



OUTLINES NEWSLETTER

September 2011

"Not all those who wander are lost" – J. R. R. Tolkien

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

WALKING ON THE AMALFI COAST IN ITALY

By John Millen

Two things really strike you as you stride out on a walk along the Amalfi Coast, firstly the exquisite beauty of the landscape: an amazing confused juxtaposition of cliffs, citrus and vine terraces and pastel ivory coloured settlements tumbling into the endless sea. The American writer, Gore Vidal claimed that from Ravello's 'Terrace dell'Infinito' above Atrani, one could enjoy the most beautiful views in the World. The second thing is the sheer number of finely chiselled and carefully fitted limestone stairways, which thread the towns together with their hinterland mountain hamlets, monastic complexes and pastures. Exasperating for some maybe, but these steps don't hang around, they soon take you up to those beautiful viewpoints overlooking the Sorrento Peninsula as far as the island of Capri to the west and to the big peaks of the Cilento National Park to the east.

There is an amazing undulating cliff side trail that skirts the coast appropriately named the 'Sentiero degli Dei' or 'The Path of the Gods', you get there, of course, by climbing lots of steps, but once there the trail contours around the mountain sides beautifully dipping into little forested valleys, past vine terraces; around cliff heads the colour and texture of gingerbread biscuit; and through villages such as Nocelle with its attractive 'Trattoria' restaurant.

I am here to meet up with our local representatives and am treated to an evening meal at one of our young lady's houses. She had just been up to her parents and had freshly cut stinging nettles to prepare for the salad. It takes a bit of boiling but the result is like very tasty Spinach. We also try the local wine, a Ravello, which hits the mark being youthful and fruity. There are many good restaurants along the route: the best ones seem to be the small family establishments such as 'Risto' in 'Piazza Di Dogi, Amalfi which specializes in a home made flattened pasta called 'Scialatielli'. It looks like tapeworm, but don't let that put you off! One thing about eating out on the route, unless you are going to eat pizza, most of the cuisine and especially the wines, come at a price: the sheer popularity and the 'glitterati' from Rome or Napoli, guarantee that the Euros keep jangling in the pockets.

I am very impressed by the walks however. Away from the towns you are unlikely to see many people: Maybe it is early in the year, but the warm, oblique sunlight is beautiful, illuminating the coast and the high limestone summits beyond.

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Away from the coast there are high routes tracing behind the towns into the 'Valle delle Ferriere' an attractive nature reserve, passing by little waterfalls. Then there is a walk along a valley of paper mill ruins; 'Vallee de Mulini' and Amalfi still has a working example of this industry.

You will see a lot of Arabesque influence in the architecture of the area, just visit St. Andrews Cathedral to discover the 'Paradise Cloisters', an Arab like construction with interlaced arches and delicate columns containing a palm garden. To take a break from the walking; both Amalfi and Positano have reasonably clean dark sand beaches for a swim, and Praiano also has access to the sea. You could of course spend your time strolling along the alleys, under passages, through the intestines of these little cities. Atrani is connected to Amalfi by an alley walk, which takes you via the ancient cemetery to perhaps the most outstanding viewpoint over the town and its polychromatic ceramic tiled church roof.

On the way back I made use of an extra day to visit Napoli a huge sprawling metropolis, the third largest in Italy. It can appear graffiti ridden, run down, traffic congested, litter strewn and crime affected. But don't let this deter you! Naples is rather like an onion, peel off the grimy surface and there are some amazing layers underneath, not least is its famous archaeological museum, which contains many of the more precious finds from Pompei and Ercolanum. On that note an extra day presents an opportunity to take the little 'Circumvesuviana' railway and visit these tremendous sites.

Self-guided walks along the Amalfi Coast trip are available to start daily from March until the end of November - see: [Italy - Amalfi Coast 8 or 11-day self-guided walk](#)

A PERSONAL JOURNAL – THE GREAT OCEAN WALK 3-DAY WALK

By Outdoor Travel staff member - Yvette van Urk

Sunday: We were met in central Melbourne and after the introductions and a quick explanation on what to expect in the next few hours, we were on our way towards Lorne - where morning coffee was waiting for us – and we saw koala's along the way to Blanket Bay for the start of the walk.

The Great Ocean Walk starts at Apollo Bay and runs all the way to the West to the 12 Apostles. Blanket Bay our base for 2-nights is just a 15-minute ride further.

Here we met Troy, who had lunch ready and all our gear laid-out to get started. The weather was just fantastic, not too warm, and the sun was just starting the peek through the cloud cover.

Lunch was a tuna pasta salad, prepared by the chef at our lodge. Followed by a cool drink and some sweets after. It was quite lovely to sit outside and have a good chat to everyone. Kate gave us further instructions and after we were decked out with gaiters, walking poles, backpacks with rain jacket, fly net, and water bottle, we were on our walking way. Kate was going to be our guide for the 3 days and Troy the driver.

It was so nice not to have to worry about all our gear, all was taken away and we only had with us, what was required for the day.

The bush path snaked itself through the dense undergrowth, full with native flowers and vegetation. I must say I stopped a number of times, just to check out the beautiful tiny flowers. The miniature orchids were just perfect. After a while we did get to see glimpses of the ocean. It felt lovely to be so close to nature, with grass trees brushing up against your legs constantly, but thank goodness that I was wearing those gaiters.

We arrived at the Parker Estuary and the bay was just beautiful and we had to cross this river by stepping over logs to keep our feet dry. The views were just stunning; I could have stayed just absorbing the beauty of it all. Kate warned us that there were quite a few steps coming up, around 200. Someone was running, I took my time and stopped once or twice. The reward at the top was more stunning sea views.

At the end of our walking day we saw the lighthouse in the distance and, after checking out the telegraph house, we all climbed to the top of the oldest lighthouse on Australia's mainland. We met a lovely old guy who told us the story of the lighthouse. Then Troy took us back to the lodge.

Nestled away from just about everything is the beautiful Eco Lodge. Daniel, our chef and Gavin the manager, welcomed us. We were all given our own crocs shoes, in the drying room and left our tired boots behind. It all

felt so clean and well kept. We were led to our rooms and these were just beautiful. Ours offered two singles, divided in two, to give us our privacy. We shared the bathroom, but what a clever idea to add a room divider. The common room is a big large area with inviting couches and large redwood dining table surrounded by glass windows, which open during warmer weather. We were invited for afternoon tea before taking a foot spa in the huge big bowls sitting on the deck, which was heavenly.

Dinner was at 6pm, starting with canapés and some beautiful wine. We were served a beautiful entrée of pear, walnut and blue cheese salad, followed by crispy duck on pumpkin puree and crème brûlée, all just perfect. Daniel our chef proved talented and a very entertaining host.

It was just a lovely night with perfect company and no TV or music, just peaceful and quiet.

Monday: Breakfast was served at 7 am. Daniel had taken the orders the evening before and everyone ordered porridge but me, I had French toast with raspberries and maple syrup.

Timing is everything when you're on a scheduled tour. By 7.45am we all were in the van to get transported to the start of today's walk. We all had collected our pre-made lunches and thermos flasks for morning coffee. Today we started out at Melanesia Beach. The weather forecast was a quite warm morning and afternoon rain.

We walked through pockets of dense rainforest with lots of different species of plants. Most of the flowers were small and delicate. Pretty little orchids were on show too. Soon the pathways opened up and the ocean was in sight. Again was just beautiful. Our group was bonding very well, and it was nice to meet people in a different and relaxed environment.

The walk along the beach was peacefully with kangaroos grazing on the lush grasses that almost touch the ocean. The pathway took us high and deeper into the rainforest and coffee time was just around the corner with healthy goodies.

The most impressive plant is the grasstree with its long spiky growth and there were majestic tree ferns everywhere.

It started to drizzle but the temperature was still good. After more climbing and descending along the windy pathways we came to our lunch stop a picnic hut, with a handy compost toilet nearby. Lunch was just awesome, beef and rice noodle salad with sweet chilli sauce, juice and some sweets. The salad was again loaded with goodies.

The Otway National Park is just a beautiful place. Some of the areas we walked were so steep that stairways were installed, looking up made you realise how much climbing we had to do. At the end again a much-deserved reward, stunning views in the most spectacular setting. It was like a painting, the blues of the ocean framed with the beauty of the lush greens and the nice sky with some dotted clouds. Like you see in the photo books. Such an achievement to see it for real, as you can only get there on foot.

By the mid afternoon everyone became quieter, most of us were tired and ready for those beautiful foot spas at the lodge, we so deserved one today. Luckily we did not have to go that much further as the end was in sight and what a sight it was, the views sprawled out again over 190 degrees over not only the aqua blue ocean with its waves belting the rocks and beaches.

Troy has drinks ready for us. Kate made sure we did some stretching exercises and we were on our way to the lodge where we were welcomed with drinks and afternoon tea.

After pre dinner drinks and canapés, we had our 3-course dinner. The very knowledgeable Troy was our host today and dinner was just superb, chunky vegetable soup, followed by lamb cutlets on a bed of scalloped potatoes followed by a refreshing gelati.

Troy then had a surprise for us as a creek on the property has some special inhabitants. Wrapped in our jackets, we set off in the dark with torches down to the creek. Thousands of tiny blue lights lit up in the night as this is the largest colony of above ground glow-worms in Australia.

We returned to the lodge for a glass of wine and then bed just at the thunderstorm set in for the night.

Tuesday: Our last morning at the lodge and Daniel made us a breakfast of poached eggs on toast with mushrooms, lovely with a good cup of coffee. It was overcast and cold; we decided to put on our jackets when

we arrived at Johanna beach to start the morning walk. We walked along the beach through dense vegetation. The wet weather brought out all the insects and I saw the value of the fly net we had been supplied. It was pretty to walk closer to the waters edge, sandier then the day before and a gentle undulation path, easy walking. I kept the pace going. Stopping along the way to take photos of pretty flowers and even a wallaby. Now and then we had sensational views of the ocean and we felt how windy it was.

Our walk along the beach was interesting, I loved it, with the wind belting us in the face, so you could almost lean into the wind without falling down. To enjoy the views, I had to look back it was certainly a treat. The coastline was spectacular again. We crossed a river towards the end of the beach walk. The wilder weather made it a little challenging. Shoes had to come off to keep these dry. I walked through without any wave problems, lucky I guess. Others had to make sure they did not get wet higher than the knees. All made it easily.

Today we had a beautiful couscous salad full with greens and chicken. I couldn't finish it. The Anzac cookies were just superb. Sitting down for a while, I realised that it was getting colder.

Onward to the last part of our walk, luckily we left the wet weather behind. Still chilly enough to keep the jackets on, we were on our way again. This time it was rockier ground and more out in the open. We were told that we would be able to see the 12 apostles very soon.

The walk was a bit more strenuous; we had some 1-½ hours to go and in the distance the rock stacks (apostles) stood out in the rough ocean, and they became closer and closer. At the end post we all took photos and Troy was there to greet us with champagne to celebrate the achievement of the 3-day walk. How lovely to end this way.

We arrived back in Melbourne, right on time at about 7.00pm. I enjoyed it thoroughly and realised again how much beauty this country has to offer us. This 3-day Great Ocean Walk was a fantastic way to experience a challenging walk in some comfort. All was arranged to perfection, and the service and quality / knowledge of the staff was just outstanding. The lodge is in a superb location, ideally placed to avoid long trips in the van, and build with a lot of thought making it very comfortable, inviting and eco-friendly.

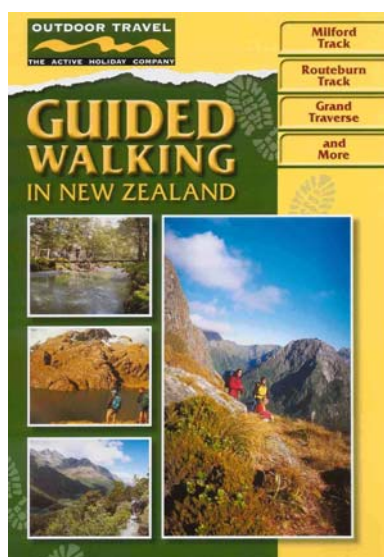
Our host and other staff at the lodge made us all feel very welcome and made sure that all were looked after perfectly. I certainly encourage everyone keen on walking to try it for him or herself.

Outdoor Travel offer 3, 4 or 5-day walks on the Great Ocean walk – but space is very limited and early bookings are essential – see:

http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2011/Australia_Great_Ocean_Walk_2011-12.pdf

NEW BROCHURE – NEW ZEALAND GUIDED WALKS

Includes the Milford Sound Track



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LUXURY HOTEL BARGE RIVER CRUISES IN FRANCE

BURGUNDY CRUISING FROM AUXERRE

7-day / 6-night cruising and sightseeing – departs weekly April to November – includes Paris transfers



Departs: Inclusive transfers to/from Paris every Sunday from 8th April to 3rd November 2012

Cost: \$3650 per person twin share (value season on select dates in April, July & October)
\$3950 per person twin share (regular season – all other dates)

Single cabin: Limited single use cabins available from \$3650 - \$3950

Starting in the beautiful Yonne region, we cruise the River Yonne past Chablis, Avalon and Vézelay to Clemency in the heart of Burgundy. Interwoven with sections of the Nivernais canal, we cruise through 35 locks, past a succession of pretty stone-built villages along a waterway once used for floating timber and wine barrels downstream to Paris. We follow the path taken by Romans and pilgrims past Charolais cows grazing in the lush green meadows beside this enchanting waterway.

Our journey to our traditional French (but English managed) hotel barge starts with a bus transfer from our meeting point in central Paris to Auxerre. The barge accommodates up to 14 guests in eight individually air-conditioned cabins (three have double beds that can be converted into twins, three have a twin bed layout and there are also two single cabins). Each cabin has its own private bathroom.

Meals on board the barge are treasured times, opportunities to share with friends — old and new — a summer luncheon or candlelit dinner. Our chef is encouraged to be innovative and imaginative, creating French cuisine with a contemporary twist using fresh local ingredients. Breakfast offers freshly baked croissants, pastries and bread. Lunch is a feast of salads and savoury dishes, followed by a selection of fresh fruit and cheeses. The four-course evening meal is the gastronomic highlight of each day, to be concluded, on the starlit nights for which Burgundy is noted, with coffee and liqueurs on deck.

Daily, guided excursions are offered by air-conditioned bus – to medieval towns, chateaux and the glorious vineyards of Chablis – blending culture and shopping opportunities along the way! Beside the canal the old towpaths, free of passing traffic, are perfect for a stroll beside the barge as she makes her way between the locks. Bicycles are also provided for passengers to use and are popular early in the morning or before dinner.

We take you on a wine tour of the country, choosing wines to complement our menus – all are recommended by wine expert Marc Ragaine, voted 'the world's best independent wine merchant' in 2003. We serve 18 wines from 12 different grape varieties each with its own specific character, reflecting the 'terroir' and the great diversity of the vineyards of France.

The 'open bar' is freely available at all times. The sun deck, with seating, tables and umbrellas, offers the perfect place to enjoy the scenery as it unfolds or the large picture windows of the air-conditioned saloon area is also a good place to relish uninterrupted views of rural Burgundy. There's plenty of time to be active or just to relax and unwind as your day and your mood takes you.

Suggested Itinerary:

Sunday: The meeting point is in central Paris at 2.30pm travelling by private bus to our hotel barge at her mooring on the River Yonne and beside the wonderful cathedral of Saint Etienne in Auxerre in Burgundy. The waterfront is one of the most picturesque in France. A champagne reception welcomes you on board and, after dinner onboard, there is time for a short walk to the historic centre with many cafes and bars.

Monday: A cruise upriver today leads into pastoral countryside, along sweeping reaches of the River Yonne. Hand-operated locks lie along our course, providing chance to step ashore as we work the barge

through. We moor at the village of Bailly, home to Burgundy's Crément sparkling wine. In the afternoon visit Chablis in our tour bus, first to a private wine cellar for tasting, then on into the famous vineyards of the area.

Tuesday: The morning's cruise is to the River Cure at Vermenton. In the afternoon we return by bus to our historic Auxerre and its old shopping centre, taking time to enjoy French provincial life.

Wednesday: From Vermenton, we visit delightful Noyers-sur-Serein with friendly market stalls, half-timbered houses, turreted ramparts, it is easily one of the most beautiful villages in France. After lunch we return down the Vermenton Arm, turning southwards at its end to a nighttime mooring at Mailly-la-Ville.

Thursday: A morning drive takes our group to Vézelay, where the spectacular 12th century Basilica dominates the town. Here, St Bernard preached the second Crusade. Vézelay, a centre of pilgrimage still, is a focal point of the region, with numerous shops and cafes. In the afternoon we cruise again, past the dramatic cliffs of Le Saussois to an evening mooring at Châtel-Censoir.

Friday: In the morning we head to Clamecy, a medieval town of narrow streets and stairways and a worthy climax to the cruise. The final visit is to the imposing Chateau of Bazoches. Set on a hillside amidst a rolling landscape, this was the 17th Century home of the Marquis de Vauban, France's great military engineer.

Saturday: After breakfast our bus transfer to Paris arrives in the city by around 1.00pm. For guests wishing to travel elsewhere in France by train or hire car, we can always stop in Auxerre on our way.

Other hotel barge cruises available from Outdoor Travel - with weekly departures – are in Burgundy, the Loire Valley, the Bordeaux region, Alsace, Provence or on the Canal Du Midi in the south of France.

Late availability for 2011 cruises – priced from just \$2500 per person twin share for 7-days / 6-nights:

Lorraine – Alsace	Burgundy - Caprice
3 cabins available Sept 24	3 cabin available Oct 1
2 cabins available Oct 1	4 cabins available Oct 22
4 cabins available Oct 15	

Early booking discounts are available for new Hotel Barge reservations for travel in 2012:

Barge	Offer Type	Discount	Departures in 2012	Deposit By
France: Burgundy				
La Belle Epoque	per cabin	10% off per cabin	All April	30 Apr 2012
	per charter	10% off per charter	All April	30 Apr 2012
L'Art de Vivre	per cabin	10% off per cabin	All April	30 Apr 2012
	per charter	10% off per charter	All April	30 Apr 2012
France: Canal du Midi				
Anjodi	per cabin	10% off per cabin	All March & April	30 Apr 2012
	per charter	10% off per charter	All March & April	30 Apr 2012
Scotland				
Scottish Highlander	per cabin	10% off per cabin	All April	30 Apr 2012
	per charter	10% off per charter	All April	30 Apr 2012

For all Outdoor Travel holidays see: http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/whats_new_holiday

BIKE & BARGE CRUISES

Guided cycling cruises in Europe

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.

Our most popular tour is the two-week journey from Paris to Bruges via the Somme region of northern France. In 2012 we have secured a very limited number of places on arguably the best and most comfortable boats on this route with comfortable twin-bedded cabins each with their own bathroom and excellent cycling guides. Space IS limited – early bookings are essential:

FRANCE & BELGIUM – PARIS TO BRUGES or return

15-day / 14-night *Premium* Bike & Barge canal and river cruises

Departs: Paris to Bruges 14th – 28th April & 13th – 27th October 2012 (low season)
Paris to Bruges 21st July – 4th August & Bruges to Paris 1st – 15th September 2012 (high season)

Cost: \$2995 (low season) & \$3495 (high season) per person twin share. Single cabin supplement \$1485

Included: Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner onboard most nights, bed linen and towels, bike rental and two experienced tour guides. The price does not include: entrance fees of museums etc; transfer to and from the barge, drinks on board, bike helmets, travel insurance and personal expenses.

Highlights: Paris – Royal palace in Compiègne – Basilica of St. Quentin – WW1 memorials - Tunnel of Riqueval – Belfort in Ghent – Belgian beer tasting - the canals of Bruges – history and Culture.



We start in Paris, the *city of light* and capital of France, where our meeting point is near Notre Dame Cathedral. We follow the River Seine downstream passing the Louvre and Eiffel Tower to Conflans. From here we cruise the valley of the River Oise to Compiègne. In the Middle Ages this part of France was the centre of power in France and we will see many chateaux and palaces of the French kings and lords.

We follow the wonderful old St. Quentin canal to the historical city of St. Quentin, where the gothic basilica and the town hall are worth a visit. We cruise through the tunnel of Riqueval and cross the border into Belgium where we visit Doornik, once an important stopping place for pilgrims, and Oudenaarde which has a beautiful town hall. We also visit Ghent, with its many ancient streets and buildings. Here too you can admire the beautiful triptych by the famous Dutch painter Jan van Eyck.

The city of Bruges is possibly the most beautiful of the historical Flemish cities, famous for its many museums and hand-made Bruges lace.

Suggested itinerary: cycling and cruise days/times can vary at the discretion of the captain and cycling guide.

Day 1 (Saturday): Paris

Meet at Port d'Arсенal in central Paris (next to the Place de la Bastille) at 4.00pm for a welcome drink and to meet fellow passengers and crew. Adjust your bikes and dinner at 6.30pm followed by a guided city walk – options may include Montmartre and the Sacré-Coeur.

Day 2 (Sunday): Paris – Conflans Cruising Cycling distance @ 35km

We start cruising or cycling through the centre of Paris, past the Louvre, Musée d'Orsay and Eiffel tower. We follow the River Seine through industrial suburbs Gennevilliers, Bologne-Billancourt and Ile Sequin, home of the Renault car factories. Finally we arrive at Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, where the River Oise and the River Seine merge. Conflans has been an important centre for shipping and river traffic in Northern France since the 19th Century – see its history at the museum Municipal de la Batellerie. Overnight and dinner onboard.

Day 3 (Monday): Conflans – Creil Cycling distance @ 45-55km

After breakfast we begin our cycling from Conflans following the River Oise to Auvers-sur Oise, where Vincent van Gogh painted the church and cornfields and spent the last days of his life (an area many impressionist painters visited). You can visit his grave beside that of his brother Theo. We pass the abbey of Royaumont and Chantilly with its dramatic and imposing chateau and racecourse. Our destination is Creil, a country town, famous in the 19th Century for its fine pottery – much of which can be seen in the museum Gallée Juillet.

Day 4 (Tuesday): Creil – Compiègne Cycling distance @ 45km

After breakfast we cycle to Pont-St-Maxence where there was a bridge over the Oise. Pont-St-Maxence became the place to stay for kings and merchants on their way to Flanders. We pass the beautiful abbey of Moncel founded in 1309 by King Philips de Schone. We stay the night in the beautiful town of Compiègne, which owes its architectural wealth to its proximity to Paris and the enormous woods where a succession of the French kings and courtiers loved to hunt. The Chateau de Compiègne with its magnificent gardens are spectacular, as is the town hall (built 1498 – 1530), the national horse stud farm and the Tour Jeanne d'Arc.

Day 5 (Wednesday): Compiègne – Noyon Cycling distance @ 35km

Leaving the River Oise we continue along the canal system connecting France and Belgium. We spend the night in Noyon, a town where the coronation of King Charlemagne took place. Later Noyon became an important Episcopal town and the cathedral (dating from the 12th Century) is well worth visiting.

Day 6 (Thursday): Noyon – St Quentin Cycling distance @ 45km

We cruise on the St. Quentin Canal past Chauny and Tergnier. Our destination today is St. Quentin a city founded in the 2nd century on a junction of two important Roman roads. This lively provincial capital of the Aisne flourished as a destination for Christian pilgrims to the grave of St. Quentin. The Gothic basilica here was built between 1230 and the 15th Century and has a unique double transept and windows from the 13th and 14th Century. The city hall dates back to 1500 and is in the flamboyant French Gothic style.

Day 7 (Friday): St. Quentin (free day) Optional cycling

Today is a **free day** in St. Quentin. You can relax or explore the city further or go shopping. Perhaps visit Laon, once the capital of the French empire with a wonderful 12th Century cathedral. You can also take a train or arrange a taxi to Amiens or Ypres to visit WW1 memorials, military cemeteries and battlefields including Villers Bretonneaux with the Victoria School and its strong ties to Australia and the museum Peronne.

Day 8 (Saturday): St. Quentin – Honnecourt Cycling distance @ 30km

The Canal de St. Quentin was commissioned in Napoleon's time to carry coal. The canal passes through many tunnels, the longest being the tunnel of Riqueval at 5670m. Today, as in former years, ships are still pulled through the tunnel by an electric towboat (it takes about 2-hours). High above the tunnel is the watershed of the Escaut (Schelde) River and River Somme. Overnight in the small village of Honnecourt.

Day 9 (Sunday): Honnecourt - Cambrai – Pont Malin Cycling distance @ 30km

We continue along the banks of the canal de St. Quentin. Cambrai was once a Roman provincial capital and an important destination for pilgrims. Worth seeing are the impressive restored buildings of the city fortress, built under Charles V and the old city gate which dates from the late 12th Century. In the afternoon we join the Canal du Grand Gabarit to Pont Malin, where we spend the night.

Day 10 (Monday): Pont Malin – Doornik Cycling distance @ 55km

Following the canal du Grand Gabarit at Montagne we cross the French border and at Bleharies we cross into Belgium. We sail through the so-called 'white land' to the charming fortress town of Antoing. Our destination is Doornik (in French: Tournai), one of the oldest cities of Belgium. Here we are in the region known as Wallonia, where towns and villages have both a French and a Flemish name. Ruled by the French from the beginning of the 17th Century this was the centre for tapestry and cloth weaving. Now these industries are in decline but in the various museums excellent examples of both industries can be seen. In 1940 the entire city centre was destroyed after a German air raid, however, the town has been extensively rebuilt including the cathedral of Notre Dame (12th and 13th Century) and the Belfort which was built in about 1200.

Day 11 (Tuesday): Doornik (Tournai) – Oudenaarde Cycling distance @ 45km

We cruise downstream on the River Schelde, crossing the language barrier into the Flemish region. From here onwards Flemish is the spoken language. Our destination today is Oudenaarde a place that, because of its border location, was involved in many wars. Oudenaarde has always had someone on lookout and we can see the statue of the most famous watchman, Hanske de Krijger in the city hall. Built in the first half of the 16th Century this city hall was built out of sandstone in a Brabantine late Gothic style and it is one of the most beautiful in Flanders. Oudenaarde is also known as the town of the tapestry weavers.

Day 12 (Wednesday): Oudenaarde – Ghent Cycling distance @ 45km

We continue on the Schelde towards Ghent, a lively university town with a rich history. The town, founded by the Romans, is at the place where the rivers Leie and Schelde merged. This favourable location brought on quite some wealth peaking in the late 13th and early 14th Century when the cloth weaving industry was a source of great riches. In the city itself many patrician residences have been preserved. Visits should include the Lakenhalle (1425AD) where the cloth traders gathered and St. Baafs cathedral where you can see several masterpieces of mediaeval art including "The worship of the Lamb of God" by Jan van Eyck.

Day 13 (Thursday): Ghent – Bruges Cycling distance @ 45km

Continuing through the pleasant countryside of Western Flanders we arrive at our final destination, a city also called the Venice of the North. Bruges is perhaps the most beautiful of all Flemish cities. Its old city centre dates from the Middle Ages and is almost completely intact.

Day 14 (Friday): Bruges (free day)

Breakfast and time to relax or explore the city. Dinner is served onboard at 6.30pm.

Day 15 (Saturday): Bruges

Tour ends after breakfast.

BIKE & BARGE OR BOAT IN ITALY: We have two boats operating every week in season departing Saturdays and Sundays in the Venice Lagoon and to the lakes of Mantova in Italy. If you are unsure about what a Bike & Barge cycling cruise involves and the sort of person that joins such a tour then perhaps these two video links will give you a better idea – both were taken in the Venice area of Italy – two very different boats with the same itinerary full of interesting places to explore, mostly flat easy to moderate cycling with plenty of free time for sightseeing and to explore:

Vita Pugna: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-grTeJDaDz4>

Ave Maria: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBESIAIQzGk>

Destinations for 2012 include the Amalfi Coast and Gulf of Naples, Sardinia in Italy, Provence, the Loire Valley and from Burgundy to Paris in France, Berlin in Germany, Croatia, Greece, Turkey, the Danube from Passau or Vienna or the delta in Romania. We also offer new trips in Denmark or Vietnam.

LAST MINUTE SPACE AVAILABLE: In Italy on the spectacular Amalfi Coast we have 1 or two cabins available on 24th September, 15th October and on 22nd October – see details:

Italy - Bike & Barge - Naples and The Amalfi Coast 2011

For a full list of the itineraries we offer see our website:

http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/sme/outdoortravel/content/whats_new_holiday#top

BEAUTIFUL BOATING HOLIDAYS

Self-skipped motor cruisers – bases in Europe and the UK

Outdoor Travel offer an fleet of over 1000 self-skipped boats accommodating from 2 - 12 passengers. All motor-cruisers 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.

NEW CRUISING BASE IN ITALY FOR 2012:

The enchanting city of Venice and its surrounding islands are yours to discover and enjoy from the superb vantage position of your own sundeck. For both its breathtaking views and the fantastic cruising experience it offers, it's not easy to see why the Venetian Lagoon is one of our most popular cruising destinations. You can now explore the northern Venetian lagoon towards Trieste and discover the real Italy from our new base at Precenicco. With chic seaside resorts and sandy beaches, beautiful fishing harbours, excellent restaurants, friendly Osteria (café-bars) and beautiful un-crowded waterways and seaside canals, we're sure this will be a hit with anyone who is looking for something different in 2012.

Further south, the protected nature reserves of the Po Delta and the nearby colourful fishing villages will delight the nature lovers and bird-watchers among you. Nearby sandy beaches make for a perfect combination of sightseeing and relaxing as you choose to explore the vast expanse of the Venetian lagoon.

Because the waterways of the Venetian Lagoon get very busy, we recommend that only those with some previous boating experience consider Venice as a destination. Cruising in Venice can get very busy and there are always difficulties in finding somewhere to moor – but we are delighted to announce that exclusive private

moorings will be available for all Beautiful Boating Holidays customers cruising in the Venetian Lagoon. Ask for the mooring supplement details.

In the Northern Lagoon (towards Precenicco /Trieste) there is wider availability of public moorings and marinas for overnight stays, so no mooring supplement is payable for customers cruising between Casale and Precenicco.

Regional Highlights

- Cruise from our NEW BASE at Precenicco in the northern Venetian Lagoon
- Cruise along the seaside canals between Casale and Precenicco and discover a peaceful, rural countryside dotted with friendly osteria and small fishing villages
- Watch glass blowing on the island of Murano or see lace-makers at work on Burano
- Relax on the sandy beaches at Jesolo and other Adriatic seaside resorts
- Admire world-famous art and architecture of Venice with fantastic food and wine wherever you travel
- See spectacular wildlife on the Po Delta – an area of outstanding natural beauty
- Fast transfers from Marco Polo airport to our base at Casier

Discounts now available for all NEW bookings for 2012:

Description	Offer	Further Information
Early Booking Discount	<p>Book before 30th November 2011</p> <p>4 Anchors Save 10% 3 Anchors Save 12% 2 Anchors Save 15%</p> <p>Book before 31st December 2011</p> <p>4 Anchors Save 8% 3 Anchors Save 10% 2 Anchors Save 12%</p>	<p>Take advantage of our guaranteed early discounts and book early to secure the boat and dates of your choice.</p> <p>Not applicable to Thames bookings 21st July – 12th August 2012</p>
Group Booking	<p>2 boats Save 10%; 3 boats Save 12.5%; 4 boats Save 15%; 5 boats Save 17.5%; 6 boats Save 20%</p>	<p>Save up to 20% when booking more than one boat per holiday booking, starting and finishing on the same dates</p>
Family Booking Includes school holidays! *	<p>Book BEFORE 31st December 2012 to secure a 10% family discount</p> <p>DURING ALL school holidays: Starting from 1st January 2012 all Europe school holiday dates are excluded from this offer.</p>	<p>Cruise as a family with children and save up to 10% on all cruising destinations. Receive a 5% discount for 1 child and 10% discount for 2 children all season.</p> <p>Excludes any departures between 30th June and 18th August 2012 unless the booking is made before 31st December 2011.</p> <p>All children must be under the age of 16 on the last day of your holiday</p>
Extended Booking	<p>Save 10%</p>	<p>For all cruises of 14-nights or more, you can receive a 10% discount off the second and subsequent weeks</p>
<p>All 6 and 5 Anchor boats are excluded from our offers. Discounts can be combined to a maximum of 15%</p>		

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.

For a free full colour brochure call **1800 331 582** or email info@outdoortravel.com.au

We also have added the current brochure as a click-on (page-turning) brochure on our website - see:

<http://view.BEAUTIFULLBOATINGHOLIDAYS>

GENERAL TRAVEL NEWS

ITALY:

NEW TOURIST TAXES: These have been introduced in some Italian cities and these will need to be paid directly to the hotels:

Tax per person per night:

Florence: 1 Euro per hotel star (for ex. In a 4 star hotel = 4 Euro per pax per night)
Venice: 1 Euro per hotel star (for ex. In a 4 star hotel = 4 Euro per pax per night)
Venice mainland: Euro 0.60 per hotel star (ie in a 4 star hotel = Euro 2.4 per person per night)
Padova: From 1 to 3 Euro

The Italian government has delegated the implementation of these taxes to the each municipality and it is very likely that other cities will introduce this tax in the future.

THE CINQUE TERRA LEMON FESTIVAL IN MONTEROSSO - MAY 2012: The festival is held annually in Monterosso on the Saturday preceding the day of the Ascension at the end of May. During this annual event, the whole town takes on the colour yellow and the streets become alive with banquets and celebrations. Lemon decorations adorn the streets and shop windows as well as live music to accompany festivities.

Delicacies such as limoncino, cream lemon, jam and lemon cake can be tasted. The festival ends with a large feast in the piazza with awards given to the best lemon themed displays as well as to the largest lemon.

VENICE NEWS: See <http://www.venice-tourism.com/en/visit-venice.html>

INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMITS (IDP): An International Driving Permit (IDP) * is proof that you hold a valid driver licence in your home country at the date of issue of the IDP and should be carried with your domestic driver licence. It is a very useful travel document and is required or recommended for many countries when hiring a motor vehicle. Please be advised that the following conditions apply for Australian drivers.

It is compulsory to possess an IDP for the following countries: Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Paraguay, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Vanuatu and United Arab Emirates.

It is recommended to possess an IDP for the following countries: Argentina, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Hong Kong, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Tahiti, Uganda, Uruguay, USA and Zimbabwe.

For non-English drivers licence holders, an international drivers licence is required for all countries worldwide.

IDPs are issued through state and territory motoring clubs, the costs range from about \$25 to \$50.

Here are the relevant IDP issuing authority in your state:

New South Wales/ACT: NRMA <http://www.mynrma.com.au> then click on "Travel."

Queensland: RACQ <http://www.racq.com.au>

Victoria: RACV <http://www.journeys.racv.com.au>

South Australia: RAA <http://www.raa.com.au> then click on "Travel."

Western Australia: RAC <http://www.rac.com.au>

Tasmania: RACT <http://www.ract.com.au> then click on "Travel."

Northern Territory: AANT <http://www.aant.com.au> then click on "Travelling Overseas."

* Last updated 15 December 2009 and subject to change without notice.

WHAT ARE E-BIKES: We saw this on ABC Online: Germans get on their e-bikes - ABC News <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-07-29/electric-bikes-a-hit-in-europe/2815258>

Electric bikes may be the bicycle industry's next big thing if German users are anything to go by. And on our Bike & Barge cycling cruises in Europe more and more of our boats are making e-bikes available for hire – some have designated e-bike cruises – ask for details.

SWISS OLÉ: The Swiss authorities take their chocolate production VERY seriously according to the 'Blick' news. They are warning hikers to be on the lookout for a herd of aggressive cows after three holidaymakers were set upon as they visited a remote spot in the country's southeast last summer.

The animals first targeted a male hiker, goring him with their horns, the Blick newspaper reported. His female companions were attacked as they tried to flee for help. The three were so badly injured they had to be airlifted to the hospital. Two other hikers were also injured by aggressive cows in 14 August the report said. Authorities have advised hikers to keep a safe distance from cattle - and not to go anywhere near newborn calves.

ART OF AUSTRIA IN MELBOURNE: From 18 June - 9 October 2011, the spotlight will be on Austria's capital city Vienna during the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces Series at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV):



Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele and Josef Hoffmann were central to this artistic revolution, which transformed Vienna into a dynamic metropolis at the forefront of groundbreaking modernism. The NGV will present a dazzling display of over 250 extraordinary works including painting, drawing, graphic and decorative art, furniture, fashion, jewellery and photography, most never before seen in Australia.

In a most timely lead up to "[Klimt Year 2012](#)" visitors will experience the inventiveness and brilliance of this famous artist and a unique generation who laid the foundations for life in the twentieth century - a legacy still vividly alive today.

FRANCE: Lonely Planet top 18 experiences in France <http://bit.ly/laW1aL>

NEW ZEALAND: Few will not be aware that the Rugby World Cup is to be held in New Zealand in September and October 2011. But did you know that Nelson held the first official game of rugby in New Zealand in 1870 - see Nelson Tasman Tourism <http://www.nelsonnz.com/rugby-birthplace> for more details.

Nelson is hosting the "Game On Festival": <http://www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz/game-on-festival/>.

Nelson's Provincial Museum features Rugby too:

<http://www.museumnp.org.nz/exhibitions/upandcoming.htm#gameon>

Don't forget to include the 5-day walking or walking and sea-kayaking tour if you are travelling to this the sunniest corner of New Zealand this year: [Abel Tasman walking or sea-kayaking holidays 2011-2.pdf](#)

BRAVE NEW WORLD OF INFORMATION

Some links that may inspire, encourage, disparage, empathise or just make you laugh:

TO MAKE A GOOD WALKING HOLIDAY <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz3Xjht0eV4&feature=related>

THE CAPITAL OF EUROPE, BELGIUM: <http://www.vimeo.com/15239617>

SEE FRANCE FROM AN AMAZING NEW PERSPECTIVE: <http://www.tubewatcher.tv/182>

STRUGGLING WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAG39jKi0II>

Editor's note: Your feedback on these links would be appreciated

WHERE DO WE RECOMMEND?

For 2012 we have added some very interesting destinations and 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:

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

[Vietnam - North and South Bike and Barge 2012](#)

[Vietnam - Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City small group cycling holidays 2011/2012](#)

[France - Bike and Barge - Premium Cruise from Paris to Montargis & Loire Valley 2012](#)

[France - Bike & Barge Provence and the Rhone River Delta 2012](#)

[Holland – Bike & Barge Springtime Tulip cycling or sightseeing cruises 2012](#)

[Germany, Luxembourg - Bike & Barge Koblenz to Merzig or return 2012](#)

[Croatia - Bike & Boat Pearls of Southern Dalmatia 2012](#)

[France - Dordogne Sarlat - one-hotel Guided walks 2012](#)

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

How do you get to these places? Contact Yvette at the Outdoor Travel Fares Desk at:

fares@outdoortravel.com.au or call (03) 57501 044 for all your air ticket and general travel needs.

WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT OUR HOLIDAYS

BIKE & BARGE FRANCE: Rod and I have just come home from a fantastic trip on the river from Paris to Montargis.

BIKE & BARGE CROATIA: *Back all safe and sound. Must say the 3 Ws - winter, wet weather and work not the best combination after the most amazing 3 1/2 weeks of blue sky and sunshine holiday. Once again thank you so much for organising the second trip at such short notice. It is very difficult to compare the two. Both were fantastic, but quite different. On both trips the guides were very good – language excellent, the crew very friendly and great groups of people.*

On the Venice trip I really enjoyed the length of the rides. They weren't difficult – as you know very flat. The countryside was spectacular. Food was good. Very much appreciated the afternoon cakes and iced tea after the day's ride. The cabins were comfortable. Not as many areas to escape on the boat as there was on the Croatian trip. We only had 12 people so not a full boat. The trip to the cheese factory was interesting, as was the guided tour of Mantova. The start of the trip, allowing a day in Venice, was good in terms of sightseeing, but it did lessen the number of riding days.

The Croatian trip was very different. More variety – cycling, - both short and long, swimming, walking, white water rafting. The guides were very adaptable. They adjusted the daily itineraries according to the group, which in our case had a couple of families. Two guides meant they were able to offer options. One day they offered a 40km ride or a 10km walk and some stayed on the boat. The variety of islands, each with their individuality provided amazing, spectacular scenery. The number of guided tours meant we made the most of our time ashore.

*The San Snova was certainly more luxurious, but again only 20 people so lots of space. The food was outstanding: even the day we rode for the day the guides managed to carry all the food and prepare an amazing spread. The food at all meals was equivalent to 5 * hotel. I would recommend both.*

Again thank you so much. I will definitely be doing another one in the future :) Lyn

BIKE & BARGE ITALY: *Home from the Ave Maria safe and sound. All went very well, boat is very good, cabins are excellent, great showers and facilities. There was no negative comments I could make, very good value for money. Adrian*

BIKE & BARGE HOLLAND: *I thought I would update you re my Canal/bike trip from Amsterdam to Ghent on the ANNA CORNELIA departing Amsterdam. All good with boat, Captain Johan, cook and guide. Bikes good. Rides ok, very structured and finite in their timing. Not quite as relaxed as I had thought. Also you ride away from barge and not near barge, so no opportunity to return to barge if whole trip too much for anyone person. My fellow travellers were all either American or Canadian, so that was all good too.*

Weather good, no rain, BUT really strong winds for first 2 days in Netherlands. Apparently this is normal. Anyway, good trip and good experience. Good agent. Please tell Yvette, who booked my Emirates Bus airfare and carefully pre booked my seats that I was upgraded to FIRST Class from Mel to DBX on new A540 aircraft. I thought I had died and gone to heaven. Private cubicle, flat bed made up with mattress, jim jams and sliding doors made of burr walnut. Food on demand, no trolley dolly!!! I actually slept from Singapore to Dubai. Anyway lucky break. Lisa

HOTEL BARGING IN FRANCE: *I think this barge trip (L'Art de Vivre) should be advertised more as something of a gastronomic treat, as the side trips/excursions are not much to talk about – and the food and wine soon become the daily centerpiece. Had not both the weather and group been excellent, this would not have been such an enjoyable week. I have posted the snaps I took during our recent barge trip. Len:*

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/lenschwer/sets/72157626884310708/>

WALKING IN ENGLAND – FROM COAST TO COAST: *Firstly, I really enjoyed the Coast-to-Coast walk. It was a fantastic experience and one I will never forget. There were no hitches to the program from my side of things. Accommodation was quite adequate, comfortable, clean etc. The Packhorse courier service I couldn't fault. Every time I arrived at a accommodation, my case was there ahead of me.*

The maps were quite adequate and the map holder excellent. Martin Wainwright's book was generally excellent, and if some points were occasionally a little ambiguous, it was often possible to compare notes with fellow walkers who carried a different guide. The holiday information notes and the A4 sheets with further instructions are all most helpful.

Your notes superimposed on the maps were also helpful. I know it is common sense, but reminders to rug up on the moors and Cringle Moor in particular, made me mindful of this and I certainly dressed accordingly (and Cringle Moor is quite exposed!). On the day that I did that particular walk, three walkers were apparently rescued, suffering from hypothermia! Your comments about picnic lunches etc. clarified the food/drink situation for me, so I went prepared at all times.

One comment needs further comment: There is the suggestion to use the cash machine in St Bees, as the next one is in Grasmere. However, when I tried to obtain money at St Bees, the machine wouldn't oblige. The girl in the shop said that the machine didn't like overseas cards. It might be helpful to include this in the cash-machine comment.

One other thing I noted, and I did make some comments to fellow travellers about this.... I was surprised at how few of the accommodation places seemed to be set up to deal with wet clothing/rucksacks/boots. Fortunately I only experienced two very wet days, but it was quite a saga getting everything dry.

The Royal Oak Hotel at Rosthwaite had an airing room, also Cambridge House in Reeth – these appeared to be the only two. Given that many people experience many wet days during the walk, perhaps this is something

which needs to be addressed. The lady at the Jolly Farmers in Kirkby Stephen also did loads of laundry, and this was a fantastic service.

Once I realised that I could negotiate taxi times (e.g. arrange to leave half an hour earlier of a morning or arrange to be picked up half an hour later in the afternoon) I was much more relaxed, as I knew that my walking rate would be at the slower end. The taxi services were great.

One final comment: I'm glad I decided on the 16 days of walking time, as I had been training for a maximum walk of 24-25 km per day. This was a realistic time frame for me, although I must admit the last two days, two of the longest, were the hardest. However, it would have been nice to have included at least one, ideally two, "free days" during the walk: Patterdale would have been a good spot and Richmond, being a larger place. It was hard to walk in to my accommodation at Glenridding, on the banks of lovely Ullswater, at 5.30pm and walk out again the following morning at 8.30am, knowing that there was no way I was ever going to enjoy a boat ride on the lake!

Anyway, thanks for a wonderful trip! Robyn

WALKING IN SWITZERLAND: *Many thanks again for a wonderful holiday walking the Bernese Oberland. Lorraine and Peter*

The walking tour was a highlight and John Millen the guide was exceptional. I'll be recommending these services to friends and will probably do another walk with them myself at some stage. Graeme

WALKING IN THE DORDOGNE QUERCY, FRANCE: *Having done a walk with James in May through the Dordogne and Quercy I would thoroughly recommend the experience to anyone looking for a great holiday in a superb area of France.*

This is a 5 star holiday with wonderful hosts. Australians wanting to enjoy France should consider this as their next holiday destination. You'll struggle to find a better holiday. I'll certainly be going back sometime. Greg

My clients could not speak more highly if they tried – one of the best things they have ever done in all their travels. They were blown away by James's knowledge of everything!!! The food was unbelievable and the accommodation great too! Thanks for organizing and suggesting a great and successful tour. Lauren (Travel Agent)

BEAUTIFUL BOATING HOLIDAYS: *I just wanted to let you know that having just returned from our river cruise, what a wonderful time we had and all arrangements with regard to what you arranged plus Taxi's and restaurant reservations at both St Jean de Losne and Fontenoy la Chateau that I made direct were perfect. The boat we had was excellent (Clipper) for the four of us. Martyn, you wont recall, but we had a little problem getting the right boat and dates, however all was fantastic with your recommendations. Thanks for all your assistance; I am now an ambassador for your company. Ron*

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 and First Class fares to all destinations including the UK and Europe, New Zealand, Vietnam, the USA or Canada and more.

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 to Europe, some great value airfares are now available for travel in 2012. Yvette recommends you ask about these savings and book early - particularly for the busier periods such as May/June and September / October and during school holidays.

Here are some example fares:

Air France has released an instant purchase fare for travel to France and other destinations within Europe – costs start at \$1,835.00 inclusive of taxes. The price is based on departures in April 2012. Tickets at this price are for sale until 30th September 2011 and are only available on an instant purchase basis.

You can fly via France to the UK or other cities in Europe such as Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, Paris, Rome or London for slightly more (taxes may change).

Lufthansa has a great *Early Bird Airfare* to Europe starting at \$1,699.00 plus taxes (taxes vary from \$600 - \$900 depending on destination). You can travel from most capitals in Australia via Asia and via Frankfurt or Munich to London or other airports in the UK, Paris, Rome, Amsterdam, Venice, Split, Croatia and more.

This airfare is for sale now for travel from 1st April until 31st August 2012 (please note there is no difference if you choose to travel in the shoulder and peak season – as long as seats are available). Limited seats available, book and pay within 72 hours.

Other *Early Bird Economy and Business Class Airfares* will be released very soon, please register your interest by contacting Yvette at our fares desk. To make a reservation we need:

- Your name as per passport
- Your preferred itinerary, and date of birth for children less than 12-years of age
- Deposit of \$120 per person, which will go towards your flight arrangements.

* All airfares are subject to change, airline conditions and availability.

Other airlines and destinations in Europe available – call Yvette directly on **(03) 57 501044** 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 FIRST for a competitive quote or see the full premium costs on the link on our website:

SURESAVE TRAVEL INSURANCE: [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:

See the 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 your 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

CLICK-ON WHAT'S NEW ON OUR WEBSITE FOR 2012:

[Italy - Cinque Terre Bonassola - one-hotel guided walks 2012](#)

[Italy - Amalfi Coast - Sorrento - one-hotel guided walks 2012](#)

[Italy – Umbria one-hotel guided walk 2012](#)

[Spain – Camino de Santiago guided 'Value' tour from Sarria to Santiago 2012](#)

[England - Coast to Coast Guided Walks 2012](#)

[NZ - Queen Charlotte guided walk 2011 / 2012](#)

[NZ - Luxury Adventure Cruises and Charters 2011/2012](#)

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

ORDER OUR TRAVEL BROCHURES FOR 2012

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
- SUNSAIL – Yacht Charter cruises in Queensland, Croatia, Vietnam, Tahiti & Thailand

OTHER DESTINATION – Please specify:

NEW ZEALAND WALKING

- MILFORD TRACK GUIDED WALK OR THE 8-DAY ULTIMATE HIKE
- GRAND TRAVERSE OR ROUTEBURN WALK
- ABEL TASMAN WALKING OR SEA-KAYAKING
- HOLLYFORD VALLEY WALK
- TONGARIRO TREK

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:

.....
.....

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, VIC 3741, Australia
Travel Agent Licence No 31102

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:

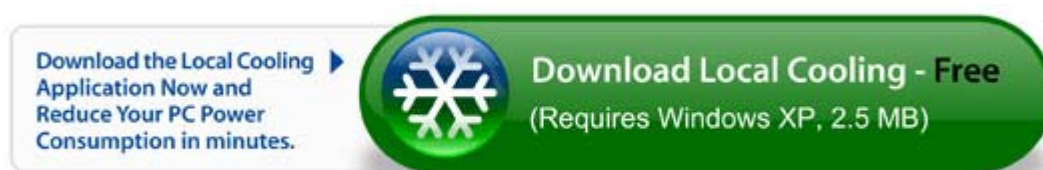
- Cut your energy bills.
- Reduce the amount of Greenhouse Gas CO2 emissions as a result of your reduced PC power consumption.
- Give you full control over your power mode settings.
- Improve your overall computing experience and efficiency.
- Show you in detail how much you have saved since installing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