at each day's destination.

New for 2011 – Bike & Barge in Provence, France:

L'Estello or 'Star' was built in 1937 as a classic Dutch passenger barge. It has been converted to accommodate passengers in comfort and style with spacious public areas and lots of natural light. The barge offers an air-conditioned saloon and bar area with comfortable sofas and armchairs and a separate dining room, all with large picture windows. This area opens onto a sundeck at the bow with a fixed awning and tables and chairs.

There are ten comfortable air-conditioned twin cabins of @ 7 / 8 square metres each with its own bathroom.

Our cycling and cruising itinerary winds its way through the scenic back roads and calm waters of the Camargue and along the River Rhone in the glorious south of France. Known for its wildlife flocks of pink flamingos, pelicans, cormorants and other sea birds abound. Here we discover the traditional bulls bred for the bullrings, the horses and Camargue cowboys, the flamenco music of the gypsies, fields of rice. Sunflowers and salt farms. An area rich in history and art we see many reminders of the might of the Roman Empire and the inspirational landscapes that attracted many 'impressionist' painters including Vincent Van Gogh.

Departures are weekly from May to October 2011 from just \$1590 per person twin share.

For full itinerary details see: [France - Bike & Barge Provence and the Rhone River Delta 2011](#)

New Bike & Barge or Bike & Boat destinations for 2011 include the Amalfi Coast & Gulf of Naples, Sardinia in Italy, Provence, Normandy & new itineraries in the Loire Valley & from Burgundy to Paris in France, Berlin in Germany, the Danube Delta in Romania plus the Gulf of Aqaba & Sinai Desert in Jordan & Egypt.

WALKING THE VIA FRANCIGENA

The pilgrim's self-guided walk to Rome

For more than 1000 years, the series of routes that make up the Via Francigena have connected Rome with the rest of Europe across the Alps. The track winds through thick forest and along valleys swathed in vineyards and olive groves, and it passes abbeys and convents that offered respite to the Christians who made the long pilgrimage to Rome. Today, the churches and long abandoned towers the Via Francigena skirts offer a rare glimpse of medieval Europe.

WA novelist Antonio Casella, who recently completed part of the walk with his wife, believes there is no better way to see Italy.

A walk through stunning Tuscany by Antonio Casella

To truly experience Italy there may be no better way than to walk the Via Francigena. Though the name suggests a single road, the Francigena was always a series of routes that connected Rome to the rest of Europe across the Alps. With the advent of Christianity pilgrims used the Francigena in their journey to Rome, stopping along the way at monasteries, abbeys and convents, for overnight shelter. The earliest historical information on the pilgrim route is that of Sigeric, Archbishop of Canterbury, who made the pilgrimage to Rome in 990AD and left us a detailed account of his journey.

Unlike the better-known Camino de Santiago, which has continued to attract pilgrims over the centuries, the Via Francigena fell out of favour with the decline of the religious pilgrimage. In 1985 Italian historian Giovanni Caselli re-traced the route, using Sigeric's journey as a guide.

In keeping with its original purpose, the resurrected Via Francigena generally avoids sealed roads, as it treks its way over hills and valleys, vineyards and olive groves, skirting along stone-walled orchards, solitary churches and abandoned towers. Occasionally the route enters thick patches of forest.

The full journey from Val d'Aosta on the Alps to Rome is some 950km long and very few people these days have the time and level of fitness to walk it in its entirety. Tour operators have broken up the Francigena into eight weeklong stages. Each stage consists of six days' walks, averaging 20 kilometres per day, though individual walks can vary from 14 to 29km. So, if you were not a regular walker, you would be advised to get some training done before you tackle the Via Francigena.

Constrained by time and budget, my wife and I chose to walk just four days of stage six, which takes you through some stunning landscape in Tuscany.

Day 1 San Miniato to Gambassi Terme

We started on the sealed road but soon our itinerary led us to a track over an elevated ridge that took in spectacular sights on both sides. This was to be the mark of the entire journey, gentle hills and valleys in the classic Tuscan mould, dotted by rows of cypress trees. It was picture-perfect scenery, formed by happy collaboration, over centuries, between nature and human activity. We could not stop ourselves from snapping with our digital camera, as a new hill, or walled town, appeared on the horizon.

The directions provided by the travel agency were detailed enough, but the road markings, consisting of the figure of a little pilgrim with a cane in one hand and a sack thrown over his back, could be more frequent. Or maybe it was lack of experience on our part, because on two occasions we missed the turn and found ourselves having to retrace our steps. The organizers do provide a phone number to call if you lose your way, so it is recommended that you have a workable mobile with you.

On a field, with the grass reaching up to our waist, and a 360-degree view of glorious countryside we met up with a real pilgrim, complete with back pack, wide brimmed felt hat, and long walking cane. We sat down on the grass for a brief rest and chat. Our fellow traveller was Lago, a Spanish doctor in his late thirties. A keen man of the road, each year he takes two months off work and goes walking. He has done the Santiago walk several times and this was his second time on the Francigena. He said that what he carried on him was all he needed. At night he stayed in monasteries and abbeys along the way.

We met Lago again later in the evening in a Gambassi café. He introduced us to three fellow pilgrims he had befriended on the walk. Giuliano, an Italian, who has completed the Francigena twice and writing a book about his experiences, and a retired Dutch couple, well into their sixties, walking the Via Francigena for the first time. Given the cosmopolitan mix of the group, the talk around the table was conducted mostly in English, with a sprinkling of Italian. But the bottle of Chianti we shared ensured the smooth flow of the conversation.

Day 2 Gambassi to San Gimignano

This being a relatively short walk of 14km, we thought we would slow down the pace and took time to photograph the landscape of rolling hills and valleys, with the occasional alignment of cypress trees leading up to an ochre-walled farmhouse. Then a woolly canopy of dark cloud, that had been threatening all morning, suddenly opened above us and delivered a veritable deluge. Though we had seen a sprinkling of rain back in San Miniato, we were totally unprepared for such a downpour- accompanied by a battery of thunder and lightning- in the middle of summer. Our one umbrella was totally inadequate and we took shelter under an oak tree. There we waited for the storm to ease, then trudged up the muddy track.

Fortunately the signs on this tract of the walk were more frequent and visible. Thanks to the little monk pointing the way, we were able to stay on course without the need to pore over the directions at every turn. We reached our destination by mid-afternoon, more tired than we should have been and thankful for the fact that our luggage and a hot shower were awaiting us at the hotel.

We spent what was left of the day exploring San Gimignano. The historical centre, enclosed within massive walls, is a labyrinth of cobbled streets and alleyways. On the main piazza a medieval festival was being staged, the participants parading in period costumes and performing to the sounds of early music.

Day 3 San Gimignano to Monteriggioni

As we set off for Monteriggioni, San Gimignano was visible for miles from the surrounding countryside and we found ourselves looking back at the beautiful town we were leaving behind, with its medieval walls and towers struck against the sky, wishing we had been able to stay another day.

At 29km, this was the longest walk, but went surprisingly quickly, as we crossed several hamlets and places of interest. The real challenge came near the end when the steep climb to the top, became a real test of fitness. There is an easier access, if you follow the sealed road, but we opted to stick to the pilgrim's route up a rocky outcrop that felt at times a little like mountain climbing. However the rewards were worth the effort. On reaching the top we make a dramatic entrance, through an archway into a vast, slab-paved courtyard, surrounded by stone buildings and thick, oval-shaped walls, supported by 14 massive towers, which the great poet, Dante Alighieri, describes. (*Inferno*31). A drizzle had started to fall and the surface of the deserted space was shimmering and eerily deserted. It looked quite surreal, not unlike a great movie set waiting to be filled with actors.

We felt like time-travellers entering a ghostly medieval world. But we were soon jolted back into the 21st century. As we took cover from the rain inside L'Osteria IL Feudo, we walked into a bar jam-packed with people, with eyes glued to a big TV screen, watching soccer.

Day 4 Monteriggioni to Siena

I ought to mention the dogs. On several points on passing farmhouses and gardens the dogs let us know that we were not welcome. Luckily they stayed on their side of the wall. On this occasion we took the wrong path and found ourselves in the courtyard of what looked like an abandoned farmhouse. It wasn't, and a pair of farm dogs materialized from behind a shrub and gave us chase. Our tired legs suddenly found remarkable vigour as we sprinted back to the road. Even so, one of the dogs caught up with us, but must have decided that we weren't worth the bother. Or maybe he was only interested in the chase. After giving us cursory sniff he

sauntered back to his companion. Relief! I realized that the long stick that our friend Lago carried wasn't simply for effect.

The rest of the walk to Siena was quite uneventful. After two days of clouds, the sun came out to lift the cover on a splendid June sky. And the smell of drying earth and vegetation accompanied us the rest of our way. We limped inside the famed Piazza del Campo, in Siena, with its glorious architecture and elegant cafes, feeling weary but truly happy. We had covered 90 kilometres in four days and loved every metre of it.

If you really want to experience Italy, walk it. In Tuscany you will be rewarded by a luminous landscape that inspired the great Renaissance masters. Maybe the real genius of Mona Lisa is not so much the enigmatic smile, but the landscape glowing through the window, lighting up the smile. Antonio Casella ©

Outdoor Travel offers 8 one-week walking sections along the Via Francigena from the Swiss Border to Rome. You can choose a single week through the region of your choice such as Tuscany or add multiple weeks in different sections ...or plan to enjoy the full 8-week route. Ask for details or see our website:

http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/the_via_francigena

TRIFLING WITH TRUFFLES IN FRANCE

Walking holidays in France with a gourmet theme

Dates of the Truffle Hop: 12th – 16th February and 19th – 23rd February 2011



As snow blankets Britain at the moment and temperatures drop towards the ice age I thought we should send a little message of escapism warmth and something to look forward to for those that love roaring fires, and fabulous food and healthy moments in deep rural France under the gentle wings of Diana (and me) and the watchful eye and cooking delights of Bernard and Eva Philippe!

This is a unique gastronomic shot in the height of the truffle season to allow you a chance to get to know this unique and hugely appetising king of fungi. At one thousand pounds sterling per kilo one could say that this is not a mushroom to be sniffed at. However, one sniff of a fresh truffle and you will want to dissolve and quite forget, like Keats, and leave the world unseen. Here you can hold the truffle, smell it, squeeze it, slice it, enjoy it. There is almost something Luciferian about this magic.

What happens over this long weekend?

- Dinners in front of a roaring fire in the charm of the Manoir of Le Vert where you stay
- The chef at our table to carve truffled filet of beef, and to *flambé* crepes suzette.
- Truffled lunch at James and Diana's house of *Poulet Demi Deuil*.
- Make your own truffled foie gras to take home with you. A prize delicacy.
- See how the pig hunts the truffle.
- Visit the world famous truffle market at Lalbenque.
- Excellent wines at Le Vert and from James' cellar.

This is totally unique and will brighten up those winter months. Fun, snug, informative and totally delicious, a treat for anyone who loves food and good company!

Later in the year we are proposing more walks in the wonderful Dordogne Quercy region in May 2011. We have decided to use the 4-star luxury of three nights at the pretty **Manoir d'Hautegente** with its charming frontage overlooking the River Coly. The cooking is excellent and we now have the most delightful waitress to serve us in French.

The chateau has an extraordinary story having been raised to the ground by the Germans for harbouring resistance fighters but was then rebuilt stone for stone by the family. The family go back generations and were determined not to be beaten! You cannot tell that it has been rebuilt at all. It's a wonderful place to relax after a day of walking. The Dordogne Quercy is a new itinerary designed to show the contrasts between these two beautiful ancient areas of the Dordogne and the Quercy. It also includes some **absolutely stunning views**. Both are distinctly different in landscape and architecture but both wrapped together by history and gastronomy.



For more details see: [France – Lot & Dordogne guided walks with a donkey 2011](#)

NEW ZEALAND - MILFORD TRACK GUIDED WALK 2011

Places still available:

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

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

See: [NZ - Milford Track guided walk, Grand Traverse, Routeburn Track 2011](#)

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 AVAILABLE ARE LIMITED – ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE TWIN or DOUBLE LODGE ROOMS WITH PRIVATE BATHROOMS - ASK NOW FOR 2011 AVAILABILITY

GENERAL TRAVEL NEWS

PLANNING A NARROWBOAT HOLIDAY ON THE RIVER AVON IN ENGLAND?

Did you realise you need a licence and that you can get your licence in advance from enquiries.hq@britishwaterways.co.uk or buy it from the lockmaster before you enter the River Avon.

There is a charge to go on the River Avon it all depends on the size of the boat and how long you want to be on the River for – here are an estimated of charges: 1 day £12.87, 1 week £23.48. For information on Outdoor Travel's narrowboat holidays

For boat hire see: [UK - Narrowboat Self-Skippered barge holidays - England, Wales & Scotland 2011](#)

WEATHER WARNING: UK weather forecast - be warned 2 feet of snow expected tonight:



NEW BED TAX IN ROME – To start from 1st January 2011

From: Italian Government Tourist Office

The City Council of Rome has approved the introduction of an accommodation tax in Rome. The tax will go towards better organising the city's urban services. It is payable by all people staying in accommodation in Rome at the conclusion of each stay, whether the booking was made before or after the 1st January. The tax also applies to those who have booked and paid for accommodation through a travel agent or tour operator.

Agriturismo / Farm stays or camping € 2 per person per night up to 10 days

B & B, room rental in private residences / Affitacamere, holiday homes € 2 per person per night up to 10 days

Hotels 1, 2, 3-star € 2 per person per night up to 10 days

4.5 stars Hotels € 3 per person per night up to 10 days

The approval process by the Council Regulation implementing the Capital is still ongoing and therefore the above taxes may be subject to slight variations.

THE CARNEVALE DI VIAREGGIO, TUSCANY – 20th & 27th February, 6th, 8th & 15th March 2011

The Carnevale di Viareggio is an annual event that takes place each year in the city of Viareggio in Tuscany. It is easily one of the most renowned carnival celebrations in not only Italy, but the whole of Europe, attracting more than a million spectators every year. The parades take place on the seaside avenues of Viareggio, known as *La Passeggiata*, a ring-like circuit 2km long where the floats move among the spectators, who can attend the show with no barriers, totally safe, becoming in turn the protagonists of the parade. Travelling theatres and giant paper-maché carnival floats are the protagonists of Viareggio Carnival's extraordinary parades and show unrivalled creativity, extraordinary sculptures and painting skills. The parades also include traditional folk music and performers with the original masks.

For further information visit <http://www.viareggio.ilcarnevale.com/>

TEN REASONS TO VISIT THE CHATEAU CHANTILLY IN FRANCE:

- The largest princely estate in France with 7800 hectares of forest
- The Château and the Condé museum with its prestigious collections
- The largest collection of classical paintings after the Louvre, masterpieces of Raphaël, Poussin, Ingres, Watteau, Delacroix...
- One of the most beautiful collections of valuable manuscripts
- The diversity of gardens: French-style, Anglo-Chinese, English, and the Hamlet...
- French-style gardens designed by André Le Nôtre, and the Hamlet, which inspired Queen Marie-Antoinette to build her own at Versailles
- The Grand Stables, considered among the most beautiful in the world, with its equestrian shows
- The nearby Chantilly racecourse with its legendary races as the famous Prix de Diane
- A gastronomic tradition: birthplace of the famous Chantilly cream and Vatel, the chef of the prince de Condé

Outdoor Travel offers a popular bike & barge cycling cruise on three different barges, which include the Chateau Chantilly: **France & Belgium - Bike & Barge from Bruges to Paris - Route of the Pilgrims 2011**

LONDON OLYMPICS 2012

Suggestions on how to sensitively extend a warm welcome to visitors from other countries in the run up to the 2012. Olympics have been issued by VisitBritain, the national tourism agency. These tips, written by VisitBritain staff that are natives of the countries featured, are based on the wealth of insight into the places visitors come from. Here are some examples:

- A smiling Japanese person is not necessarily happy. The Japanese tend to smile when angry, embarrassed, sad or disappointed. They may think it rude if you talk to them with your hands in your pockets. Avoid staring, as eye contact isn't generally considered polite. While sitting, try not to show the bottom of your shoes. Avoid being late for things and blowing your nose in front of someone is also likely to be considered rude.
- Be careful how you pour wine for an Argentinean. The whole process involves a number of social taboos and unless you understand them you could insult someone. For example, pouring wine backwards into a glass indicates hostility. Don't be offended by Argentinean humour, which may mildly attack your clothing or weight
- Avoid winking at someone from Hong Kong. Winking is often considered a rude gesture. Pointing with an index finger is not advisable as this is generally used only for animals. Point with your hand open. Hong Kong Chinese are very superstitious: mentioning failure, poverty or death risks offence.
- Remember Arabs are not used to being told what to do. Visitors from the United Arab Emirates can take great offence if you appear bossy. They appreciate being looked after by staff who have been trained to understand Arab culture. For example, it is culturally insensitive to ask an Emirati whether they want bacon with their eggs or to include a half bottle of wine with the table d'hote menu.
- Do not be alarmed if South Africans announce that they were held up by robots. To a South African the word robot means traffic lights. "Takkies" means trainers, a barbecue is a 'braai', and "howzit" is an informal way of saying hello. When in a social situation with a South African do not place your thumb between your forefinger and your second finger – it is an obscene gesture.
- Don't ask a Brazilian personal questions. Steer clear especially of such issues as age, salary, or marriage to someone from Brazil, Argentina's fierce rival.
- Avoid physical contact when first meeting someone from India. Being touched or approached too closely in initial meetings can be considered offensive, even if the intention is entirely innocent or friendly. Be tolerant if Indians at first seem impolite, noisy and impatient. This is partly the result of living in chaotic cities and environments. They usually appreciate orderliness when they see it.
- When meeting Mexicans it is best not to discuss poverty, illegal aliens, earthquakes or their 1845-6 war with America. Polite topics of conversation would be Mexican culture, history, art and museums instead. When demonstrating the height of something, be aware that holding the palm face down is reserved for animals. Burping out loud is considered very rude.
- Never call a Canadian an American. Canadians may take offence if labelled American. Some Canadians get so annoyed about being mistaken for US citizens they identify themselves by wearing a maple leaf as pin badge or as a symbol on their clothing.
- Do not take offence if an Australian or a New Zealander makes a joke about "Poms." It is more of a friendly endearment than an intended insult.
- Avoid saying "thank you" to a Chinese compliment. Instead, politely deny a compliment to show humility. If you compliment a Chinese person, expect a denial in reply. The Chinese are famous for communicating by "Saying it without saying it." You will have to learn to read between the lines. Use only black and white materials for presentations, as colours have significant meanings in Chinese culture.
- When accepting thanks Koreans will typically say "No, no ". The remark should be interpreted, as "You are welcome".

- Don't snap your fingers if you are with a Belgian. It may be interpreted as impolite. And avoid discussing personal matters or linguistic and political divisions within Belgium between Dutch and French speakers.
- Never imply Poles drink excessively. Despite stereotypes, Poles are not large consumers of alcohol and excessive drinking is frowned upon.

Any suggestions as to how these can be improved would be welcome.....

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

Vaguely travel related & with absolutely no ownership claim to any of these:

Dijon vu. Is that the same mustard again?

Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are they in Seine.

After thirty years of marriage to Florence, Jim the plumber left his wife. The note on the table read 'It's over Flo'

My wife just accused me of being unfaithful with some Welsh woman, from the town in Wales called Lianfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndroblllantysiliogogoch. How could she say that?

Native American announces to his chief, he has just married an older squaw called 5 horses. The chief asks " why the name 5 horses, is it because she loves the 4 legged beasts?" The brave answers "No, nag nag nag nag nag!!!!"

When egotists meet, does it mean an I for an I?

If you don't pay your exorcist, do you get repossessed?

Report coming in, a man fell into an upholstery machine, but has now fully recovered!

I had a long piece of wood on a wall where all my Dusty Springfield records were, now they have gone, 'I just don't know what to do with my shelf'

I'm walking along minding my own business and somebody throws a huge block of cheese at me, I thought, "That's not very mature"

TALL SHIP SAILING

Soren Larsen in Vanuatu

Enjoy these journeys of discovery: <http://www.smh.com.au/travel/tall-theses-and-true-20101021-16v79.html>

Short voyages in New Zealand over summer, Pacific island the Sydney to Auckland – places are limited see: **Australia & Pacific Islands - Tall Ship Søren Larsen Adventures 2011**

THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD – VICTORIA'S MOST SCENIC COASTLINE

3-day / 2-night photographic workshops with David Hugh Evans

Departs: 11th February, 15th April, 20th May 2011

Price: A\$1650.00 per person. Single rooms are available with a share bathroom at no extra cost

Includes: All meals, accommodation, transport and tuition are included in the price of your trip.

With a little effort can come great rewards? And so it follows to get the best photographs of the Great Ocean Road you have to get out and walk a little. Combine a walking tour **and** learn from award winning Australian photographer David Hugh Evans on one of our 2011 photographic workshops. Get up close and personal with the iconic Great Ocean Walk while experiencing small group tuition with one of the best in the business.

Designed for keen amateur Digital SLR users and intermediate enthusiasts alike, these 3-day journeys will combine your photography hobby with short hikes and stunning subjects. Be rewarded with practical skills and holiday pictures worthy of publishing. Our guides walk the trail every other day, and have come to know some hidden gems of this wonderful region so why not join us for an insider's view of the spectacular coastline.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



The trip will consist of at least 6 half-day workshop modules. Each day or evening, David and the Outdoor Travel's guide will choose the modules to undertake based on what the weather is doing and what you told us you'd like to learn.

The sections of the Great Ocean Walk we use have been chosen to provide an outdoor classroom for particular photography techniques. We have also made sure they have good road access so you don't have to carry your gear too far. Most of the sessions will run for around 3 hours.

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Pick-up at 8.00am in central Melbourne, then transfer to the walking lodge via the Great Ocean Road. Here we will have an initial discussion about the outlook for the next 2 ½ days over lunch. PM: afternoon workshop session Overnight: Outdoor Travel's walking lodge (2 nights)

Day 2: AM: Workshop session
PM: Workshop session
Afternoon or evening review of images with laptop and data projector in the lounge

Day 3: AM Workshop session
PM: Lunch then return to Melbourne in time for 8pm flights from Tullamarine Airport.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

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 or see **What's New – New Holiday Ideas** on our website:

Austria & Switzerland - Inn Valley Bike Trail - self-guided cycling 2011

England - South Downs Abingworth - one-hotel guided walk 2011

France – Cooking courses & quality hotel accommodation in Provence 2011

France - Provence and the Camargue hotel barge cruising on the Rhone 2011

Italy - Chianti - Horse Riding holidays 2011

Italy - Cinque Terre Bonassola - one-hotel guided walks 2011

Italy - Umbria from Assisi – self-guided cycling 2011

Jordan, Egypt & Sinai - Bike and Boat - 2011

Portugal & Spain - Self-guided pilgrimage walk along Camino Portugués 2011

Romania - Bike and Boat - Danube Delta 2011

How do you get to these places? 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

SELF-SKIPPERED BOATING IN FRANCE: We returned from France on Sunday after a fabulous trip – on the Canal du Midi - have already recommended it to about 10 people! The canal is truly one of the great trips of the world and certainly one of the very best I have been on. Many thanks for all your help it was much appreciated. **Mike**

BIKE & BOAT CROATIA: Well here we are at the end of another tour *PEARLS OF SOUTHERN DALMATIA*. I have to say that it was one of the hardest things I have ever physically done, but also one of the most enjoyable. The trip is highly recommended. Kapetan JURE was a terrific boat to sail on & the Captain and crew were excellent. The two tour guides were probably amongst the best we have ever encountered (Thoralf & Elvis). Praise for the professional way they went about making us all comfortable. **Andy**

BIKE & BOAT CROATIA: It was a first class holiday, ALL of it. **Justine**

WALKING ENGLAND COAST TO COAST: We would like to thank you for the organisation of the wonderful walk that we did through you. The accommodation and the delivery of our bags was faultless. **Lynne**

WALKING IN FRANCE: We thoroughly enjoyed St Bonnet, despite the fact that Robyn and I were the only English speaking guests and that our French was very limited or non-existent. The atmosphere, walks, walk leaders and the local food were all of a high standard. Dick and Melanie who led the majority of the walks were knowledgeable and informative. The family atmosphere made for a very satisfying week. **Fred & Robyn**

WALKING CAMINO DE SANTIAGO – FRANCE: We had a great time...the walk was challenging at times, absolutely fascinating and delightful. It was fun meeting up with the two Qld girls who booked through you. The food was exceptional at times and always the regional variation was really enjoyable. And of course the accommodation ranged from marble and beautiful views to the adequate, however all were most welcome at the end of a long day. Our bags arrived like clockwork, safe and secure...great service. All the arrangements set up by you were perfect. Thank you. Cheers **Di**

WALKING CAMINO DE SANTIAGO – SPAIN: It was fantastic and the walk went without a hitch. Each hotel was expecting us when we arrived hot, smelly and thirsty; and our bags showed up every time. Everything was organised, no problem. **Anne**

AIRFARE BARGAINS TO EUROPE & AROUND THE WORLD

Outdoor Travel have access to a wide range of airlines and airfares - including Economy, Premium Economy (with more legroom) and Business & First Class fares to all destinations including the UK and Europe, New Zealand, Vietnam, the USA or Canada and more.

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.

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 the end of 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 here to buy SURESAVE travel Insurance](#)

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

Seethe Michelin Guide link on our Active Europe page: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/europe>

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

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

Want help finding you way around Australia see <http://www.travelmate.com.au/> for Travel Mate Mapmaker.

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

THE TEAM AT OUTDOOR TRAVEL

Based in Bright in NE Victoria



Call our travel experts to talk about our personal recollections and experience – as we regularly visit the areas we offer – call Lucie, Yvette, Sue, Alison, Anna, Martyn and Katherine on (03) 57 501441 or 1800 331 582



ORDER OUR TRAVEL BROCHURES FOR 2011

Please tick below & email, fax or post your brochure request & we will send the new brochures to you:

EUROPE

- CAMINO DE SANTIAGO – Walking or cycling the Way of St James (France or Spain)
- GO BARGING – EUROPEAN WATERWAYS – Hotel Barges in France, Germany, UK & Ireland
- BEAUTIFUL BOATING HOLIDAYS - Self-skippered France, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Italy, UK
- CASTELLARE DI TONDA – Tuscan farmhouse self-contained apartments
- NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, VIETNAM OR INDIA Cycling Tours
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- MILFORD TRACK GUIDED OR FREEDOM WALK OR THE 8-DAY ULTIMATE HIKE
- GRAND TRAVERSE
- ABEL TASMAN WALKING OR SEA-KAYAKING
- HOLLYFORD VALLEY WALK
- TONGARIRO TREK
- ROUTEBURN WALK

AIRFARES – Please quote for flights as follows:

From: To: Class:

Departing: One-way / Return (please indicate)

NAME: DAYTIME CONTACT:

ADDRESS: P'CODE: EMAIL ADDRESS:

OTHER REQUESTS:

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Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details, travel brochures and reservations:

Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020

Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au

Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/>

Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright 3741

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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 of carbon emissions and the use of cars, buses, trains, boats and planes and of power generation we at **Outdoor Travel** believe we all have a responsibility to try to monitor and reduce our carbon emissions and the use of energy - not only in the business we do but in the way we do business.

We recycle all our paper, plastics and print cartridges, our letterhead is on 'conservation' recycled paper, we use low energy equipment, turn-off un-necessary appliances – including our hot-water system, we cycle to work when possible and are very conscious of waste – especially wasting water during this period of drought. We look for new ways to improve and to help our customers improve in ways that will help the environment. Around the globe there have been some creative new information sites that can give you some ideas about how you can look at a personal contribution.

We don't endorse any of these options and cannot vouch for their effectiveness or credibility but here are three options that may make a difference and make very interesting reading:



Offsets made simple - 'CARBON OFFSETTING EXPLAINED.....'

Each time we heat our homes, take a flight or drive the car, CO₂ is added into the atmosphere. CO₂ is a greenhouse gas that is released when fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal are burnt.

Offsetting means paying someone to reduce CO₂ in the atmosphere by the same amount that your activities add. In this way you can 'neutralise' or 'balance' the CO₂ added by your activities.

Climate Care offsets your CO₂ by funding **projects** around the world. These can be in:

- Renewable energy – this replaces non-renewable fuel such as coal
- Energy efficiency – this reduces the amount of fuel needed
- Forest restoration – this absorbs CO₂ from the atmosphere as the trees grow

So as well as taking steps to reduce your 'carbon footprint' you can offset what remains, helping to promote low-carbon technologies where they make the most impact.

Find out more about **buying offsets**, or **our approach** to carbon reduction projects.

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.....

LocalCooling is a 100% free power management tool from Uniblue Labs that allows users to optimise their energy savings in minutes and as a result reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions.

What Does The LocalCooling Application Do?

Download the 100% Free LocalCooling Application and it automatically optimises your PC's power consumption by using a more effective power save mode. You will be able to see your savings in real-time translated to more environmental terms such as how many trees and gallons of oil you have saved.

Local Cooling will:

- Cut your energy bills.
- Reduce the amount of Greenhouse Gas CO2 emissions as a result of your reduced PC power consumption.
- Give you full control over your power mode settings.
- Improve your overall computing experience and efficiency.
- Show you in detail how much you have saved since installing the software.

[Learn more](#) about the [LocalCooling](#) Application and how it will help you save energy!

Help Us Grow the LocalCooling Community

The 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://localcooling.com/facts/> and please spread the word



A <http://www.treesmart.com.au> 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 eucalyptus trees. The **TreeSmart** program is different to some other carbon sequestration programs that plant trees and leave them un-maintained as a perpetual forest.

Research by TreeSmart Australia has shown that plantations that are harvested on a regular rotation can absorb more CO2 over their lifetime than can a perpetual forest, when one counts the carbon still sequestered in timber products derived from the plantation, or the reduction in fossil fuel use as a result of using the harvested timber as fuel wood. They can also do this more cost-effectively because the cost of planting is subsidised by the revenue obtained from the harvest.

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 eucalyptus trees grown for eventual harvesting and replanting.

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

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details - call (03) 57551743 or Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au