



OUTLINES

May 2007

"I had ambition... not only to go farther than anyone had been before, but as far as it was possible for man to go" Captain James Cook 1770

IN THIS ISSUE:

Camino De Santiago a new brochure

On the Pilgrim Trail by Jan Coleman

Spanish ham now available in Australia

Sherpa walks in Tuscany & Mont Blanc

Cooking & wine tours in France

Music & wine tours in Bordeaux, France

Discounts on small group cycling holidays in France

Cycling along the Danube

News from Italy – museums, exhibitions & music festivals

May Day celebrations in England

Hiking in Bhutan – new tours available daily

North American Hiking & Multi-sport holidays

New - last minute hotel barge cruise offers & Crown Blue Line discounts

New Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Museum at Mount Cook

Milford Track Guided Walk - new season bookings now available

Queen Charlotte Guided walks

Important travel warnings & information from *Smarttraveller*

Where in the world is – our guide to routes, maps & finding places?

Outdoor Travel brochure request form & suggestions to help the environment

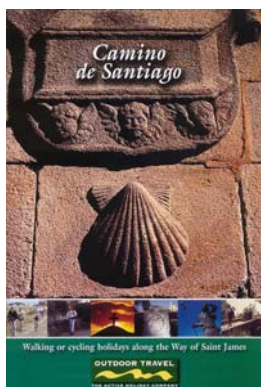
CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

New brochure now available

We are delighted to release our new Camino brochure for 2007 / 8 featuring our popular self-guided walking program from Le Puy in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. We offer week-by-week walking sections with pre-booked hotels & baggage transfers with daily departures from April to October.

Also included this year are a range of small group guided walking programs including 'The Best of the Camino' with expert guides, support vehicle & parador accommodation, our 'Value Tour' for cost conscious walkers following the trail for the last 100+ kilometres into Santiago & a choice of 7 or 10-day **guided cycling tours** from Madrid.

New for 2007 are fully escorted 7 or 14-day walks led by **Dr Steve Blake**, the former curator and Museum & Collections Manager at Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum as the guest lecturer. A Fellow of the Museums Association and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries his great passion are medieval history and architecture, especially churches and the whole subject of medieval pilgrimage. He has walked large parts of the pilgrim routes throughout Europe. These tours depart: 8th September to 21st September 2007



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for reservations

ON THE PILGRIM TRAIL

A story by Jan Coleman

Being a pilgrim on the medieval trail to Santiago de Compostela is a serious business. Hundreds of foot-weary travellers traverse the *camino* every day of the year, all fired with purpose as they make the westward journey across the top of Spain. Many of them come from as far away as the French side of the Pyrenees. And if they travel on foot or by bicycle or on horseback they are deemed true pilgrims, eligible to have their documentation endorsed at each evening's stopover. Possibly in the running for many an indulgence of graces, too, but that's another issue.

These dedicated wayfarers are mainly Spanish and predominately young. They travel alone or in small groups, thumping traditional long staves on the hard rocky ground and swinging the water gourd. Most display the scallop shell, age-old symbol of St. James, and all carry a backpack and bedroll for the journey.

The trail leads to this ancient capital of Galicia, Santiago de Compostela, tucked into the far northwest corner of Spain above Portugal. Legend has it that buried here are the remains of St. James, friend and apostle of Christ. How his remains were transported here from Judaea then lost over time and subsequently rediscovered at Santiago in the 10th century is one of those wondrous events that stretches the imagination but also feeds the believer with fervour.

The small town of Villafranca was the setting-off place for our first walk. The small *plaza mayor* of the town was a hive of activity in early morning with the continuous arrival of pilgrims preparing for another long day's walk or cycling. We ate breakfast as we watched them poring over maps, adjusting their backpacks or saddlebags, using the ATM and finally heading out of town.

We traversed cool forests studded with wildflowers and alive with birdsong; the narrow path wound us through sun-bleached meadows and we plodded up steep hills, resting to drink and gaze back at vistas of the valleys below and of the great folds of mountains massed in the distance. Every now and then the track coursed through small hamlets where stone houses abutted the path, the few people around nodded politely and domestic animals wandered among old sheds and machinery. There might be a cow tethered in a barn surrounded by scratching hens and a boastful rooster, cats, waddles of ducks tamping the damp earth, a horse and occasionally goats cropping wayside grasses.

Although the track and open countryside was hard-baked in the hot summer sun, the tiny villages often provided a running fountain or faucet, invariably with a small gathering of cyclists or walkers filling water bottles or resting nearby in the shade. The greeting here and on the *camino* was always the same: “¡Buon viaje!” - ‘have a good journey’, and along the whole of the trail the ‘*viaje*’ was solely in the one direction. We caused a little confusion on the day when we walked back along the trail from a hilltop village to the valley below. “Wrong way!” some of them ventured helpfully, pointing over our shoulders back towards Santiago.

At the overnight stops we encountered, the small number of eating-houses were crowded with pilgrims swapping experiences and various opinions on the aims and beliefs in what they were doing. There were animated discussions about sin and suffering, reconciliation, solace and grace, sex and sensibility. For many the whole journey was perhaps more a rite of passage, a personal challenge, a self-discovery.

In contrast, there was certain rigidity in a man we met one night in a pilgrim gathering spot. There are probably more like him on the way to Santiago, (think *Canterbury Tales*), all glitter-eyed and intense, trying to engage whoever would listen, shuffling a sheaf of pamphlets and distributing them insistently. He claimed to have walked the entire pilgrim route a dozen times and one had the feeling that he saw this as the only sure way to salvation. Our mere sixteen kilometres walk that day, much of it up very steep terrain, did not impress him and he soon abandoned us. But each table he approached and lectured was not silent for long, either; after polite pause, the hubbub soon began to swell anew. The man finally withdrew into a corner and began writing in a big, dog-eared notebook.

The scene at the final destination is extraordinary. Whilst on the *camino* itself the dedication and determination of the pilgrims is obvious, whatever the faith of these hundreds who tread it every day of the year, nothing prepares one for the atmosphere at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Here joy and excitement fill the air as the pilgrims come to the end of their long and arduous journey. Inside the vast space those tell-tale backpacks are everywhere, propped against pillars, strewn among the pews or still heavy on the backs of those who wait in the continuous queue to touch the reliquary of Saint James.

Outside the great cathedral, too, the exuberance and delight is palpable, overcoming weariness and pain. The trekkers lie on the cobble-stoned square or sit against their packs, some treating their blistered and bandaged feet, others dancing and singing. Everyone faces the cathedral. I spy a tired young man who suddenly breaks into a run as he approaches the cathedral from a side alley. With heavy swag bouncing and water bottle slopping he reaches the square and stares up at the huge façade, his eyes shining. His voice is full of emotion, too, as he exclaims that this is one of the most wonderful moments of his life: four weeks he has been walking the *camino* and a few days ago was so ill that he doubted he would ever get here. He quickly shakes my hand and climbs the steps towards the entrance.

Whatever our own motives for making some of this journey to Santiago, it was a real gift to be able to walk along such an ancient route and to mingle with so many dedicated and exuberant people.

And the atmosphere of rejoicing hung like heady incense in the Cathedral of Santiago.

A PASSION FOR SPANISH HAM?

Now available in Australia

Spanish *Jamón* (cured ham) is greatly prized as a gourmet product in Spain and around the world. After years of arduous negotiations with the Australian Government, since September last year, it has been possible to import *Jamón* from Spain.

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce is celebrating this milestone by hosting *Jamón* 'tastings' in Sydney and Melbourne. Each tasting will feature a presentation by Ms Marietta Perez, Export Manager of Jamondul, S.L.; Spanish company specialized in the manufacturing of high quality *Jamón*. Marietta is also known as a *Jamón* expert and she will be able to enlighten us with her knowledge. For more information contact:

Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Australia

Tel: (02) 9362 3168 or Email events@spanishchamber.org

SHERPA ESCORTED WALKS IN ITALY

Tuscany - 3 departure dates still available for 2007:

Come and join our small group walking party in colourful Tuscany. Ramble through vineyards, cross streams, through poppy and orchid speckled fields to some of the classical Tuscan towns, followed by historical context walks in company with our favourite guide – 7-day from \$2085 per person twin share – singles welcome!

Dates still available in 2007:

Mon 11 June - Sun 17 June

Mon 10 September - Sun 16 September

Mon 8 October - Sun 14 October

SHERPA TOUR DU MONT BLANC

Dates still available for self-guided walks in 2007 season:

A self-guided 2-week walk but as accommodation is limited & baggage transfers difficult to organise Sherpa take room allotments to make sure walkers can enjoy the advantage of a pre-booked supported trek.

Spaces are still available as follows – 14-days from \$2510 per person twin share:

17 June

14 July

15 July (a possibility - accommodation on request)

29 July - Escorted trip

12 August (a possibility - accommodation on request)

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

COOKING WINE & WALKING IN FRANCE

Unique opportunity for November 2007 in the Lot Valley

Our program of gastronomic walks in France has started already this year & it has been hugely popular with all but a few places completely booked out. So plan ahead for these **walking with a donkey tours** for 2008!

The Truffle Hop in mid February was absolutely delicious. The first meal was a five-course dinner cooked by accomplished chef Bernard Philippe of Le Vert. The second was a brunch at 'Le Gindreau' cooked by Alexis Pellisou - with an outrageous extravagance of moustache - who is a truffle fanatic. There were seven courses each accompanied by carefully chosen wines and in this lovely sun filled setting.

For partners not so focused on cooking we are arranging it so that there will be tours available in the morning to visit the fantastic wineries that are found around Bergerac. There are five different appellations all within in a short driving distance. The men (or ladies) can have time talking and tasting wine with various well-known wine growers whilst those who will can cook in the mornings. Lunch together and walk in the afternoon.

We still have places available on our **French Cooking Week** which has been changed to 3rd November – 8-days from \$3565 per person twin share - call us for a copy of the brochure or see our website for details.

MUSIC & WINE TOURS IN BORDEAUX

Cycling, walking, barges & boats



This summer 2007, music will be flowing through the vineyards in Bordeaux including two great festivals, winery visits, tastings and great food!

"LES GRANDS CRUS MUSICAUX"

25th - 27th July 2007 at Chateau Canon & Chateau Yquem

A rare opportunity to attend two unique concerts in Château Canon (Saint-Emilion) and Château Yquem (Sauternes), along with exceptional cellar visits and tastings!

"LES ESTIVALES DE MUSIQUE"

16th - 19th July 2007

A meeting between excellence, music and wine! Young musicians, who have won international recognition, perform in theatrical settings of the Medoc Chateaux. All you need for a short oenological getaway!

Ask about our many guided or self-guided cycling tours, our hotel barges or Crown Blue Line self-skipped motor boat hire in the Bordeaux, Aquitaine, Charente or Lot regions of France.

SMALL GROUP CYCLING HOLIDAYS IN FRANCE

Places available on fully inclusive 8-day quality cycling tours – save up to 10%

10% off the Dordogne tour departing 3 June,

5% off the following tours: Burgundy 24 June, Dordogne 22 July, Burgundy 22 July, Loire Valley East 5 August, Loire Valley West 19 August, Burgundy 9 Sept, Burgundy 16 Sept

See details under What's New on <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au> or call us on 1800 331 582

Self-guided cycling trips are available daily throughout Europe. Bike & Barge cruises are available in Holland, France, Croatia & Turkey – river and canal cruises are available throughout Europe – sailing holidays available in Corsica, Tuscany or Sicily in Italy - ask for details

CYCLING ALONG THE DANUBE

From Vienna to Budapest

An increasingly popular route the cycling highway along the River Danube Valley has become a 'must-do' for cyclist around the world. Not only does it sound romantic but also the well-made trail avoids heavy road traffic & even the exhausting 'hilly' sections between these two mighty cities of European culture. Dates still available for the 2007 season on our 10-day small group cycling holiday are:

Sunday 10, 24 June, Sunday 15, 22, 29 July, Sunday 12, 26 Aug, Sunday 02, 16 Sept from \$1785 per person

If you are planning to choose any of these dates we recommend you do so promptly

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

NEWS FROM ITALY

Events & exhibitions

Florence, Science Museums - until September 23rd

www.imss.fi.it

"La linea del sole. Le grandi meridiane fiorentine" (The line of the sun. Big sundials in Florence). This is the name of the event, which highlights the importance of the tools used to measure time. The exhibition shows scenographic installations, interactive models, original instruments, books, drawings and a multimedia station. Three important appointments happen during the event: a huge sundial will be unveiled at the entrance of the Museum on June 21st. An experimental verification will take place on the same day, in Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral: the sun light will centre the marble disk installed during the XV Century by astronomic scientist Paolo Dal Pozzo Toscanelli. The event underlines the maximum closeness between the Earth and the Sun and will be repeated in the Basilica of Santa Maria Novella on September 23rd.

Polo Gold Cup 2007

Porto Cervo - May 24th - June 2nd

Polo Gold Cup 2007 starts on May 24th. After the winter ranch played in Cortina, Porto Cervo hosts the Jaeger-Le Coltre Spring Gold Cup, second stop of the event. The third championship is scheduled on September 12th once again in the famous Sardinian resort.

Wonderful Chagall

Rome, Vittoriano Building - until July 1st

www.ambienterm.arte.beniculturali.it/vittoriano

The exhibition focuses on Russian and Jewish popular culture. Around 180 works are exhibited: paintings, drawings, sculptures and engravings, which retrace the master's life journey and working experience. His "easy" style is far from being naive; indeed it is the result of a complex series of experiences and ideological and cultural choices, with a complex net of influences - from the historical avant-garde to contemporary art.

Italian 20th Century in Florence

Fiesole, Sant'Alessandro Basilica - until June 3rd

www.fiesolemusei.it

"Giorgio De Chirico e un Novecento prima e dopo la Transavanguardia" (Giorgio De Chirico and the 20th Century before and after the Trans-vanguard). This is the title of the event that is focused on a very important historic and artistic period in Italy. It is characterized by some extremely important works by De Chirico, though

he is not the only artist to be exhibited. The critical direction of this exhibition leads to different reflections and impressions, inspired by artists such as Baccio Maria Bacci, Primo Conti, Tirinnanzi, Annigoni and the Buenos, as well as Guido Peyron, Leopoldo Paciscopi and Fernando Farulli.

Painted Venice

Pietrasanta, Chiostro di Sant'Agostino – From May 12th - June 3rd

www.comune.pietrasanta.lu.it

This is an exhibition that traces the journey of European abstractism through the works by kinetic artist Ferruccio Gard. A lyric track into colour and through the impressive deepness of "Being", such an intense chromatic variety is able to capture and involve visitors. This event is an anthology that retraces the highest moments of his 30-year painting career. In the display there are about 40 works related to the period from the 70s to the geometric and abstract- informal phases and even works that display elements of the contemporary chromatic explosions.

Gerard Titus Carmel

Ischia, Aragona's Castel - May 18th - September 30th

www.castelloaragonese.it

About one hundred works characterize this event, which is about paintings and drawings illustrating this artist's most recent pieces. An overview on the classical theme of the so-called open-air painting, it is an "upside-down landscape": thick foliage that does not only represent a natural wonder, but also an inner emotional experience. To the observer this work becomes an internal landscape with the same geography of a thought that realizes itself in the vision of the world.

The Passion of Christ by Bernini

Rome, Incontro Palace - until June 3rd

www.provincia.roma.it

The life of Christ is illustrated by the artistic genius of Giovan Lorenzo Bernini. The exhibition, which is a special representation of the Passion, puts together about 50 works. Different artistic items are displayed: paintings, bronze, pottery, engravings and marble. The event is also characterized by the exhibition of two previously unseen paintings: "Cristo Patiens" and the "Cristo Battezzato". Bernini's works represent one of the greatest moments in Italian Baroque.

For more information on any of these events contact the Italian Government Tourist Office in Sydney Ph 02 9262 1666 or Email italia@italiantourism.com.au

SPRING FESTIVALS IN EUROPE

May Day in England



Maypole dancing is a form of folk dance from Western Europe especially England, Sweden and Germany, with two distinctive traditions.

In the most widespread, dancers perform circle dances around a tall pole which is decorated with garlands, painted stripes, flowers, flags and other emblems. In the second, dancers dance in a circle each holding a

coloured ribbon attached to a much smaller pole; the ribbons are intertwined and plaited either on to the pole itself or into a web around the pole. The dancers may then retrace their steps exactly in order to unravel the ribbons.

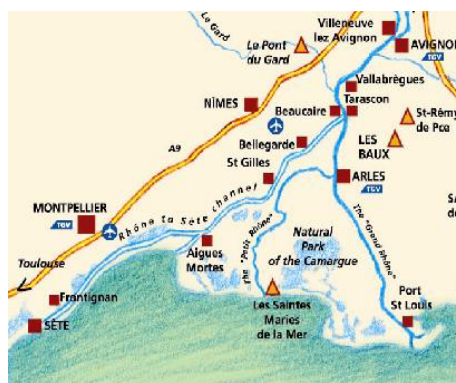
Maypole dancing can still be seen in smaller villages in the UK, combining the crowning of the May Queen and her attendants, the May Queen is chosen from the young female children in the village. She is dressed in a long white gown to symbolise purity, and usually wears a crown with flowers in her hair. She leads the procession and thus begins the May Day celebrations.

May is an ideal time for river cruising or walking in the UK – why not plan your walking, cycling, boating or barging holiday in 2008 around May Day celebrations?

CANAL & RIVER CRUISE OFFERS

NEW SPECIAL OFFER - CRUISING IN PROVENCE – LE PHENECIAN

Save almost \$4000 - Two cruise for the price of one – a very special cruise offer – just 5 cabins left



Departs: 24th – 30th June from Avignon to Sete or v. v.
Cost per cabin: AU\$3795 (twin share or single cabin) usually AU\$3795 per person

Art... Roman Ruins... Walled Cities... Wine-tasting...Camargue Cowboys... Medieval Castles - A Cruise Into Provence - Camargue on the hotel barge LE PHÉNICIEN

Everything in our cruises has been designed to help you feel at home. You will rest and relax while the boat meanders through the tranquil waterways of southern France. Once on board, you will be introduced to the crew with a welcome drink. After a brief presentation you will be guided around the boat by the captain. Then a brilliant dinner specially prepared by our Chef is served on board.

Next morning you are ready for your first day of cruising. All meals are served on board - prepared from selected local ingredients by our Chef. Breakfast and Lunch usually consist of a buffet. Dinner is a more traditional gourmet meal served at table. You will discover a wide variety of local traditional specialties local wines, red, white, rosé, Champagne and other sparkling wines.

Between 2 to 6 hours a day are dedicated to navigation. One or two excursions a day are organized specially for you. We must stress on that point: the excursions have been designed exclusively for you, sometimes with people who did not even think to welcome tourists before we start working with them. Of course you will also visit some monuments famous worldwide, but usually outside of the busy periods.

On board is also available a great selection of books and games. You will also appreciate the paintings from local artists exhibited in the main lounge (private exhibitions organized for passengers only). Bicycle riding is very pleasant and easy in the region, if you want to ride a bike in the evening to discover by yourself the surroundings of our port of call, you can book one of them in the morning.

On Saturday, the last day, you will be transferred from the boat to a defined transfer point (usually by bus).

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

SPECIAL OFFERS ON **CANAL & CO** CRUISING IN GERMANY

TWO FOR THE PRICE ON ONE - GERMANY – CRUISING THE RHINE & MOSELLE

Save AU\$3390 for one OR two – every week until October 2007

One OR two passengers can share a cabin for half-price for all **new** reservations. Cruises are fully inclusive with all meals with wines, guided sightseeing by bus, use of bicycles & all facilities. Professional fully trained crew & English speaking tour guides.

Cruise Highlights – dramatic castles & chateaux, medieval villages, spectacular cities – Heidelberg, Mainz, Mannheim, Koblenz & Metz – see Lorelei Rock, Cheggall's stained glass as St Etienne & the wines of Alsace

The **CHARLEMAGNE** is a new addition to our hotel barge fleet carries 32 passengers in 14 twins and 2 upper suites. This is a wonderful vessel moving into Germany for cruises on the Moselle and Neckar rivers, both equally charming with their steep banks, covered in vines and fairytale castles perched high on the peaks.

Weekly 7-day fully inclusive cruise & sightseeing at just AU\$3390 per cabin (twin share) – **SAVE AU\$3390**

YES 2 FOR 1 DISCOUNTS FOR EVERY GERMAN RIVER CRUISE IN 2007

SPECIAL OFFERS ON **GO BARGING** CRUISES IN FRANCE

Discounts now available

AU\$1000 DISCOUNT PER CABIN ON LA BELLE EPOQUE IN BURGUNDY OR L'IMPRESSIONNISTE IN PROVENCE

La Belle Epoque in Burgundy - All available July & August 2007 departures, based on 2 people sharing a cabin OR

L'Impressionniste in Provence - All available July & August 2007 departures, based on 2 people sharing a cabin

AU\$250 DISCOUNT PER PERSON ON L'ART DE VIVRE IN BURGUNDY, SCOTTISH HIGHLANDER IN SCOTLAND

We are pleased to offer this discount per person on the following departures:

L'Art de Vivre in Burgundy - Stateroom departing 1st July or 5th August
Charter of 6, 7 or 8 passengers departing on 19th Aug.

Scottish Highlander in Scotland - Stateroom/Suite departing 27th May, 17th or 24th June, 1st, 8th or 22nd July
Charters of 6, 7 or 8 passengers departing 10th June

AU250 DISCOUNT PER PERSON ON NYPHEA IN LOIRE VALLEY CHATEAUX COUNTRY

Cruise aboard the only vessel to pass through Chenonceau Chateau, the Nymphaea in the Loire Valley – offers Stateroom or charter discounts on all remaining July & August departures

Conditions

- For charter departures the discount per person is applied to the charter rate
- Maximum of 2 single cabins can be booked on each cruise departure
- Our normal terms & conditions apply
- Deposits must be paid to Outdoor Travel by 31st May to include the discount

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

CROWN BLUE LINE – SELF-SKIPPERED BOAT HIRE IN EUROPE

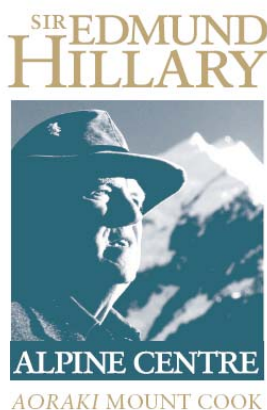
We are offering discounts for new bookings made **before 31st May 2007** on the extensive fleet of motor cruisers available in France, Ireland, England, Germany, Italy, Belgium & Holland from **Crown Blue Line**.

Offer includes 15% hire on Challenger or Countess boat hire at **ANY** Crown Blue Line base in Europe & a 5% discount for **ALL** boats in Burgundy during the popular September / October season (including low season):

Month	Brand	Region	Offer
All Season	Emerald Star	Ireland	15% discount for all departures on Lake Star or Royal Star
All Season	Crown Blue Line	All Europe	15% discount for all departures on a Challenger
All Season	Crown Blue Line	All Europe	15% discount for all departures on a Countess
Sept/October	Crown Blue Line	France Burgundy	5% Discount on <u>ALL</u> boat hire in September/October

NEW ZEALAND CELEBRATES THE MOUNTAINS

New exhibition space at Mount Cook



New Zealand's iconic Hermitage Hotel is opening a \$7.5 million state-of-the-art museum and theatre showcasing the history of climbing and transport in the Mount Cook region. The project will include a museum, audio-visual theatre as well as new café, bar and retail facilities.

With the great Sir Edmund Hillary as namesake, the new centre will open in mid November 2007. The construction phase of the development will be carried out during the low season, much of the building will be pre-fabricated outside of the village and the development site is restricted to a confined area on the western end of the Hotel premises. Thus the construction phase is expected to have little impact on general hotel operations and its environs.

For more than a century, the Hermitage has welcomed adventurous visitors wanting to explore the natural mountain amphitheatre and majestic peaks in the National Park. General Manager, Denis Callesen says the project will be an encounter with the unique history and culture associated with the Mount Cook region. "We will be telling the story of the Mount Cook area and the three Hermitage Hotels through historic records, artefacts and personal accounts that date back to the early days of settlement and follow the transformation of the region into the National Park / World Heritage Area that exists today."

The 120-seat theatre will boast the latest audio-visual advancements including digital and 3-D technology, providing visitors with the opportunity to experience a variety of thrilling yet informative feature presentations. The theatre will be complemented by the modern day museum designed to educate and entertain visitors using dynamic and interactive exhibits. On show in the transport area will be the first ski plane to land on the Tasman Glacier, the first car to reach Mount Cook – a 1902 De Dion Bouton, and one of the first service cars in the region - a 1908 Darracq.

Mr Callesen says “By enabling people to understand the unique history of this area, we believe the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre will be a ‘must do’ where both New Zealanders and international visitors will learn about the human exploration of one of the world’s most valuable natural landscapes including Aotearoa’s tallest icon Aoraki Mount Cook. This facility will offer visitors the opportunity to enjoy a truly exceptional experience in a truly outstanding location.”

Author’s note: – *I had the pleasure of touring Australia with Sir Edmund Hilary a few years ago to promote walking holiday in New Zealand. And his favourite walk – well he shares my view that it is the Abel Tasman National Park out of Nelson. Operating all year round - it has remained our most requested walk for many years.*

MILFORD TRACK – ULTIMATE HIKE IN NEW ZEALAND

Reservations now open for 2007 / 8 season

Traversing the heart of New Zealand's wild fiord country, the Milford Track has long been described as "the finest walk in the world".

The Milford Track Guided Walk is a 5-day / 4-night Queenstown to Queenstown all-inclusive guided walk through the heart of Fiordland National Park to Milford Sound. The package includes all transport, accommodation, meals, snacks, backpacks and rain jackets. Accommodation is in our luxury lodges – with a choice of multi-share or private bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms and you will be led by our expert guides.

The new season will run from **1st November 2007 until 18th April 2008** – reservations are essential especially over the Christmas & January holiday period – call Outdoor Travel now for reservations & a copy of the brochure for the Milford, Routeburn, Grand Traverse & all the popular guided walks in New Zealand

QUEEN CHARLOTTE WALK 2007 / 8

Near Cook’s landing in the north of the South Island

The Queen Charlotte Walk is world renowned for its breathtaking views, pristine waters and abundance of native flora and fauna. The four day fully guided walk from Ship Cove to Anakiwa is designed to take care of your every need. Your luggage is transported daily for you and is waiting in your room upon your arrival, leaving you to carry only your daypack. The walk is fully guided with lodge style accommodation at night, excellent quality meals and breathtaking views every day.

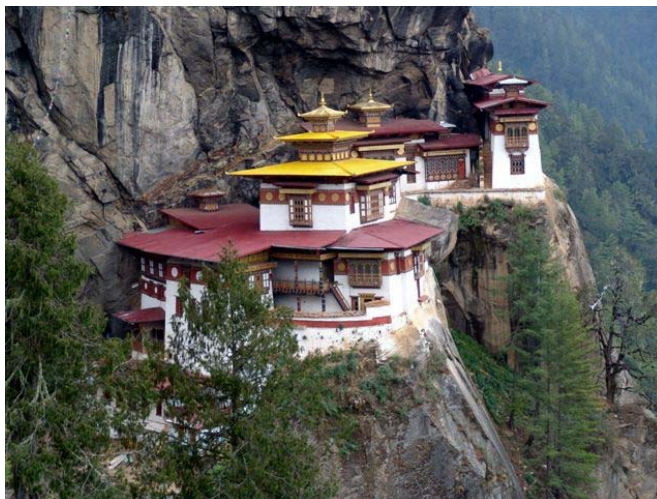
Departing from Picton - discover the magic and beauty of the Marlborough Sounds in a unique way and spend four days in paradise with fabulous company.

The Queen Charlotte Walk season resumes in November and runs through to the end of April. There are two departures weekly on Wednesday and Sunday – call Outdoor Travel for details & reservations.

HOW TO GET THERE..... *“Skydive into the South Island” picks up clients in Wellington and skydives them directly into Picton Airport. They will transport luggage and those who prefer to watch to meet them on the ground. See <http://www.skydivethesounds.com>Pheeeeeewww !*

HIKING IN BHUTAN

Hike Along the Druk Path – departs daily on request



Untouched, untainted and saturated with ancient culture, few places are left on earth so undisturbed. A land lost in time, this jewel of the Himalayas will not remain hidden forever. The friendly people of Bhutan are eager to welcome you and share their traditional lifestyle.

Our trek along the Druk Path is one of the most scenic and famous treks in Bhutan. We follow a wilderness trail past remote lakes with magnificent views of snow-capped mountains. Adorned with colorful prayer flags amidst the lush greenery of pristine landscapes, this place is a true Shangri-La.

One of the most scenic and popular treks in Bhutan, following a wilderness trail past several remote lakes and magnificent views of the snowcapped mountains. Though it is a short trek, it still goes to a high altitude and sometimes makes it strenuous.

GUIDED HIKING DATES: Departs daily from February to June & September to November 2007

Day 1: Arrive in Paro. (L, D)

Your representative from Active Journeys will welcome you at the airport and drive you to your Hotel. After lunch, visit the National museum. It houses a good collection of old thankas (religious scroll paintings), arts and artifacts, animals, ancient armors, butterflies, vessels, and other historical artifacts. If we have time, we will visit the Rimpong Dzong (fortress) of Paro.

Day 2: Paro Taktsang excursion (B, L, D)

After breakfast, we drive 10km north and hike to Taktsang (Tiger's Den) monastery, hanging on a cliff 900m above the valley. It takes 2 hours to ascend to the closest viewpoint, and 1 hour to descend to the valley. We stop for refreshments at a tourism café situated half way. The excursion to Taktsang is the highlight of the trip. In the 8th century Guru Rinpoche went here on the back of a tigress in one of his eight forms (Guru Dorje Drolo), meditated in a cave for 3 months, and later converted the Paro valley to Buddhism. Dinner & overnight at the hotel.

Day 3: National Museum – Jele Dzong (B, L, D)

This is a short trekking day. The trail ascends gradually through the forest of pine, spruce, and silver fir trees to the camp below Jele Dzong. If weather permits, Paro valley can be seen with snow-capped mountains in the background. Altitude: 3,450m. Distance: 11 km. Time: 5 hours.

Day 4: Jele Dzong – Jangchulakha (B, L, D)

Today begins with a climb past the Jele Dzong (if caretaker is present, you can visit the temple inside) and through the thick forest of junipers. The trail then takes you through thick temperate forests and rhododendron trees. You may see yak herders around your campsite, depending on the season. Altitude: 3750m. Distance: 10km.

Day 5: Jangchulakha – Jimi Langshto (B, L, D)

Today's trail follows the ascents and the descents of the ridge. On a clear day, there are beautiful views of the mountains and the valley. The trail passes Lake Jimilangtsho, and descends to our campsite at Lake Jynetsho. If you are lucky, you might enjoy trout for dinner. Altitude: 3890m. Distance: 11km. Time: 5 hours.

Day 6: Jimi Langtsho – Simkotra Tsho (B, L, D)

The trail climbs to a ridge at 4010m, follows along for a short while, and descends back down. We climb to another ridge overlooking Jynetsho, and then descend to the lake. We finally descend to some stone ruins at 4110m, and spend the night at our campsite overlooking Simkotra Tsho.

Day 7: Simkotra – Phajoding (B, L, D)

Today is another long climb past several false summits, then a long rocky traverse to the top of Labana pass at 4210m. The trail descends gently to another crest. We see some great views of Dochula and Mt. Jomolhari. Another long traverse before the trail drops and crosses Phumela pass at 4080m. On clear days, there are stunning views of the highest mountain in Bhutan (Mt. Gangkhar Puensum) and other Himalayan peaks. Below, we can see the entire Thimphu valley. Descend downhill through juniper and rhododendron bushes to our campsite at 3750m. Distance: 10km. Time: 3-4 hours.

Day 8: Phajoding – Thimphu (B, L, D)

The trek to Thimphu is downhill, through a beautiful blue pine forest. Taking it leisurely, we reach our hotel in Thimphu in about 2 hours. You will be welcomed by our representative and drive to the hotel for a hot shower and a nice lunch. After lunch, you can stroll through the town, visit handicraft shops, and explore the town as you please. Dinner & overnight at the hotel.

Day 9: Thimphu – Punakha (B, L, D)

Spend the morning sightseeing & shopping in Thimphu. Some of the highlights include: Changangkha Lhakhang (one of the oldest temples in Thimphu, situated on a knoll overlooking the valley), the Trashicho Dzong (the fortress of the glorious religion), the National Library (filled with historical Buddhist texts) and the Folk Heritage Museum. In the evening, we drive two hours to Punakha, where we spend the night.

Day 10: Punakha – Paro (B, L, D)

After breakfast, we will visit the Punakha Dzong, the most impressive in Bhutan. After exploring Punakha, we drive north for 45 minutes to a new temple overlooking a beautiful valley. After a short walk, we drive to the Wangdue Dzong, and then back to Paro for our final night.

Day 11: Paro

We transfer you to the airport in the morning, and this is where our services end.

Price includes: Most meals, evening tea, porters while on trek, tent and sleeping mats, all land transport in luxury Toyota vans, services of trekking guide and driver, hotel accommodations, entry fees to temples and monasteries, tourism development taxes and 35% government royalty.

Excludes: airfare, visa fees, departure taxes, bar & laundry, personal tips, sleeping bag (-200C is recommended), any personal expenses and travel insurance.

TRIP DETAILS 2007

COST:	AU\$ 3600 per person (minimum 2 people)
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	Not Available
GRADE:	Challenging
MAX ELEVATION:	4210M
DURATION:	11 days/10 nights
INCLUDES:	Accommodation, meals, equipment, guides and support
STARTS/ENDS:	Paro

Note: The itinerary, price and accommodations are subject to change – ask for details & information about flight options from Australia

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

ACTIVE HOLIDAYS IN NORTH AMERICA

Places still available in Alaska, BC, Grand Canyon, Yellowstone or Colorado

Are you looking to get away during our winter – then we still have places on a range of multi-activity holidays in North America which include hiking, rafting, cycling, kayaking all with a common theme – they all are designed for a more mature traveller looking for quality inn or resort ranch accommodation with their own bathrooms each night & meals with wine each night or a comprehensive camping set-up.

Singles & family departures are scheduled too.

Here is just a sample of what Outdoor Travel can offer:

Grand Canyon-Bryce-Zion Multi-Sport

Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion -- a land that inspires adventure. Journey into these majestic parklands and discover a kaleidoscope of wildly diverse landscapes. On mountain bike and by foot, we explore the depths of the Grand Canyon, the richly tinted amphitheatre of Bryce's hoodoos, and Zion's vertical world of sandstone cliffs and temples. At night, relax in Southwestern comfort along canyon rims and riverfronts.

May 27-June 1 (singles, camping)—confirmed

June 17-22 (family, camping)--confirmed--only 4 spaces left

Grand Teton - Yellowstone Multi-Sport

Our top-selling multi-sport itinerary! The pristine wilderness and rugged beauty of America's most beloved national parks - Grand Teton and Yellowstone - set the stage for our action-packed adventure. In six extraordinary days, we discover waterfalls, buffalo herds, and thundering geysers in Yellowstone, a premier geological treasure. In the Tetons, we rock climb, bike backroads and raft the Snake River's fun-filled rapids.

June 17-22 (inn & camping)--confirmed--only 3 spaces left

June 24-29 (inn)—confirmed

July 15-20 (singles, inn)--needs just 3 more to confirm

July 22-27 (family, inn & camping)--confirmed--only 4 spaces left

August 5-10 "A" (family, camping)--confirmed--only 3 spaces left

August 5-10 "B" (family, camping)—confirmed

August 12-17 (singles, camping)--needs just 3 to confirm

September 2-7 (inn)--confirms with the next reservation

Colorado Backcountry Multi-Sport

Named one of the World's 25 Greatest Adventure Trips by National Geographic Adventure Magazine! Imagine a multi-sport getaway where you are literally immersed in the pristine wilds of Colorado's snow-covered peaks, wildflower-laden meadows and shimmering aspen groves. On our lofty, backcountry adventure, we bicycle historic pathways, raft exhilarating white-water, and hike among jagged peaks and glaciated lakes. At day's end, relax in the comfort of a European-style chalet.

July 8-13 (hut)—confirmed

August 5-10 (singles--hut)--needs just 2 more to confirm

August 19-24 (hut)--confirmed--only 5 spaces left

Alaska Wilderness Multi-Sport:

Experience the majestic beauty of Alaska as we immerse ourselves in a land of crystal glaciers, endless coastline, and abundant wildlife. Exploring this rugged wilderness by land, air and water, we bike along lakes, hike through meadows, raft Class III-IV white-water, sea kayak the majestic Prince William Sound, and fly into the very heart of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Sample the Alaskan spirit of adventure.

June 18-23 (inn)--needs just 2 more to confirm

August 6-11 (singles, inn)--confirms with the next reservation

British Columbia Multi-Sport:

From the tranquil shores of Howe Sound to the alpine village of Whistler, we've wrapped the best of British Columbia into one amazing trip. In what the Canadians call "Sea-to-Sky Country," we hike above the clouds and ride flying foxes (ziplines) through lush forests, raft rapids through sheer canyons, bike along cascading streams, and sea kayak among sea lions and whales. In fact, we discover why British Columbia is considered one of the most spectacular destinations in the world!

July 29-August 3 (singles, inn)--needs just 2 more to confirm

August 19-24 (inn)--confirmed--only 5 spaces left

Canyonlands-Arches Multi-Sport:

Prepare for the ultimate adventure getaway of non-stop excitement. Set in the heart of southeast Utah's dramatic Canyon Country, this multi-sport adventure will introduce you to rock climbing, inflatable kayaking, canyoning, mountain biking, and hiking. No prior experience necessary--just an appetite for new adventures! Our guides' relaxed and supportive approach to learning assures a fun and exhilarating week.

September 9-14 (inn & camping)--confirmed--only 2 spaces left

IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFORMATION

Are you ready for your overseas holiday?

For travel advice, travel warnings & information we recommend you visit: <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 4 great Internet choices:

- 1) Click-on to our website & look for the Michelin Guide link on our Active Europe page
<http://www.viamichelin.co.uk>
- 2) Go to the <http://www.mappy.com> website for a host of easy to read options
- 3) Go to <http://www.googleearth.com> - amazing graphic view of the world including many of the areas we go walking or cycling
- 4) Want help in finding you way around Australia – <http://www.travelmate.com.au> for help from Travel Mate Mapmaker to generate a map of your proposed trip along with driving directions.

Call our travel experts & talk to us about our personal recollections – we regularly visit the areas we offer – call Martyn, Lucie or Sue directly on (03) 57551743.

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

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- () FRANCE WALKING HOLIDAYS - Small Group Guided Walking with a donkey in the Lot Valley, cooking, truffles & wine tours also available
- () CAMINO DE SANTIAGO – Walking or cycling the Way of St James (France or Spain)
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| () 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 |

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Departing:One-way / Return (please indicate)

NAME:DAYTIME CONTACT:

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OTHER REQUESTS:

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- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
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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 by carbon emissions & the use of cars, planes & of power generation there have been some creative new information sites that can give you some ideas about how you can look at a personal contribution to the issue of global warming.



Offsets made simple - '[Carbon Offsetting Explained](#)' (website homepage)

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...](#)

Our 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://www.localcooling.com/facts/> & please spread the word



A 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 eucalypt trees. The **TreeSmart** program is different to some other carbon sequestration programs that plant trees and leave them un-maintained as a perpetual forest.

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 eucalypt trees grown for eventual harvesting and replanting.

OUTDOOR TRAVEL don't endorse any of these options & can not vouch for their effectiveness or credibility but these three options will help you make an informed decision on your carbon footprint: