



STOP PRESS NEWS: LAST MINUTE AVAILABILITY FOR EUROPE & NZ Holidays & savings still available on selected walking, cycling or boating departures in 2011

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

Most cruises offer a guide but you are free to travel independently each day if you prefer. Group sizes are usually from 18 – 24 passengers.

Paris – Bruges 2-week tour:	Departing 4 th September 2011 (via the Somme)
Sardinia:	Departing 17 th September & 1 st October 2011 (Bike & Boat)
Burgundy - Paris 2-week tour:	Departing 1 st October 2011
Dalmatian Coast in Croatia:	Departing 1st, 8th & 15th October 2011 (some with e-bikes)
Paris – Bruges 2-week tour:	Departing 2 nd & 15 th October 2011 (via the Somme)
Germany & France Mainz to Metz:	Departing 8 th October 2011 (limited spaces)
Venice to Mantova in Italy:	Departing 9 th October 2011
Amalfi Coast in Italy:	Departing 15 th October or 22 nd October 2011
Bruges – Amsterdam:	Departing 16 th October 2011 (discount offer)

Book ahead: Special departure from Bruges to Paris departs 1st September 2012 – space limited

Island hopping by bike and sailing boat along the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia by Katherine Paterson

Ever wonder about getting away from the crowds to see a more traditional unspoilt part of Europe? Perhaps you are looking for a holiday destination that will inspire you with a sense of adventure and history with the challenge of expending some energy rather than just flopping down on a beach or beside a pool?

Ever wonder about the mystery of where Marco Polo's birthplace is? While the story of Marco Polo and his 'real' birthplace is unclear to many, to the inhabitants of the small Dalmatian Island of Korcula of the coast of Croatia Korcula is the real home of this famous merchant. A kindred traveller best known for his journeys to China along the famous Silk Road trading route and for the inspiration he gave to others such as Christopher Columbus to push the boundaries of the known world. Far-fetched as it may seem, it only takes one to visit to these arguably the most beautiful clusters of islands in the world, to believe how Croatia really could be the place that inspired such an adventurer.

And what better way to explore any islands than by boat island hopping across the beautiful blue Adriatic Sea.

Truly off the beaten track I have just experienced a cycling holiday in Dalmatia, arranged through Outdoor Travel that can only be described as truly unforgettable.

Island hopping bike and boat trips combine active biking and relaxing cruising, for a truly exhilarating holiday experience. Guided by two of the most well-informed and friendly tour guides Europe has to offer, I found this is more than just an ordinary tour of pristine bays, lush greenery, breathtaking mountain ranges and unique culture. Cycling in Croatia leads you on a journey of self-discovery.

My journey began in Split, where a cycle tour of the Marjan Mountain will get your blood pumping and heart racing in anticipation for the challenging adventures to come. Day two involved a visit to Cetina Canyon and the option of cycling to the Valley of the Cetina River or a two-hour river rafting adrenaline rush chasing over crystal clear fresh water pools and waterfalls past a vast array of indigenous Croatian wildlife and vegetation.

That afternoon we sailed to the island of Brac, famous for the white marble which was used to construct the White House in Washington and the Reichstag in Berlin. We strolled through the market place whilst the sun

was setting and ate a traditional and delicious Croatian meal prepared onboard the ship. That evening we were introduced to the delightful, well-humored and gracious staff of our home for the week, the sailing ship 'Magellan'. In a totally relaxed mood we formed relationships with our like-minded fellow passengers over a cold beer or glass of local wine.

To me cycling and cruising in Croatia was an experience like no other. Looking back it took me back to my school days, some of the best of my life, with meals by the clock, evening sing-alongs, educational talks about Croatian politics, history and heritage and, after each day's ride that constant feeling of accomplishment.

"It is not just a holiday, but is an experience where anything is possible, nothing is obliged or too much trouble and everything is allowed."

Bikes give you the freedom to experience the natural beauty that could see in no other way. And while 55km days of undulating (read hilly) terrain are no mean feat, the combination of stunning scenery, glorious weather, vibrantly colored waters, exhilarating descents, coffee, honey farm tours, gelato and swim breaks all provided the perfect stimulation to get you up to even the highest hill and the views that it affords. And if you don't feel up to it one day or you simply can't keep up with that annoyingly fit companion; try the ingenious option of motorised yet silent e-bikes that will ensure that no one is left behind.

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

Hotel Barging, what a wonderful concept, a high quality moving hotel with a very special chef and expert crew, comfortable cabins with ensuite bathrooms, a small group of like-minded folk and knowledgeable guide with an air-conditioned mini-bus for the exclusive use of passengers to take you for wine tasting, visits to chateaux, gardens or sightseeing.

France Dijon to St Leger Burgundy:	Departing 17 th September, 1 st & 15 th October 2011
France Alsace	Departing 24 th September, 1 st & 15 th October 2011
France Northern Burgundy	Departing 2 nd , 16 th October 2011
France Avignon & Camargue:	Departing 9 th & 16 th October 2011

Discount offers on Hotel barge cruises - Save \$1000 per cabin on these cruise:

Burgundy on <i>La Belle Epoque</i>	Departing 9 th & 23 rd October 2011
Burgundy on <i>L'Impressionniste</i>	Departing 23 rd October 2011
Gascony/Midi on <i>Rosa</i>	Departing 25 th September 2011
Venice & Po Valley on <i>La Bella Vita</i>	Departing 25 th September & 2 nd October 2011

Bespoke **walking parties in France and Spain**, a selection of small group fully guided walking tours in southwest France and the Pyrenees region of France bordering north east Spain. Food and wine play an important role in each itinerary, as do the seasons and seasonal foods and flowers especially in autumn and staying in the most charming small auberges.

Dordogne, the Lot & Haute Quercy	Departing 15 th September 2011
Basque Pyrenees	Departing 5 th October 2011
Dordogne cooking, wine & walking:	Departing 22 nd October 2011 (discount offer)

What you said: *Having done a walk 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

Camino de Santiago - the Pilgrims' Trail to Santiago de Compostela is one of the great historical long-distance footpaths through Europe. This small group guided walk includes all the highlights:

Oviedo to Santiago (9-days):	Departing 17 th September 2011
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OTHER WALKING HOLIDAYS IN EUROPE STILL AVAILABLE IN 2011

Ireland Kerry walk from Killarney Departing 17th September, 1st October 2011 (**discount offer**)

France & Spain, the Vermillion Coast, where the Pyrenees tumble to the Mediterranean is bathed in sunshine for most of the year, ideal for autumn and spring self-guided walking. Stunning mountains landscapes, sea views, relaxing walking, traditional seafood restaurant with plenty of history, cultural highlights and pretty fishing ports. Self-guided walking at its finest.

Collioure to Cadaques Departing daily from September to December 2011 & February to June

Italy Cinque Terre, discover the picturesque villages and unforgettable views of this National Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Follow the many footpaths from the Via dell'Amore that follows the coastline sea level or climb to the mid or upper hill trails. Accommodation in very beautiful, characteristic houses in typical small villages of the Cinque Terre.

Corniglia or Manarola Departing daily all year round – self-guided walk

Italy Tuscany - One of Europe's most famous landscapes and revered cultures Tuscany has attracted visitors for centuries. But venture into the countryside on our self-guided walks and you find some beautiful trails across peaceful, undulating rural landscapes, which have changed little in hundreds of years. This is a relatively easy paced walking tour although more experienced walkers will find additional hill climbs and extra kilometres in the search of *roads less travelled*.

Volterra to Siena Departing daily to November

BEAUTIFUL BOATING HOLIDAYS - self-skippered motor cruising captaining your own cruise boat along the finest canals and rivers of Europe. Explore the ancient Canal du Midi in the sun-soaked south of France, the romance of the Venice Lagoon in Italy, the tranquillity of the River Shannon in Ireland, the charm of Friesland in Holland, the beauty of England's Norfolk Broads or the nature-filled Mecklenburg Lakes in Germany.

Early booking savings for 2012:

Description	Offer	Further Information
Early Booking Discount	Book before 30 th November 2011 & save: 4-Anchors - Save 10 % 3-Anchors - Save 12 % 2-Anchors - Save 15 %	Not applicable to bookings for the River Thames & London during the Olympics 21 st July to 12 th August 2012
Group Booking	2 boats - Save 10% 3 boats - Save 12.5% 4 boats - Save 15 % 5 boats - Save 17.5 % 6 boats - Save 20%	Savings of up to 20% when booking more than one boat per holiday booking, starting and ending on the same dates.
Family Bookings	Save 10% if you book a cruise before 31 st December 2011 for family discounts	Cruise as a family with children and save up to 10% on all cruising destinations. Receive a 5% discount for 1 child & a 10% discount for 2 children all season (excludes holiday all departures between 30 th June & 18 th August 2012)
Extended Booking	Save 10%	For all cruises of 14-nights or more, receive a 10% discount off second & subsequent weeks.
All 6 and 5 Anchor boats are excluded from offers. Discounts can be combined up to a maximum of 15%		

Cycling in Vietnam on a journey from the Imperial City of Hue to historic Hoi An, see the beaches of Nha Trang, Dalat and the cosmopolitan city of Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City). See this captivating country alongside the friendly locals, as you pedal past rice fields, visit local ethnic villages and explore imperial cities staying in 3 or 4-star hotels and lodges carefully chosen for their character and location. The trip is fully supported with a bus and English-speaking guides and three meals a day most days.

Vietnam North & South

Departing 7th & 28th November 2011

Guided inn-to-inn cycling holidays available in New Zealand, Australia & India – ask for a new brochure



The stunning **Milford Sound guided walk** in New Zealand, an icon and one of the world's top walks. This is walking track, which offers a surprising level of comfort at the overnight lodges with twin or double bedrooms with private bathrooms (or multi-share rooms if required) and a high level of support and service from the guides and track and reservation staff.

Other walks available in combination with the Milford Track include the Grand Traverse & the 8-day Classic Hike.

Milford Track from Queenstown:

Departures still available from 1st November to 30th December 2011

Ask today for a copy of our New Milford Track, Routeburn & Grand Traverse brochure for 2011/12

Cruising in New Zealand to explore the villages and islands in a beautifully appointed small ship with a stunning interior - built to travel to inaccessible areas – with the highest level of passenger comfort. Just 12-spacious ensuite cabins, a large dining room/saloon lounge, a library, and generous outdoor living spaces plus a landing craft, three large tenders, sea kayaks, a five-seat helicopter, fishing and snorkel equipment and for those looking for less strenuous activities lazing in a deckchair is always an acceptable option.

Hauraki Gulf from Auckland:

Departing 13th, 20th, 27th, 28th Nov 2011

Walking in Victoria, where the **Great Ocean Walk** spans 104km of spectacular coastline through the Otway Ranges and is an ideal way to see native Australian bird, marine and animal wildlife. Stay in a lodge, designed specifically for walkers in luxury eco-style villas set amidst the trees

Great Ocean Walk 6-day / 5-night:

Departing 5th 12th & 26th December 2011

For more details on any of our holidays see: http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/whats_new_holiday

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations

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