



OUTLINES

October 2005

What's in this issue

EARLYBIRD SPECIALS: Self-Skippered Cabin Cruising in France, SAVE UP TO 15%.

Last minute cruising availability in France –

Hotel Bargaining in Normandy 2 for 1 offer, SAVE UP TO 50%

New 4-day / 3-night Paris cruise in October available

Litote Hotel Barge in Burgundy – 1 week cruise available in October

Feedback... Our clients return.

What is a 'Group'?

Hiking in New Zealand: Spaces left, but closing fast.... Book soon!

Out of the Ordinary – Tailor-made Trips

Hiking in Tassie – Australian Walking Holidays

Earlybird Car Hire Specials on Long-term Car Hire in Europe

Galleries Lafayette – Paris: Autumn News

Winter Earlybird Special – Fly & Ski in Austria

Free Summer Sailing in the Whitsundays

2006 Mediterranean Yacht Cruising: Croatia, France, Greece, Spain or Turkey

Global Travel Health Alert

Just flights – see our 24-hour airfares search engine to all destinations

Outdoor Travel brochure order form



TASMANIAN HIKING TOUR

10 or 19 days, ex HOBART (Details follow)

CROWN BLUE LINE – SELF-SKIPPERED CRUISERS

Early Booking Bonus on all European destinations

* Book before 15th November 2005 and receive 10% off your boat hire in 2006.

* Book between 16th November 2005 and 31st December 2005 and receive 5% off your boat hire in 2006.

*Combine it with a Long Hire or Group Hire Discount & you can save up to 15% on your 2006 boat hire cost.

The brochure is on it's way – please call or email to reserve your copy. In the meantime, you can still book, please ask us for a quote on your 2006 cruising holiday.

Other booking discounts available – call for brochures or reservations – **Toll Free 1800 331 582**

LAST MINUTE - HOTEL BARGE CRUISES IN FRANCE

[STOP PRESS.....We have just the following left for last minute cruising in France on October 2005...](#)

[1 cabin left on...](#)

4-DAY / 3-NIGHTS PARIS HIGHLIGHTS

A cruise departing from Paris on 15th October 2005 – just AU\$920 per person twin share.

SATURDAY - Meet in Paris at a pre-arranged point at 4pm. Transfer to Esprit de Europe moored in the heart of Paris. Welcome aboard reception with time to relax and unpack. Unforgettable Paris by Night cruise at the end of dinner aboard.

SUNDAY - After breakfast, a cruise along the river Seine to Conflans St Honorine at the junction with the river Oise. After lunch on board a visit to the house and gardens of Claude Monet, probably the most famous of the Impressionist painters. It was here that he found the inspiration for such masterpieces as "Water Lilies". We return to Conflans with time to stroll in this charming small town before dinner aboard.

MONDAY - A delightful morning cruise brings us to Vernon. After lunch a visit to Les Andelys and the imposing Chateau Gaillard, built in 1196 by the King of England and Duke of Normandy, Richard the Lionheart to block the route to Rouen from his French enemy Phillippe Auguste. We return to Esprit d'Europe for our farewell gala dinner on board.

TUESDAY - This morning, after breakfast, return to Paris by motor coach, arriving at the Regina Hotel around 11am.

[4 cabins left on...](#)

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE NORMANDY CRUISES IN FRANCE

A couple will save \$2725 - Single passengers will save \$2470 this Autumn.

We still have limited availability on our tour departing 22nd October 2005 on our Normandy cruise aboard the sleek and elegant hotel barge *Esprit d'Europe*.

Two passengers can travel for the price of one on these departures (normal cost AU\$2725 per person – twin share) or a single passenger can travel at just AU\$1675 (usual cost is AU\$3520)

Costs include round trip transfers from Paris, all meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 7, wines (red & white) with all lunches and dinners and excursions as per our program, fully guided and including entrance fees. Highlights include Paris by night cruise, Giverny (the home of Claude Monet, Rouen the historical city of Joan of Arc and Honfleur where we moor in the heart of the very picturesque town.

[Also.... 1 Double Upper Deck Cabin, 1 x Twin Upper Deck Cabin & 1 x Twin Lower Deck Cabin on...](#)

La LITOTE – 7 day, 6 night hotel barge cruising the Best of The Burgundy Canal, departing 22nd October 2005. Cost \$3135 per person (twin share).

FEEDBACK.....

(We love this time of year. Our clients report back on their holidays)

Hotel Barge cruising in Normandy

“ We were so pleased with the Anacoluthé that we would be very interested in doing another such cruise a little later on – our only complaint was that it was only for a week, we could have happily kept going. The boat was lovely, the crew was great and our fellow passengers were very nice – at the end of a week it was just like one big family and leaving almost brought tears to our eyes (a bit corny but true).

Kind regards”

Jocelyn P

A Farmhouse Apartment in Tuscany

“Now that we are back from our o/s holiday, I just wanted to let you know that both our ATG walking trip from Siena to Florence, and our stay at Castellare di Tonda more than met our expectations. The walk was really well run, our Route Manager, James, was very helpful and the directions and the accommodation were very good. Castellare di Tonda was amazing... Luckily the weather was pretty good in the main, so we had quite a few swims and enjoyed some beautiful sunsets while raising our glass of Chianti Classico as we sat on our chairs enjoying the views! We would recommend the Castellare apartments to anyone wanting a unique experience in Tuscany. What a property!

More importantly, just wanted to say thanks especially to you for your helpful assistance in making it possible in such a short time. We will have no hesitation in seeking your help again, once we've saved up enough money to go again!! Many thanks again.

Kind regards”

Patrice S.

Slack-packing in the Yosemite National Park, USA.

“I have to say this was a sensational hike, well put-together, with tremendous organization by both our guides, Chuck and Laura. They produced amazing lunches each day, often carried in their backpacks, always fresh and delicious and a constant supply of snacks, blister plasters, water, insect repellent and sunscreen. Our luggage was transported by them to our accommodation, in a covered trailer, pulled behind the shuttle bus, and we carried only day-packs....we learnt a new term from one of the other hikers, *apparently we had become slack-packers, rather than back-packers!* Maybe it's a concession to age, but it certainly made the hike more enjoyable to only carry a day-pack containing essential items. The accommodation was of a high standard, and while we paid a bit more than on other hikes (the Americans know how to do it in style) it was certainly value for money. The spectacular vistas have perhaps spoilt us, as we wonder how to top, or at least equal, the sights we have seen.

Lastly, the most enjoyable company of the other participants, the hilarity, fostered by the guides, who provided constant laughs and information - including a John Muir 'Quote of the Day' - and to learn just who John Muir was, you might just have to go there! “

Dianne W.

WHAT IS A GROUP?

...How long is a piece of string? Forget being crammed into a big bus full of strangers - A group can be anything from two couples travelling together, a few golfing mates & their partners, up to 20 + members of the local bush-walking club.

Often the best holidays evolve at a dinner table, over a glass or two of good wine. Be it a week's walking on the Camino de Santiago in Spain, a cruise on a riverboat in France or relaxing at a farmhouse in Tuscany, often being with like-minded people can turn a great holiday into a brilliant one!

So think about who you'd like to spend time with & call us to put together your own 'group'. Here are a few examples of those who have done just that....

A Week in Bavaria. (x 14):

This party wanted a tailor-made, exclusive guided walking trip in Bavaria, Germany. So we arranged a week based at a picturesque, family-run hotel, within throwing distance of Castle Neuschwanstein. The group returned with reports of memorably scenic walking, fabulous ambience, as well as hilarious tales of their most informative & entertaining (if a little eccentric) French tour guide.

Five Ladies in Italy's Five Lands. (x 5):

Friends spent a week exploring the Cinque Terre, on an independent, hotel to hotel walking holiday. Expectations were well & truly exceeded, with lovely hotels, picture-book scenery, wine-fueled, picnic lunches in flowering meadows above classic villages. And wonderfully detailed Route Notes, ensured no-one needed to 'turn the map around'.

Our Abel Tasman. (x 21):

Comprising mainly couples, this group booked out our 5 day guided walk in New Zealand's beautiful Abel Tasman National Park, and had the private lodges and guided rainforest & coastal walking all to themselves. With the bonus of ferry transfers for those who felt like a rest, it was the perfect getaway for walkers & non-walkers alike.

Private Luxury Cruising. (x 8):

How to celebrate your 50th Birthday in style... Take three other couples, charter your own private hotel barge & cruise the South of France for a week. The Captain, Chef, crew & tour guide all at your party's beck & call. Now that's a top way to feel very, very special!

The Danube: From Passau to Vienna. (x 6).

This group were in Europe for a conference & chose to unwind with a week of self-guided cycling along the picturesque Danube. A well-known destination for savvy Europeans, the cycle-friendly region, with it's pretty villages & cycle route criss-crossing Austria's most famous waterway, was a terrific choice for our independent Aussie travellers.

HIKING IN NEW ZEALAND: SPACES LEFT, BUT CLOSING FAST...

It has already been a busy booking season for the Great Walks of New Zealand! If you were thinking of walking the Milford Track, Grand Traverse, Routeburn Track, Hollyford Track, Abel Tasman National Park, Queen Charlotte Track, Tongariro Trek, Hump Ridge Track or Stewart Island Kiwi Trek, the time to book it is NOW.

As a general view, most walks still have good availability in the first half of November 2005. Then space is limited until the week before Christmas... which is actually an excellent time to do a walk – for those who want to welcome (or escape!) Santa, in the Land of the Long White Cloud.

Late December 2005, January & February 2006 are busy, but we can usually find limited space if you are a bit flexible with your start date.

March and April 2006 have good availability. While it may be a bit cooler down at the bottom of the South Island, it's still great walking. At the top of the South Island, the Abel Tasman and Queen Charlotte are glorious (and usually still sunny) at that time of year.

To check availability, more information or bookings, just contact Outdoor Travel on 1800 331 582

OUT OF THE ORDINARY – TAILOR-MADE TRIPS

Travel on your own tailored adventure with your family, friends, school group or club.

With over 300 trips to choose from and destinations all around the world, why not tell us what you'd like to do!

Choose your trip - with the summer on it's way, **New Zealand** is a natural choice... Spectacular scenery, relaxed & easy-going people and a vast plethora of landscapes to discover, or maybe something outrageously active to work off all the good food & World Famous Sauvignon Blanc! Maybe you'd like to journey through the rich history, picturesque countryside and fascinating cities of Vietnam, or your own private safari in Africa. You then decide whether you want to make any changes to our existing itineraries - add some extra sights or cities, organise a specialised activity, or perhaps link two trips together. Then you choose the date you would like to depart and leave the rest to us. We will organise all your travel arrangements including your flights and insurance.

If you ever fancied something out of the ordinary, we can organise that to do – we've done specific gourmet and cooking adventures, photographic adventures with tuition thrown in, we've organised yoga trips and trips for walking clubs. Whether you're sitting round the dinner table discussing how to spend the kids inheritance with some friends, or just fancy something different, give us a call, and tell us what you'd like!

Send us an email to info@outdoortravel.com.au, with your itinerary, to start planning your trip. For all private group departures, you need a minimum of four participants.

HIKING IN TASSIE – AUSTRALIAN WALKING HOLIDAYS

TASMANIAN HIKING TOUR

10 or 19 days, ex HOBART

This 10 or 19-day tour of Tasmania's top walking spots offers the very best of Tasmania's stunning national parks and wilderness areas including the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park..

Explore World Heritage listed wilderness areas where craggy mountains loom closer, seas carve out a deep and dramatic coastline with wild beaches and endless blue skies.

The island has the cleanest air in the world, so nature's palette shows through. And for colour, nothing beats Tasmania and its four distinct seasons. Discover the contrast between natural beauty on a grand scale and gardens and buildings formed by human hand. See some of the oldest vegetation on earth, ancient forests of the super continent of Gondwanaland, still flourish in the Tasmanian World Heritage Area. This island's landscape is significantly different to the rest of Australia and to any other place in the world due to its geological origins. Forests of Nothofagus and ancient conifers are quintessentially Tasmanian.

With over 1144 named mountains from which to walk, Tasmania is Australia's most mountainous state, similar in size to West Virginia or Switzerland. More than a third of Tasmania is protected with 20 national parks and over 1.38 million hectares of World Heritage Area stretching from Cradle Mountain in the north to South West Cape and the islands beyond.

Renowned for being one of the world's best walking destinations, it has more than 3000km of world-class walking tracks, thousands of highland lakes, hundreds of clean beaches and mountain peaks and crags.

Join us on the trip of a lifetime, 19 days exploring some of the best trails and mountain day walks Tasmania has to offer. The flexible nature of this tour means it can be done in either the first 10 or last 10 days of the tour as well as the full 19-day tour.

Departures: 2006

28th FEB – 19th MAR 06
28th MAR – 16th APR 06
31st OCT – 19th NOV 06
12th DEC – 31st DEC 06

Departures: 2007

09th JAN – 28th JAN 07
27th FEB – 18th MAR 07
27th MAR – 15th APR 07

Cost per person:

10-Day AU\$2295 Single Supplement AU\$585

19-Day AU\$3995 Single Supplement AU\$1155

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive into Hobart
Day 2: Port Arthur visit and half day walk
Day 3: Day walk to Cape Huay
Day 4: Day trip and ferry ride to Maria Island National Park
Day 5: Walk to Wineglass Bay and Hazards Circuit
Day 6: Coastal Day Walk
Day 7: Explore Douglas Apsley National Park
Day 8: Mt William National Park - Tasmania's best-kept secret
Day 9: Launceston and short walk to Cataract Gorge
10-Day Tour - Day 10 Departure Day

Included in 10 Day tour:

- * 9 nights accommodation (including 1 night at the start of the tour)
- * 2-3 star motels (twin/double/triple rooms with private facilities)
- * Breakfast daily
- * Airport transfer (only 1 transfer/day for arrival and departure)
- * Driving guide (1)
- * 12-seater van (1) with luggage trailer
- * Maps and trip notes

19-Day Tour Itinerary

Day 10: Free day in Launceston
Day 11: Explore Cradle Mountain
Day 12: Day walk to Cradle Mountain
Day 13: Walk to Montezuma Falls on the way to Strahan
Day 14: Free day in Strahan
Day 15: Lake St Clair and full day walk to Mt Rufus
Day 16: Mt Field National Park
Day 17: Hartz Mountains and Tahune Air walk
Day 18: Cockle Creek
Day 19: Free day in Hobart Departure Day

Included in 19 Day tour:

- * 19 nights accom (including 1 night at the start of the tour)
- * 2-3 star motels (twin/double/triple rooms private facilities)
- * Breakfast daily
- * Airport transfer (only 1 transfer/day for arrival & departure)
- * Driving guide (1)
- * 12-seater van (1) with luggage trailer
- * Maps and trip notes

Grade - This tour is grade 2 Moderate (on a scale of 1 - 4, with 4 being Extreme)

For a detailed itinerary, more information or bookings, just contact Outdoor Travel on 1800 331 582

EARLYBIRD SPECIALS ON LONG TERM CAR HIRE IN EUROPE

7 free days in Europe is back! valid for deliveries prior to 31 march 2006 – book and deposit by 31 october 2005!

new renault clio 1.5 turbo diesel, manual 5 doors.	17 now 24 days for only \$1250	extra days only \$25 per day.
new renault clio with a/c 1.5 turbo diesel, manual 5 doors.	17 now 24 days for only \$1350	extra days only \$27 per day.
renault scenic with a/c 1.9 turbo diesel, manual 5 doors.	17 now 24 days for only \$1789	extra days only \$36 per day.
renault grand scenic with a/c 1.9 turbo diesel, manual 5 doors.	17 now 24 days for only \$1989	extra days only \$39 per day.

- all cars are brand new with no insurance excess
- all rates are in Australian dollars and include unlimited kilometres, collision / theft insurance and 24 hour assistance
- free additional drivers are included, – airport fees and all taxes are included.
- collect and return at any one of 35 European locations with all collections and returns in France being free of charge!
- plus!...receive a \$245 discount off total delivery fees for all Renault scenic bookings outside of France.

CALL OUTDOOR TRAVEL ON 1800 331 582 FOR A BROCHURE

GALERIES LAFAYETTE – PARIS: AUTUMN NEWS

Our clients to France will be familiar with our complimentary Paris Map & Galeries Lafayette Discount Card & Fashion Show Invitations. Here's what one of our favourite Parisienne Stores has happening in Autumn...

October's Famous 3J

October 12 to 24, visit Galeries Lafayette for this Autumn's hottest fashion event. The most incredible prices, on the very best French and International fashion, accessories, beauty and home design. All the fashion & flair you'd expect at Galeries Lafayette, but with up to 40% off the original price. And don't forget the 12% tax refund offered to non-EU residents spending 175 Euro and more in a single day!

Late night openings until 8pm from Wednesday October 12th to Saturday October 15th and until 10pm, Thursday October 13th. Open Sunday October 16th from 10am to 7pm

The Galeries Lafayette Paris Haussmann store is located on 40 boulevard Haussmann 75009, Paris. Metro stop: Chaussee D'Antin-LaFayette, RER stop: Auber.

WINTER EARLYBIRD SPECIAL – FLY & SKI IN AUSTRIA

Fly to: Vienna and/or Zurich

Ski: Oberndorf in Tyrol (7 nights twin share accommodation)

From	Low Season	Low Shoulder	High Shoulder
Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Or Perth	Airfare (excluding taxes) + Accommodation	Airfare (excluding taxes) + Accommodation	Airfare (excluding taxes) + Accommodation
	17 Jan - 04 Feb 06	05 Feb - 24 Feb 06	25 Dec 05 - 02 Jan 06
	\$2169.00	\$2319.00	\$2659.00
	25 Feb - 24 Mar 06	09 Jan - 16 Jan 06	25 Mar - 31 Mar 06
	\$2299.00	\$2369.00	\$2459.00

Accommodation is based on 7 nights in a studio apartment based on 2 pax sharing.
Additional pax \$150.00 per person, maximum 6 pax per apartment

Flight Conditions: Total Package prices shown are based on Economy Class airfares flying Malaysia Airlines between 01 Oct 05-31 Mar 06 and are subject to availability. All prices are exclusive of taxes, levies and charges, correct as at 05 September 05. Departures: 01 October 05-31 March 06*. *A Blackout for outbound departures from 03 Dec 05 to 24 Dec 05 applies to this airfare. Book & Pay by: 31 October 2005. Children/Infant: 75% of adult airfare plus taxes/10% of adult airfare plus taxes Stopover Accommodation (STPC): Not permitted with this airfare. Cancellations/Changes/Reissues: Fees/Restrictions apply. Cancellation charge before departure \$330 per ticket. After departure fare will be reassessed. Taxes/Levies: NOT included. Please contact your Travel Agent for full details. Frequent Flyer Points: Enrich frequent flyer points are not applicable on these bookings.

For more information or bookings, just contact Outdoor Travel on 1800 331 582

FREE SUMMER SAILING IN THE WHITSUNDAYS

Get in early with your Whitsunday sailing holiday booking and save a lot of money with our new Summer Freedom Deal! Simply book a Whitsunday charter holiday between 1 November 2005 and 31 March 2006 and receive the following:

Book 7 nights charter - receive 2 nights free!

Book 10 nights charter - receive 4 nights free!

*Conditions: Excludes period from 20 Dec 05 to 10 Jan 06. * Not valid with any other offer/discount*

This great deal makes our Whitsunday charters start from only \$82 per person per night (*based on six people aboard a Jeanneau 40 foot yacht for 9 nights*).

This special offer, combined with Jetstar, Virgin Blue and Qantas all offering discounted fares to Hamilton Island's jet airport, means there has never been a more affordable time to sail the Whitsundays! So grab this hot deal. For more information or bookings, just contact our friendly Reservations team on **180 331 582**.

2006 MEDITERRANEAN YACHT CRUISING: CROATIA, FRANCE, GREECE, SPAIN OR TURKEY

At last - you can now book your sailing holiday in one of our Mediterranean bases for 2006! Escape on an unforgettable holiday aboard a luxury Sunsail yacht, cruising through the superb waterways of Croatia, France, Greece, Spain or Turkey. For more information or bookings, just contact our friendly Reservations team on **1800 331 582**

GLOBAL TRAVEL HEALTH ALERT -

Update September 2005

INDONESIA

AVIAN INFLUENZA (BIRD FLU)

A fatal case occurred in a 37-year-old woman who resided in Jakarta. She developed symptoms on 31 August, was hospitalized on 3 September, and died on 10 September. The woman lived in an area with multiple opportunities for exposure to chickens and ducks. It remains unclear how any of the 4 Indonesian Bird flu cases contracted infection.

RUSSIA

HEPATITIS A

The number of persons suffering hepatitis A virus infection continues to increase in Nizhniy Novgorod. According to all available information, 356 persons have been hospitalized with hepatitis A in several hospitals throughout the city. Nizhniy Novgorod (in the Soviet period, known as Gorky) is the 3rd largest city in Russia.

ADVICE TO TRAVELLERS

Although hepatitis A is endemic throughout the world, in many places it is held at bay by judicious use of vaccine and attention to social infrastructure, principally provision of good-quality drinking water and adequate treatment and disposal of waste water and sewage. In many parts of rural and urban Russia these may be deficient. **A Hepatitis "A" vaccination is a prudent precaution for travellers.**

JUST FLIGHTS TO ANYWHERE?

A reminder that if you are looking for the best airfares to any destination then with access to the latest information and up to the minute fare deals through our Smartfares Computer Reservations System, click-on to our website www.outdoortravel.com.au and to: [Outdoor Travel fares](#) for an up to date quote on your travel plans - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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: www.outdoortravel.com.au
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright 3741
- Travel Agent Licence No 31102

ORDER YOUR NEW TRAVEL BROCHURES FOR 2006

We will put you on the list & send our 2006 European brochures as they become available. In the interim – if you would like the current 2005 version, just let us know at Outdoor Travel

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

- () **SHERPA EUROPE INN TO INN** - Independent self-guided walking or cycling trips - France, Switzerland, Walkers Britain & most countries of Europe - Worldwide
- () **ATG OXFORD - FOOTLOOSE & FREEWHEELING & WEEKAWAY** - Independent & Small Group Guided Walking &/or Cycling - Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Greece & UK
- () **CAMINO DE SANTIAGO** – Walking or cycling the Way of St James (France or Spain)
- () **WALKING SAFARI COMPANY** - Quality small group themed walking holidays in France or Spain – with a donkey
- () **CROWN BLUE LINE** - Self-skippered Canal Boats in France, Holland, Italy, Germany, Scotland, England & Ireland
- () **GO BARGING** - Quality All inclusive Hotel Barges in France, Germany, UK & Ireland
- () **CANAL & CO** – Hotel Barges in most regions of France and Holland
- () **CASTELLARE DI TONDA** – Tuscan farmhouse self-contained apartments
- () **SUNSAIL** – Yacht Charter or MileCatcher cruises in Queensland

OTHER – Please specify:

NEW ZEALAND WALKING / CYCLING 2005/06 season now available at Outdoor Travel

- () Milford Track Guided or Freedom Walk or the 8-day Ultimate Hike
- () Grand Traverse
- () Abel Tasman
- () Hollyford Valley Walk
- () Tongariro Trek
- () Stewart Island Kiwi Trek
- () Routeburn Walk
- () NZ Cycling Tours

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:

CALL OUTDOOR TRAVEL ON 1800 331 582

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



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