



# OUTLINES

March 2006

**IMPORTANT:** if I could just remind everyone that our office is amongst the autumn leaves in beautiful Bright in Northeast Victoria. We do not have an office in Melbourne & have no relationship whatsoever with the travel agent there called Outdoor Travel Melbourne.

We also accept both direct bookings for tours, flights & general travel AND accept reservations through your local travel agent.

Now to business – please look closely to these offers as much of our previous information – particularly cruise offer dates in France - has changed:



## IN THIS ISSUE:

New – Walking, painting, yoga or photography tours in Spain  
Adventures in Andalucia – discounts on painting & walking holidays in Spain  
Walking holidays in Italy – a report on the Amalfi Coast routes  
Walking holidays with flowers in mind  
Where on Earth is.....internet route finders  
Lost in France – a cruising story by Richard Hill  
Go Barging – European Waterways – No Single cabin supplements & discounts on select departures  
Paul Cezanne exhibition – Aix-en-Provence – 9th June to 17th September  
Canal & Co – Hotel barge 2 for 1 offers  
French cycling holidays – New brochure available  
Australian Outback cycling holidays – places still available  
Brochure request form

## NEW ACTIVE HOLIDAYS IN SPAIN FOR 2006

### WALKING, PAINTING, YOGA, COOKING OR PHOTOGRAPHY

Ever searching for new & interesting destinations & looking for ideas to tempt our mostly over 40's clients with considerable travelling experience, Outdoor Travel has teamed up with a UK based specialist tour operator to offer a series of small group holidays in Spain.

Location & accommodation is important, the skills of the tutors & the scenery, local culture & cuisine are essential. In 2006 we are ready to tempt you with 2-fascinating Spanish holiday destinations: Andalucia in the south & Catalunya in the north, near the France / Spain border adjoining the Mediterranean coast.

**Guided Walking Holidays** - eight different locations in Spain's Natural Parks. Enjoy some of the most dramatic or the gentlest walking available in Andalucia, Catalonia.

**Painting Holidays** - with 10 committed and experienced painting holiday tutors; we are able to offer tuition in watercolours, pastels, oils, acrylics, and drawing.

**Yoga Holidays** - Spain is an ideal location for yoga and these holidays offer the opportunity to combine yoga practice with walking, painting or simply relaxing.

**Cookery Holidays** - combine hands-on cooking with interesting visits to a typical Spanish market, wine museum and olive mill; experience the 'real tastes' of Spain.

**Photography holidays** - devised for both the novice photographer, and those wishing to progress from point and shoot onto more creative photography.

These are centre-based holidays, for the most part staying in a single well-chosen hotel. They offer an authentic experience with dynamic, vibrant destinations, a colourful history & dramatic ever-changing scenery.

### **GUIDED WALKING IN SUBBÉTICA, ANDALUCIA IN SPAIN**

Following the paths of the old muleteers as well as routes of our own devising we explore this rugged limestone country. Moorish wells and Neolithic caves with paintings honeycomb the terrain, which also hosts olive groves, olive mills, goat farms and cheese making. Now that he owns goats and sheep himself, our walking leader Clive knows all the shepherds along the way!

#### **What's included?**

- 7-nights B&B in ensuite accommodation, 6 dinners and 5 lunches
- Personal welcome at Málaga airport
- Airport transfers in Spain
- Spanish style picnic lunches or tapas lunches
- Dinner in local restaurant & wine with evening meals
- Air-conditioned support vehicles
- 5-days guided walking with local leader & free entry to local caves

#### **Suggested itinerary**

**Sunday** - Arrival day - Leaving Málaga we arrive in Zuheros in time for to explore before a dinner of paella and local wine to remind you that you really have arrived in Spain.

**Monday** - Circuit of woody hill - This circular walk from our hotel provides an excellent first day of contrasting landscapes, lichen-clad oak woods, and contoured mule tracks. (8m.)

**Tuesday** - Luque, the bedstead walk - Passing great limestone crags and Moorish wells, we cross the shoulder of the mountain, to enjoy magnificent views of the distant sierra and Luque beneath us. (11 miles)

**Wednesday** - Across the northern Subbética - Driving to the high point in the south we return across the mountains. A walking route with a lovely open feel and perhaps you will see vultures circling overhead. (10 miles)

**Thursday** - Free day - A chance to visit Córdoba with its magnificent mosque and fascinating Jewish quarter.

**Friday** - Cave of the bats and Zagrilla - After exploring the caves, we cross the high meadows, pass the cliffs of the vultures, and finally descend to the village of Zagrilla for refreshments. (8 miles)

**Saturday** - Manuel's way - This popular walk takes us along and up a large escarpment littered with irises and mushrooms depending on the season. Then, with the village of Doña Mencia below, we return home via the olive groves beneath the mountains. (11 miles)

**Sunday** - Departure day - We leave Zuheros after breakfast arriving in Málaga for 10am

### **PAINTING IN ARANCENA, ANDALUCIA IN SPAIN**

Perched halfway up a craggy hillside sits a whitewashed bell tower looking down over the sleepy village of Alájar, named by the Arabs, and meaning "The Rock".

The views from above are stunning, the hills stretching as far as the eye can see, merging into Portugal in the distance. Down below, lies the village, nestling in the valley surrounded by hillside groves of chestnut and cork oak. The narrow, cobbled streets, opening into charming squares of crooked whitewashed houses, balconies ablaze with geraniums, are a delight to paint. A short trip away is the valley of San Bartolomé.

### **This Painting Holiday in Spain includes:**

- Personal welcome at Málaga airport & airport transfers in Spain
- 7-nights B&B in ensuite accommodation
- 6-dinners (with wine - including 2 in local restaurants) and 6 Spanish style picnic lunches
- 5-full days of painting tuition (Chairs and boards provided)
- Jamón and sherry tasting, homemade tea and scones at local guide's house
- Free use of painting equipment (for beginner's weeks only)
- Local assistant & air-conditioned minibus available at all times

### **Suggested Itinerary:**

**Sunday** – Arriving Málaga & drive to Alájar to explore this pretty village before a reviving dinner.

**Monday** - Around Alájar - A stroll around the village will provide you with a host of subjects to paint; wrought iron balconies, ancient doorways, elegant villas & ramshackle old sheds.

**Tuesday** - A short trip in the minibus takes us out to the beautiful valley of San Bartolomé where we take refuge beneath the spreading arms of an ancient oak to paint the charming old hermitage. Set in rolling pastureland we have only the cows and the birds to keep us company.

**Wednesday** - Life in a sleepy hamlet - Just a couple of miles from Alájar we find ourselves in the quaint little hamlet of El Cabezuelo. Passing walled vegetable gardens and black pigs rooting amongst the cork oaks, it is arguably the prettiest hamlet in the region.

**Thursday** - Free day - A great chance to visit the capital city of Andalucia, Seville, or the more easily accessible regional centre of Aracena.

**Friday** - The dramatically situated Peña de Arias Montano provides the base for today. Perched above Alájar the views are breath taking, taking in the painting locations of the previous days.

**Saturday** - Down to earth - Back in Alájar for our final day and a chance to revisit old haunts, rework paintings from earlier in the week, or simply relax.

**Sunday** - Departure day - Breakfasting early, we arrive at Málaga by 10.00am.

### **YOGA & PAINTING HOLIDAYS**

These holidays offer daily yoga practice with daily painting in the beautiful landscape of the Subbética Natural Park and a free massage. Rising beyond the distant Sierra Nevada, the early morning sun will warm you during your gentle yoga session.

During the week, you will further unwind by painting in the shade of the almond trees.

Forget the cares of the world as you relax by the pool with peaceful views of the mountains all around you while.

### **Exclusive To This Holiday**

- Personal welcome at Málaga airport & airport transfers in Spain
- 7-nights B&B in en-suite accommodation, 6 dinners (including 2 dinners in local restaurants & wine with evening meals) & 5 lunches Spanish picnics or tapas lunches
- Daily yoga tuition with fully qualified teacher & complimentary massage
- 5-days of painting tuition (boards & chairs provided) in the shade of the almond trees
- Minibus available at all times

### **Suggested Itinerary:**

**Sunday** – Arrival day - Leaving Málaga we arrive in Zagrilla in time for to explore before dinner with local wine, reminding you that you really have arrived in Spain. After a light breakfast of fruit and juice there will be a tutored 1½-hour rooftop yoga session involving stretching and breathing exercises along with some of the traditional asanas or poses. This is followed by lovely Spanish breakfast.

**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** - After breakfast on these days we take our picnics and ourselves into the fabulous hills of the Natural Park where we walk until late afternoon.

**Tuesday & Saturday** - After breakfast on these days the time is left free to relax and enjoy the hotel and its surroundings.

In the late afternoon there will be a further hour-long yoga session for those who would like it. The free massage will take place during the week either after the walking or during the Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Dinner is in the hotel most evenings but on a couple of nights we eat out in local restaurants.

**Sunday** – Departure day - We leave Zagrilla full of good intentions to continue our yoga practice and in time to get to Málaga for 10am.

## **DISCOUNTS ON THESE NEW HOLIDAYS IN SPAIN**

### **FIRST TO DECIDE WILL SAVE UP TO \$150**

We thought you might like to know about special discounts being offered by our UK operator on our new special interest holidays in Europe (more details in the next full newsletter). Call or contact us today for tour descriptions & prices (no brochure yet) to register for these spring discounts:

**Walking Grazalema** - Departs April 30 - Save \$120 off the next 2 bookings only. Spectacular limestone landscapes & meadows full of flowers. The hotel is in the village above. Maybe your partner has always wanted to learn to paint

**Beginners' Painting Grazalema** - Departs April 30 – Save \$150 off the next 4 bookings only. All equipment is provided - this is the perfect holiday to find out if painting is for you. A walking holiday is running at the same time for those with partners/friends.

**Short Walks with Flowers Grazalema** - Departs May 7 – Save \$120 off the next 3 bookings only. These walks are up to 6 miles and are led by David Lanfear, a local and inspiring botanist. No need to be a botanist to enjoy these beautiful walks.

**Painting Grazalema** - Departs May 7 – Save \$120 off the next 2 bookings only. Christine is a wonderfully considerate tutor offering pastels, watercolours and drawing. The hotel is delightful and the food is delicious!

**Painting Arcena** – Departs May 7 – Save \$150 off the next 2 bookings.

**FOR RESERVATIONS CALL OUTDOOR TRAVEL 1800 331 582**

## **WALKING HOLIDAYS IN ITALY**

### **A report from our Man On The Amalfi Coast**

John Millen our Sherpa route note editor has just returned from a week in Italy checking out the Amalfi Coast route notes and meeting our local representatives. This is what he had to say.

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 'Trattoria'.

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.

The walks impress me 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. 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.

The Sherpa self-guided Amalfi coast trip can be booked to start on any day until the end of November 2006.

**Call us today for a copy of the brochure or the detailed trip dossier.**

## **WALKING HOLIDAYS WITH FLOWERS IN MIND**

**Euroflora 2006 From 21st April – 1st May 2006 – Genoa, Italy**

If you love flowers then visit the most beautiful garden in the world in Genoa at the annual Euroflora Show.

They say that at Euroflora you will be surrounded by a world of emotions you have never experienced before: breathtaking settings and wonderful colours, with plants and flowers from all continents, water effects, never before seen or smelled

Euroflora is not simply a botanic show but it is an immense stage where the creativity and imagination of the best nursery gardeners blend with the charm of uniquely scenic settings. You will discover a world full of surprises, rare specimens, and new flower varieties. You will find out about new trends and design innovations, which will allow you to imagine how greenery in our cities and our gardens could look.

From 21st April through 1st May 2006, offerings will include art tours, cultural programs in the Old Town, cooking programs, shows and special events. Outdoor Travel have a range of small group escorted walking holidays in Italy with flowers as an important theme – here is an example for 2006:

### **DISCOVERING - Flowers of the Gargano**

Flowers, coast and Romanesque – 8-days including 6 optional walks

Discovering... a natural limestone rockery fringed by warm blue seas, the remote Gargano peninsula, besides its historic churches, harbours a wealth of spring flowers including fields of blue and yellow iris, and many rare and unique orchids.

Hotels: 3 and 4 star hotels, some located on the coast, including converted 16C palazzo with its own beach, and another with views. Available dates 22nd April 2006

### **JOURNEYS – Flowers of the Brenta Dolomites**

Flowers, opera and Verona – 8-days (includes 5-days of walking)

Discovering... the Brenta Dolomites and an exciting variety of flowers amidst the world's most spectacular mountain scenery – improbably soaring peaks and pinnacles, lakes, waterfalls, colourful meadows, woods and abundant wildlife... and finally opera in the great Roman Arena in Verona.

Hotels: 3 and 4 star hotels, with lakeside hotel with pool and gardens, mountain chalet and elegantly furnished hotel in Verona. Available dates 25th June or 2nd July 2006 – ask for full details

### **JOURNEYS – Garden Retreats of Rome**

Gardening Renaissance – 8-days including 5-days of walking

Discovering... a new generation of passionate and dedicated gardeners responsible for the rebirth of the Italian garden are now ready to open their doors and allow us the privilege of stepping into the inspired and intelligent gardens they have created.

Hotels: 3 and 4 star hotels, including a country relais in the hills, 19C villa overlooking valley and Mediterranean-style hotel with pool. Available dates 27th May 2006

## **WHERE ON EARTH IS.....**

**Looking for a map to get you from A to B then you now have 3 great Internet choices.**

- 1) Click-on to our website & look for the Michelin Guide link on our Active Europe page [www.viamichelin.co.uk](http://www.viamichelin.co.uk)
- 2) Go to the [www.mappy.com](http://www.mappy.com) website for a host of easy to read options
- 3) Go to [www.googleearth.com](http://www.googleearth.com) for an amazing graphic view of the world including many of the areas we go walking or cycling

Call our travel experts & talk to us about our personal recollections – we regularly visit the areas we offer – call Martyn, Lucie or Sue on 0357551743.

## **HOTEL BARGE CRUISING HOLIDAYS IN EUROPE**



### **Lost in France - by Richard Hill**

***"Of all the methods of travelling I have ever tried, this is the pleasantest"***  
**Thomas Jefferson, Canal du Midi – 1787.**

Six days aboard a luxury hotel barge on the Canal du Midi is unquestionably expensive. But it's a unique holiday, especially for that exceptional occasion in life. It is the finest way to luxuriate in and cherish the culture, cuisine and customs of France along one of the worlds most fascinating and extraordinary inland waterways.

This celebration commemorates twenty-five years since the waterways writer LTC Rolt wrote From Sea to Sea, an account of the history and architecture of die Canal du Midi. From the port of Sete to the city of Toulouse, the Canal du Midi is 240km in length containing 65 locks. Construction began in 1667. In his book,

Rolt quotes the Royal decree signed by Louis XIV in October 1666 ordering that: "the construction proceed without delay of a canal for navigation and communication between the two seas, ocean and Mediterranean".

The canal was designed by, and built under the supervision of Pierre-Paul Riquet. Born in 1604, Riquet was over 60 years old when construction began, and died shortly before completion. Constructing the canal was an immense scheme involving over 12,000 workers. It contains some of the most splendid canal structures in the world. The canal was officially opened on 15th May 1681.

Today, one of the hotel boats cruising the Canal du Midi is the Anjodi. She is a 98-foot long converted Dutch barge that spent much of her early existence transporting merchandise along Holland's trading canals. In 1997 the vessel was thoroughly renovated and fully air-conditioned. Anjodi carries eight guests and four crew. Routes may vary according to conditions and guests requests.

The canal between Agde and Carcassonne embraces most of the remarkable engineering architecture of the entire canal. On this cruise our journey begins at Agde, a port on the estuary of the Herault on the Mediterranean. Agde is a city abundant in antiquity and culture. The Greeks founded it 25 centuries ago, at the foot of an old volcano. Several of its historic monuments are built out of black volcanic rock. The most striking of these is perhaps the riverside church. This and many other black buildings gave rise to Agde becoming known as the 'Black pearl of the Mediterranean'.

At Agde is the extraordinary Écluse ronde d'Agde, a three entranced round lock. The lock separates the canal from the two levels (above and below a weir) of the river Herault. For vessels travelling straight through the lock, the water level has to be raised or lowered depending on the height of the Herault. For this reason, one entrance to the lock has two sets of gates, mitred and opening in opposite directions. Boats travelling toward or from Agde must swing through 90 degrees to align with the canal. Portions of arc of the lock have been extended, so that it is no longer a proper circle. Nevertheless, it remains, as Rolt described it in 1973; "an outstanding example of the boundless ingenuity of Piquet and his engineers."

"For the westbound traveller," wrote Rolt, "it is at Béziers that the Canal du Midi becomes exciting, both visually and from an engineering point of view." This remains true today. At Béziers, the canal crosses the River Orb. Riquet's original canal crossed by entering the river. By an assortment of weirs and sluices, the height of the river was sustained. During times of flood, the sluices were opened and the river became un-navigable. According to Rolt: "In 1779, for example, owing to an exceptional flood, boats waited to cross for 17 days on end." Such floods also caused considerable silting of the river, and it was for these reasons that in 1854 an aqueduct was built across the river.

Nowadays, the locks at Béziers elevate the canal to the level of the Orb aqueduct. The original course of Riquet's canal bends toward the river at the approach to the first set of locks, the Écluses de Béziers. These locks are automatically and remotely controlled by the lock keeper at the Écluses de l'Orb at the top end of the harbour at Port Neuf. The lock keeper monitors the lower locks by means of closed circuit cameras.

The harbour here is home to the hotel barge Anjodi and will be either departure or arrival point for cruises.

Béziers is also the birthplace of Pierre-Paul Riquet on 29th June 1604. He was educated at the Jesuit College here and is now honoured around the city in many ways. The 'high-street' of Beziers is Avenue Paul Riquet, a tree-lined, and pedestrian's avenue with a statue of Riquet at its centre. The avenue is full of restaurants and cafes and is deserving of an extensive visit. Back in the harbour to continue the journey westward, going by many moored boats including an intriguing floating cat museum. After ascending the Écluses de l'Orb, the canal sweeps around and over the seven-span Orb aqueduct, built in 1854 to replace the river crossing.

What comes next is truly phenomenal. The lock staircase of Fomerannes. On the approach to the flight is a water slope, built in 1984 to bypass the lock staircase. It is a magnificent monument to modern canal engineering, but unused. It endured a succession of serious faults. Subsequent commercial trends made the project impossible to rectify and maintain.

The lock flight is entered at right angles into the second chamber, the first having become superfluous after the completion of the Orb aqueduct at a higher level. The journey time through the staircase is quite quick and during the ascent the panorama looking back towards Béziers grows more magnificent with every lock ascended.

It is true that all this could similarly be experienced aboard any of the many self-hire craft accessible on the Canal du Midi. What makes rime aboard a craft like the Anjodi distinctly different is something only a hosted

holiday can offer. The captain and crew make sure that their guests experience the finest of not just the countryside, but also the culture and cuisine of each district. Every meal is representative of the region and every course is accompanied by an explanation of the produce, preparation and cooking process used.

Guests will become appreciative of the source of every delicate taste and bouquet unique to each dish or wine. A certain goat's cheese for example may have a characteristic quality because of the earth in which the grass fodder is grown and perhaps a distinctive maturation process. The captain will select each wine with care and clarify the contributing factors in taste and aroma; the climate, cultivation, constituents and casks used for ageing for example.

The result for guests is a discriminating palate and awareness of some of France's finest cuisine. Regional dishes served include; Noisette d'agneau en croute de sel avec sauce romarin, Ragout de Calamars "Provencale" Troncons de Sole au Yin Rouge poireaux et goujonnettes. Regional wines: Minervois - Domaine de Guery, Corbieres - Chateau de Nouvelles, Roussillon - Chateau la Condamine Bertrand. Cheeses: Le Saint-Remois, Fromage de Chevre au Poivre et au Thyme, Tomme de Yaldeblore.

Though we have cruised less than one eighth of the 240km Canal du Midi, we have passed some of the most important canal architecture in the world. Rolt made the entire journey from Sete to Toulouse. On this voyage, the Anjodi continued to the remarkable citadel of Carcassonne, and so should any traveller.

On the final evening, following Captains dinner, the journey concludes with a floodlit cruise under the canopy of plane trees towards Carcassonne. The experience is almost spiritual and in contemplating the experience of the last six days we turn, for the final time, to Rolt:

"Thanks to the unique privileges granted by Louis XIV to Riquet and his heirs, the canal was to be the Riquet estate and he lost no opportunity to beautify it. Consequently no financial stringency, no engineering problem however intractable it might appear, was permitted to override aesthetic judgement on matters of landscaping or architecture. Hence Riquet's great canal has become an eloquent memorial of an age when the marriage of the arts and sciences, of beauty with utility, was taken for granted and their divorce inconceivable.

**For a copy of the Go Barging – European Waterways brochure call 1800 331 582**

## **SINGLE PASSENGERS CRUISE SAVINGS FOR APRIL & MAY 2006 – SAVE UP TO \$2215**

For the remaining April and May departures we are pleased to offer all single travellers no single supplement charge on a double occupancy cabin. The only conditions are that there is already at least one cabin already confirmed on the departure they choose and a maximum of 2 single passengers can book on each cruise departure as per our standard terms and conditions. Bikes available for passenger's use on all barges.

This offer applies to the following barges on the following departures:

**Scottish Highlander** - Available April 9th, 16th, 23rd, May 7th, 14th, 28th – from AU\$3290 (save AU\$1320).

**L'Impressionniste, Provence, France** - Available April 9th, May 7th, 14th – from AU\$4080 (save AU\$1580).

**Anjodi on the Canal du Midi in Southern France** - Available April 16th – from AU\$3290 (save AU\$1320).

**Nymphaea in the Loire Valley in France** - Available May 14th, 28th – from AU\$3685 (save AU\$1320).

**L'Art de Vivre Burgundy** - Available April 9th, 16th, 30th, May 14th, 21st – from AU\$3555 (save AU\$1320).

**La Belle Epoque in Burgundy in France** - Available April 2nd, May 7th – from AU\$4080 (save AU\$1580).

**Magna Carta on the River Thames in England** - Available 16th, 23rd April, May 28th – from AU\$5526 (save AU\$1975).

**La Dolce Vita in Venice in Italy** April 2nd – from AU\$3420 (save AU\$1450).

**Shannon Princess in Ireland** - April 30th – from AU\$6845 (save AU\$2215)

## **NEW – SAVE \$1000 ON SELECT CRUISES - SINGLES SAVE \$1200**

**Magna Carta cruising on the Thames in England** - \$1,000 discount per passenger, booking the following departures based on 2 people sharing a suite: 16th, 23rd April, 25th June, 9th July, 8th August 8th 2006

**PLUS** no single supplement for passengers booking a suite with single occupancy saving \$1200 per single person on Magna Carta cruises.

## **NEW – BOOK A SECOND CABIN & SAVE 50%**

**Monarch cruising in Belgium & Holland** - we are offering a 50% discount on second cabin bookings for any cruises booked before the 15th March. New to our fleet, the 12-passenger Monarch is a private motor yacht with a maximum capacity of 12 guests. We offer excursions to the most attractive sites in Holland & Belgium with a range of interesting itineraries.

For the more active, there are bikes for a ride into town, or take a kayak-tour on one of the small lakes and side rivers en-route.

The large Sun deck is partly covered with a sunshade to sit comfortably outside in the luxury lounge-set and enjoy the passing scenery when sailing. If you prefer the sun you can sit on the benches or relax on the wooden deckchairs. An annexe to the aft-lounge on the upper deck, leads to a partly roofed poop deck with benches where you have the opportunity to have dinner outside on deck during the summer.

### **Cruise highlights include:**

- Visit to Keukenhof gardens during Tulip Time
- Visit Aalsmeer - the world's biggest flower auction
- Tour of Netherlands capital city - The Hague
- Visit Amsterdam - city on stilts
- Visit the Delta Works - the great sea defence project
- Canal tour in Bruges
- Visit diamond city of Antwerp & the Dutch Masters' art museum



## **PAUL CEZANNE EXHIBITION – AIX-EN-PROVENCE – 9/6/06 TO 17/9/06**

For art enthusiasts and fans of the south of France, here's an interesting piece of news: This year marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Paul Cezanne, the great French Impressionist painter. To commemorate this event, the Granet Museum in Aix-en-Provence will be holding an exhibition of over 100 of his paintings between June and September this year.

Cezanne's prolific representation of his homeland turned out to be responsible to a large degree for the transformation of the image of Provence in the eyes of the world and exemplified his love affair with this beautiful part of the country.

If you are aiming to take a trip down to Provence to enjoy the exhibition, how about taking a cruise on board the Go Barging Hotel Barge Impressionniste sailing between Avignon and Agde. She's a picture of good health and happy times and still has a few cabins available between the dates of the Paul Cezanne exhibition!

Alternatively look at our self-guided walking or cycling holidays in Provence & add a few days in Avignon or ask about our favourite hotel at St Remy (with its tree-house annex room for the children) & the weekly art market that stretches through these ancient streets made famous by Van Gogh.

## **OTHER CRUISE OFFERS IN EUROPE NEW**

### **SPECIAL OFFER – 2 CRUISE FOR THE PRICE OF 1 – HURRY PLACES LIMITED**

Due to the rearrangement of charter cruises – NEW two cruise for the price of one offers on selected all-inclusive 7-day cruises in France:

Cruise the Paris region including Monet's Giverny aboard the **MV Anacoluthé** departing either April 22nd or May 6th or 20th 2006 at AU\$2725 for 2 – new itinerary, ask for details

Cruise in Burgundy from Dijon to Lyon aboard the **Libellule** departing April 8th 15th, 22nd or 29th, May 6th, 13th, or 20th 2006 at AU\$2830 for 2

Cruise Alsace aboard the **Lorraine** departing April 22nd, 29th or May 6th, 20th or 27th 2006 at AU\$2830 for 2

Cruise in Burgundy from Dijon to Vandenesse aboard the **Litote** departing April 15th, 29th, May 6th, 13th or 20th 2006 at AU\$2815 for 2

## **FRENCH CYCLING HOLIDAYS – NEW BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE**

PROVENCE LOIRE, DORDOGNE, BORDEAUX, LANGUEDOC & MIDI – departures from May to October. We love France and we love cycling. Our tours combine these two passions into a cycling holiday that we hope you will never forget. We specialise in guided, fully supported holidays in France's most beautiful areas, staying at charming, individual and very comfortable hotels and sampling the finest regional cuisine and wine.

Call for a copy of the new brochure & enjoy the scenery, the sights, and the cuisine — from the moment we collect you from the airport or train station, everything is taken care of. All you have to do is pedal....

## **CYCLING HOLIDAYS IN AUSTRALIA**

### **2006 Departure Dates**

We still have places available on several of our fully supported outback cycling holidays in Australia:

#### **The Great Victoria Desert Cycling Experience**

Perth to Uluru (Ayers Rock) 6 days/5 nights: \$885 (inc GST) 11th May, 29th June, 17th Aug, and 5th Oct

#### **MacDonnell Ranges Cycling Adventure**

Uluru (Ayers Rock) to Alice Springs 5 days/4 nights: \$795 (inc GST) 18th May, 6th July, and 12th Oct

#### **Katherine & Kakadu Explorer**

Alice Springs to Darwin 6 days/5 nights: \$799 (inc GST) 25th May, 13th July, 31st Aug (3 seats available)

#### **Litchfield & Kakadu Explorer**

Darwin (return to) Darwin 4 days/3 nights: \$550 (inc GST) 3rd June, 22nd July, and 9th Sept

#### **Oodnadatta Track to Clare Vineyards**

Alice Springs to Adelaide 7 days/6 nights: \$899 (inc GST) 19th October

#### **Nullarbor to Margaret River Wine Region**

Adelaide to Perth 11 days/10 nights: \$1560 28th October (2 seats available)

#### **Munda Biddi Cycling Adventure**

Perth-to-Perth 4 days/3 nights: \$440 13th March, 4th April, 17th Nov, and 8th Dec

# ORDER YOUR NEW TRAVEL BROCHURES FOR 2006

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 in France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Spain & most countries of Europe also mountain expeditions worldwide including Morocco, Tanzania & South America
- ( ) SHERPA CYCLING HOLIDAYS - Self-guided France, Italy, Spain, the UK, Ireland & most places in Europe
- ( ) SHERPA EUROPE – WALKER’S BRITAIN - Self-guided walking in England, Ireland, Scotland & Wales
- ( ) 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 - Small group themed walking holidays in France or Spain – with a donkey
- ( ) CROWN BLUE LINE - Self-skippered boats in France, Holland, Italy, Germany, Scotland, England & Ireland
- ( ) GO BARGING – EUROPEAN WATERWAYS – 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

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

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](mailto:info@outdoortravel.com.au)
- Web: [www.outdoortravel.com.au](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au)
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright 3741
- Travel Agent Licence No 31102