

VENICE & THE PO RIVER DELTA, FISHING VILLAGES & THE LAGOON

8-day / 7-night **DELUXE** or **PREMIER** cycling cruises from Venice to Mantova or return



Departs: **Premier:** Weekly every Saturday from 24th March to 27th October 2012 (**early bookings essential**)

Deluxe: Weekly every Sunday from 29th April to 21st October 2012 (**early bookings essential**)

Cost: **Premier:** AU\$1695 per person twin share Single cabin supplement \$470 (triples on request)

Deluxe: AU\$1595 per person twin share Single cabin supplement \$630 (triples on request)

Includes: Breakfast, picnic lunch and dinner, linen with towels, bicycle hire with panniers (we recommend you take your own helmet but they are available onboard), tour guide, route information, bus transfer from Ferrara - Zelo / Ferrara – Adria to allow traditional *Grano Padano* cheese-tasting.

Not Included: Entrance fees, transfer to / from the barge, drinks on board or any additional personal expenses.

Bike & Barge cruises combines two popular ways of exploring Europe (cycling and river cruising), 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 with your own bathroom. 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.

Following on the successes of our Bike & Barge tours in Europe we offer two barges with 11 (deluxe) or 17 (premier) cabins each with twin beds and a private bathroom with a shower and toilet. The barges also have a saloon with bar / restaurant and there is a spacious outside deck area ideal for relaxing and sightseeing.

The **city of Venice** has been a mecca for tourist for centuries and still today is a '*must see*' inclusion on any itinerary for Italy. We stay overnight in Venice with free time for you to explore the city.

Few can explore the Venice Lagoon, as it can only be done by boat, or the Brenta Canal with its many splendid villas, market towns and colourful fishing villages along the River Po delta, places important for trade since the time of the ancient Greeks. Our cycling itinerary winds its way along the Mincio and Po, deep into untouched rural Italian countryside through land reclaimed from the marshes over many centuries. Now framed by pine-forests and polders this area is a haven for numerous birds and animals. We can discover local fish markets, and sandy beach resorts, see romantic villas, ancient castles and cultural centres, taste typical cheeses, Italian cuisine and of course thye wine before arriving at the beautiful city of Mantova.

In low-water periods, the River Po is navigable only from the estuary to Polesella so we have an alternative route along the Fissero / Bianco canal, which runs parallel to the Po. The tour itinerary offers mostly flat terrain and the daily cycling stages are easily achieved varying from 28km to 55km. Much of the riding is along towpaths beside rivers and canals, on sealed cycle paths or roads with a low volume of car traffic. The barges will often sail during breakfast or during the evening meal to make leaving busier towns easier or to shorten the cycling stages.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



On alternate weeks departures are from Venice to Mantova and this itinerary needs to be read in reverse order:

Suggested itinerary – may be subject to change:

Day 1 Mantova The boat is moored at Porto Catena near the town centre and cabins are available from 4pm.

Day 2 Mantova – Governolo – Zelo (@ 50Km cycling). The boat takes you to Governolo, stronghold of the Mincio Pirates, where there is the biggest inland basin of Italy, built to control the Mincio River. From here we start to ride following the River Po until the village of Ostiglia, with the ruins of a medieval fortress. Following the 'Canal Bianco' we reach Zelo, where the barge will be moored, in time for a shower and dinner on-board.

Day 3 Zelo – Ferrara – Adria (@ 50Km cycling +60Km by bus). After breakfast we cycle towards Ferrara – known as the "city of bicycles" - still surrounded by the old city walls, with time to explore the historical centre. From Ferrara a bus transfer will bring us to Adria, an ancient Greek port, once famous for trading in amber that was collected in the Baltic region of northern Europe.

Day 4 Adria – Porto Viro – Albarella (@ 35 or 55Km). We cruise this morning to Porto Viro and ride into the maze that is the Po River Delta, a natural paradise of marshes and lagoons. Bird watching and nature is a highlight of the day and the cycling mostly flat. The destination today is Albarella, a private island with again an ancient history. In case of low water we start cycling directly from Adria – a longer route approximately 55km.

Day 5 Albarella – Chioggia (@ 40Km cycling). Suspended between water and land we pedal between the Po River Delta and the mouth of the River Adige. We follow the Po-Brondolo waterway, which links the river to the Venetian lagoon. We stay overnight in the port of Chioggia; famous as "the little Venice". A visit to the fish market here at dawn is an absolute 'must'.

Day 6 Chioggia – Venice (@ 30Km cycling). The boat cruises to the Nature Reserve of *Ca' Roman*, a small sandy island surrounded by pine trees. Cycling beside the lagoon, we reach Pellestrina and, from here, we ride on the new cycle path to the ferry landing stage for a short ferryboat ride to Lido Island and along the 'Murazzi' - with a stop in the ancient harbour of Malamocco. We overnight at the Island of Giudecca, not far from the centre of Venice and St. Mark's Square, with an amazing view of the lagoon.

Day 7 Venice. Free day. Wake to wonderful views across the lagoon, today you have the whole day at your disposal. Discover the magnificent historical center of the capital of the "Repubblica Serenissima", or some of the many wonderful islands in the lagoon. Ask about tickets allowing you to use the ferryboat transport network around Venice and many nearby islands, spend the day shopping or simply relax with a book on deck in the sun.

Day 8 Tour ends in Venice The tour arrangements end after breakfast.

Please note: We offer this tour as a Bike & Barge tour but you can decide each day if you want to join the bike ride or not. On some days cycling distances can be adjusted according to your interests or abilities.

Outdoor Travel offers Bike & Barge cycling cruises to Loire Valley, Provence and Burgundy in France, routes in Holland and Belgium, in Germany along the Saar, Moselle or Rhine or around Berlin or along the Danube. And Bike and Boat cycling cruises along the spectacular Dalmatian coast of Croatia, to the islands of Tuscany, Greece or Turkey and in Vietnam.

Contact our experienced OUTDOOR TRAVEL staff 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 VIC 3741, Australia
- Travel Agent Licence No 31102



OUTDOOR TRAVEL - Bike & Barge Booking Form 2012

Mail to: OUTDOOR TRAVEL Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright
Vic 3741, Australia. Fax: +61 (03) 57 501 020

Travel Agent:

Title	Surname	First Name	Date of Birth	Home-Telephone	Occupation	Your Height

Tour Selected	Departure Date	Tour Start Point	Depart Australia

Accommodation	No. of Nights	Check-in	Check-out	Twin/Double Single/Triple

Please confirm flights for us as follows:	Date	From/To	Number of seats

Home contact address - to which all correspondence should be sent

Next of kin - Address & telephone

Additional Requirements
Travel Insurance is required - do you wish us to forward details?
 Yes No

Special Requests
Are you a vegetarian?
Do you have any special medical conditions we should know about?

How did you hear about Outdoor Travel Holidays?
 Advertisement
 Travel Agent
 Friend

I have read the general information. I understand and accept the Booking conditions on behalf of all the people named on this form.

Signature _____
Date _____

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Please read this carefully. It sets out your agreement with OUTDOOR TRAVEL PTY LTD and with their tour operators and agents. It contains important terms designed to protect your interests. You should also read any 'General information' in the brochure.

1 Outdoor Travel's Responsibilities

OUTDOOR TRAVEL PTY LTD is a fully licensed travel agency and a member of the Australian Travel Compensation Fund. In Australia consumers have a right to compensation if services are not provided with due care and skill or if services are not reasonably fit for a particular purpose made known to the consumer.

OUTDOOR TRAVEL PTY LTD, including the owners, officers and employees give notice that they act only as agents for the operators who arrange the services described in this brochure.

2 Acceptance - tour deposit is 40% of cruise cost

Your contract only comes into effect once OUTDOOR TRAVEL PTY LTD have BOTH received your booking form with your deposit (or full payment in the case of a late booking) AND issued the confirmation invoice. This contract is governed by the law in the State of Victoria.

3 Surcharges

The price of your holiday may be subject to increases in costs due to currency fluctuations or government action.

4 Balance Payment / Late Bookings

Our confirmation invoice shows the total holiday cost for the services to be provided. The balance must be paid 100 days prior to your holiday departure date (unless the booking is made less than 100 days prior to departure in which case the full holiday cost must be paid at the time of booking). If the balance is not received by the due date we reserve the right to cancel your booking and apply cancellation charges.

5 Cancellation / Alterations

A You may change your holiday, subject to the operators consent up to 100 days before departure; there will be an administration fee of \$75 per person in this event. Less than 100 days before departure, all changes will be treated as cancellations and re-bookings, and the cancellation charges in paragraph 5B will apply.

B Should you be compelled to cancel your holiday you must notify OUTDOOR TRAVEL PTY LTD immediately in writing. We reserve the right to claim for estimated losses on the following scale, expressed as a percentage of the total holiday cost invoiced, and based on the date we receive your written cancellation:

More than 100 days before departure - deposit only
100 - 60 days before departure - 60% of holiday cost
59 - 30 days before departure - 80% of holiday costs
Less than 30 days before departure - 100% of holiday costs

C We may through force major (unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control, the consequences of which could not have been foreseen even with the exercise of due care) be required to cancel or make material alteration to your holiday. In this unlikely event we will inform you as soon as possible and offer you the choice of an alternative available holiday (any cost difference being charged / refunded) or a prompt and full refund of all monies paid.

6 Your Responsibilities

A Active holidays can be hazardous if you behave foolishly so don't take risks! In the interests of safety, you undertake to follow the advice of the tour operator, guide or representative; comply with any local codes of conduct; and act sensibly and prudently at all times. You also agree to indemnify OUTDOOR TRAVEL PTY LTD its owners, officers and employees for all losses and / or damage arising from any act or default on your part or the part of a member of your party.

B It is your responsibility to ensure your travel documents ie valid passport, driving licence, visas etc are in order.

7 Assumption of Risk

You acknowledge with the completion of the booking form by yourself or your representative that the activities you propose to undertake in addition to usual and risks inherent may have potential additional hazards including physical exertion, remoteness from medical facilities, weather extremes and limited evacuation facilities. These risks may include personal injury, disease or death, delays of whatever sort including transportation, loss or damage to property, equipment failure or the activity itself.

You acknowledge that alterations to the scheduled itinerary or activity may be made as necessitated by weather, group size, road transport, land closures or illness.

You acknowledge that the enjoyment of these activities is derived in part from the inherent risks involved or in part from travel beyond the safety risks of life at work or at home. You acknowledge that these inherent risks are the reason for your participation and you assume all the risks associated with the activity or holiday.

8 Holiday Insurance

It is a condition of booking that you are adequately insured. Ask OUTDOOR TRAVEL or your travel agent for further details.

9 Complaints

If you have a complaint whilst on holiday you must report it at the time to the tour operator, guide or accommodation provider to enable it to be put right. If you feel it is serious, you must also notify us at the time by telephone or fax.

10 Air Carriage

Flights in this brochure are based on scheduled economy services of any airline mentioned. This brochure is the sole responsibility of Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd and does not commit any airline whose services are used.

11 Validity

These tour conditions are valid from 1st July 2011 until 31st December 2012.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Health & Fitness Requirements - Please choose a holiday within your capabilities - ask our staff if you are unsure what is required. The fitter and better prepared you are the more enjoyable it will be. However most of our holidays require only reasonable fitness and good health. If you are unsure about your fitness or how any pre-existing medical condition may affect an active holiday please consult your doctor before making a reservation.

Weather Conditions - On coastal waters, lakes, rivers and on land conditions do from time to time prevent the operators from completing the advertised programs. The decision is normally made by the tour leader or captain at the time and is made in the best interests and safety of the group as a whole. Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd and / or our contracted operators can not be held responsible for these changes or any additional costs or expenses generated as a result of any changes to the schedule.

Child Prices and Policy - Many of our holidays are suitable for children. Please apply for a child's price if it is not shown. Children's prices are based on sharing with at least one full paying adult. Minimum age stipulations must be adhered to for the safety and comfort of the entire group.

Minimum Group Size - All group tours operate with a minimum number of participants. We reserve the right to cancel tours if the minimum number is not reached.

Prices - All prices are quoted in Australian dollars per adult person unless otherwise stated. They are correct at the time of printing.

Itineraries - These may have been edited to fit the page where they are described - please ask if you require a full or more detailed itinerary.