



OUTLINES

February 2008

"Get a bicycle. You will not regret it if you live." Bernard - Chain Gang

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

A HEDONISTIC WALK IN ITALY

A small group walking tour

Walking holidays that take you off the beaten track and let you experience the heart and soul of Italy. See Tuscany, Cinque Terre, Piedmont or Emilia Romagna with beautiful accommodation and fabulous restaurants. These new walks are guided and there is always a support vehicle allowing you to walk less if you prefer.

Jackie and Mick Parsons lead our tours with a passion. They live near Bright but spend much of the year living on a rustic Tuscan farm, which they have called home for the past seven years. They have led numerous walking tours throughout Italy including several for UK operator ATG. Mick and Jackie clearly have genuine empathy with the people, their history, culture and cuisine. Mick, as a qualified chef and passionate gourmand, delights in matching the fresh flavours of each region with a well-chosen wine. He will introduce you to the chefs and the wine-makers who have become his friends over the years. Jackie's insight into Italian culture and her enthusiasm for its artistic heritage add another dimension to your holiday. Limited places are still available on selected dates in 2008:

Parma, Tuscany and the Cinque Terre: Prosciutto and Parmesan, Pilgrims and Poets - Walk the area immortalised by writers and poets over the centuries. Visit beautiful Parma, the undisputed gourmet capital of Emilia Romagna. Follow in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims and discover an untouched area of Tuscany before descending to the Gulf of Poets on the Ligurian coast to explore the quaint villages of the Cinque Terre. Departs: 9th-16th May & 19th-26th September 2008

Other Hedonistic holidays:

Mystical Maremma: Tuscany's last frontier - 18th-26th April

Siena to the Mediterranean: The Passion of the Palio and the jewels of Southwest Tuscany - 1st – 10th July

Piedmont and Emilia Romagna: A Celebration of Slow Food - 6th-14th September & 11th-19th October

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

FRANCE - A WEEK OF QUALITY WALKING IN THE HAUTE QUERCY

Small Group Walking Party holidays- places still available

Departs 8th – 15th May, 15th – 22nd May, 29th August – 5th September 2008

8-days / 7-nights – fully inclusive from just AU\$3785 per person

For our small group guided walks in the Lot Valley of France donkeys accompany you for the three longer walking days, led by Daniel a charming wily and naughty Frenchman muleteer There is a certain pleasure in knowing that you do not have to carry anything with you as you walk. Donkeys do it with such effortless ease that it can make one excessively jealous but, by the time you get to the end of the day ready for an ice cold beer or glass of chilled white wine the talent of the donkey is appreciated and revered rather than envied.

When Spring is going strong in May, a plethora of flowers abounds in the ancient area of south west France called the Quercy just south of the more renowned Dordogne. It is a sheer delight to see such dramatic landscapes cut with fields of poppies and meadow clary, ox eye daisies and spreads of pink and white and purple milkwort. For flowers it is without doubt the prettiest time of the year to come to this part of the world.

Our hotel is la Pelissaria mentioned in Condé Nast for its charm, excellent hospitality and fabulous position over the river Lot and views over the village. After three nights here you would move to the landscape of the Quercy Blanc where you would stay in the beautiful restored and charming Manor House of Le Vert with just seven bedrooms. Bernard Phillippe at this auberge is one of the great cooks of the region. He specialises in the *Nouvelle Cuisine* (nothing to do with the absurd fad of lots of courses of tiny amounts) this is the delightful cooking of sophistication and contrasts of delicate flavours

Places are still available for our Haute Quercy walks in May – ask for a full itinerary!

IRELAND – CELTIC KERRY

An easy walking & sightseeing holiday



A cultural & easy walking tour based in the 'Kingdom' of Kerry, that allows you to discover the best of ancient and modern Ireland. You are based in the National Park town of Killarney and the friendly market town of Caherciveen. Enjoy the stunning lake, mountain and Atlantic coast scenery of the southwest of Ireland as well as Irish whiskey tasting, Irish music, ancient castles, a magical evening walk and learning to play the Bodhrán (traditional Irish drum). There is a full list of activities plus traditional Irish hospitality, good food and friendly local people that will make this an unforgettable week. Ideal for those seeking a real Irish experience.

Accommodation: Your accommodation in Killarney and Caherciveen is in quality family run guesthouses. Full Irish Breakfast served each morning, and vegetarians are catered for.

Departures: Saturdays: 17th May, 7, 21 June, 5, 26 July, 9, 30 August, 20 September

Price: AU\$1985 per person (accommodation is based on a twin sharing basis).

A limited number of single rooms are available at a supplement of AU\$370 per week

Price Includes: A host of traditional Irish activities & guided walks:

- Courtesy transfer from and to Kerry and Shannon Airports
- 7-nights in Irish Tourist Board approved guesthouse with en-suite facilities
- Breakfast 7-days, 5-packed lunches, 6-dinners (4 in guesthouse, 2 in restaurants)
- Irish Whiskey Tasting Session and Traditional Irish music night
- Entrance to Muckross House and Muckross Traditional Farms
- Traditional Jaunting Car ride through Killarney National Parc
- Entrance to Ross Castle
- Glenbeigh Farm Visit, Water Divining, Dance & Music Session in Caherciveen
- Bike Hire for Day 6 & Return Ferry Crossing to Valentia
- Transfers to and from walks each day & experienced local guide throughout

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 Arrival

Optional complimentary transfer from Kerry or Shannon Airports. Arrive in your friendly family run guesthouse in the vibrant town of Killarney set in the heart of the National Park in Kerry in South West Ireland. Meet your guide at 7.00pm for a welcome briefing and your first home cooked meal together in your guesthouse.

Day 2 Killarney National Park and the Wonderful World of Irish whiskey

Distance: 10km **Ascent:** None

A gentle walk through Killarney National Park allows you to experience the stunning lake and mountain scenery as well as the historical aspect of the Park, with a visit of 19th century Muckross House, the Gardens, the Traditional Farms- where guests walk back in time to a working 1930's farm – and 15th century Muckross Abbey. Off to a traditional Irish pub for a celebration of Irish Music!

Day 3 Ross Castle, Ross Island and Killarney Town

Distance: 6.5km **Ascent:** None

Jaunting car trip to Ross Castle and your morning walk takes you for a visit of 15th century Ross Castle, majestically set on the shores of the Killarney Lakes. Afterwards we follow the old mining and historical trail along Ross Island, with spectacular views over the lakes and Innisfallen Island. The afternoon and evening are free for guests to make the most of Killarney town for sightseeing, or a boat trip, shopping, and the many pubs and restaurants of this famous town.

Day 4 Glenbeigh and the magnificent Atlantic Ocean

Morning: **Distance:** 8km **Afternoon:** optional activities **Ascent** None

Transfer along the famous Ring of Kerry route to Glenbeigh. A short morning's walk will take you through National Parks to the beautiful Torc Waterfall. Then a short trip to Killorglin, home of Puck Fair. The afternoon offers a variety of options: horse riding along the beach (suitable for beginners – additional cost), the challenge of an old fashioned hedge maze and an option to play crazy golf, a swim on Rossbeigh Beach or a guided walk up Ross-Behy Hill (250m). Lunch with panoramic views on the top of Rossbehy hill (250m) and a choice of horse riding or walking along Rossbeigh beach. Continue along the Ring of Kerry route to Caherciveen for dinner and an overnight stay in our family run guesthouse.

Day 5 On the Quest for Holy Celtic Water and evening walk to prehistoric Ring Fort

Distance: 5 km **Ascent:** 12m **Evening Walk:** Easy **Ascent:** None

Today's programme is certainly one with a difference! In the morning, you will be joined by a water diviner, who will show you the ancient art of water divining and take you to an old Irish Holy Well and ancient Irish sites to practice your newly acquired skills. Walk to the beautiful Bray Head on Valentia Island for lunch with superb views of the Skellig Islands. Continue to St Finians Bay and a visit to a nearby chocolate factory! After dinner in your guesthouse, we invite you to a magical evening walk – walk in the stillness of late evening to a prehistoric Ring Fort. To those legends of Celtic battles and lost loves, we add one final extraordinary note – an Irish harp. Your walk will be recompensed with the magical sounds of an Irish harpist waiting for you in the stillness of the Ring Fort (weather permitting). Simply unforgettable.

Day 6 Art and Music

Distance: 5km **Ascent:** 40m

A short drive to Caherdaniel, Derrynane National Park and beach home of Daniel O'Connell, the liberator. Walk along the mass path with beautiful views on the beaches; visit a 12th Century abbey on Abbey Island. Walk the blue flag Derrynane beach, visit Daniel O'Connell home and gardens or perhaps even a swim. Picnic lunch on beach or Island. In the afternoon, learn to play the ancient Irish drum - the Bohdran - in a friendly and informal session with our Master Bohdran player. After dinner in your guesthouse, back to the pub where we invite you to meet the locals, join in (or just clap along) to a traditional set dancing session – and maybe practice beating those Bodhrán!

Day 7 Valentia Island (The Treasure Island)

Distance: 10.5km **Ascent:** 80m

Today you have a cycle around Valentia Island. A short ferry ride will take you to this small island, rich in wild and marine life, standing stones, sub-tropical flora and which was also the location for the first transatlantic cable. Visit Knightstown and Valentia grotto and slate quarry and enjoy cycling the quiet peaceful roads of Valentia. Cyclists may opt to cycle all around the island (approx. 25 km) and discover the many standing and Ogham stones dotted all around the island.

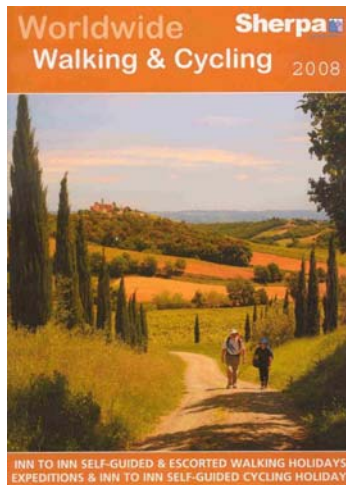
Your farewell dinner will be in restaurant in Caherciveen, where excellent local seafood and modern Irish cuisine await you.

Day 8 Departure

After your final breakfast you may opt for a transfer to either Shannon or Kerry Airport

NEW SHERPA BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE

Self-guided or small group walking or cycling holidays in Europe



IMPORTANT PRICE NEWS – due to the decline in the value of the UK pound against the Euro Sherpa have advised us of price increase to many of their European holidays for 2008. These cost increases have been kept at an absolute minimum because of an improvement in the value of our dollar – so please check with us for any changes to tours you are planning for 2008.

Call today for a copy of the new 2008 brochure – (03) 57551743 or email info@outdoortravel.com.au

BIKE & BARGE IN EUROPE UPDATE

What do we have available?

Demand is fast outstripping supply with these barges so early bookings are essential. We still have cabins available – cruises are 8-days / 7-nights unless specified otherwise:

FRANCE	Loire Valley departs Saturdays April to October (May, June, Sept full) \$1550 Burgundy departs every Saturday April to October (May, June full) at \$1650 Champagne - Reims to Paris 2 nd August at \$1650
BELGIUM/FRANCE	Bruges to Paris 22 nd March (now full – book early for 2009) 2 weeks at \$2555
HOLLAND	Ijsselmeer from Amsterdam – Amsterdam 3 rd May at \$1385 Tulip fields cruise from Amsterdam 11 th May at \$1650 Cultural cruise Amsterdam to Amsterdam – NO CYCLING – 10 th May at \$1950 Northern Holland 24 th May, 22 nd June, 20 th July, 3 rd , 10 th & 31 st August at \$1660 Amsterdam – Rotterdam 24 th May at \$1650 On the trail of Rembrandt 14 th & 28 th June, 5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th July, also 2 nd , 9 th & 23 August, 6 th & 13 th September at \$1380
HOLLAND/BELGIUM	Amsterdam to Bruges 19 th April at \$1780 * Bruges to Amsterdam 26 th April at \$1780 * Bruges to Amsterdam 8 th June at \$1650 Amsterdam to Bruges 6 th July at \$1650 Bruges to Amsterdam 13 th July at \$1650 Bruges to Amsterdam 14 th September at \$1650

* Great value - includes guided city tours, local wines during dinner AND crew gratuities

GERMANY	River Main & Neckar from Frankfurt – Ludwigsburg 14 th June at \$1650 Ludwigburg to Koblenz 5 th July (limited space) at \$1650 Ludwigburg to Frankfurt 23 rd August (limited space) at \$1650 River Saar & Moselle 13 th September (very limited spaces) at \$1650 River Moselle – Saarbrücken to Koblenz 18 th October at \$1460
HOLLAND/GERMANY	Amsterdam – Koblenz 21 st June from \$1650 Repositioning cruise Koblenz to Amsterdam 18 th October at \$1460
GREECE	Weekly Cyclades, Ionian Is, central or southern Aegean April to October \$1930
CROATIA	Weekly Dalmatian coast or Kvarner Bay island hopping - April to October \$1595
TURKEY	Weekly departures Lycian coast from Marmaris to Fethiye April to October \$1930

Contact us for day-to-day itineraries - costs include twin share or single cabins (with supplements) accommodation (with own bathrooms), buffet breakfasts, dinner, bed linen, bike rental, and tour guide. Cycling days are graded easy, moderate or challenging with free time to explore cities or places of interest

CROATIAN NATIONAL PARKS - BIKE & BOAT CYCLING & CRUISING

8 Days / 7 Nights - Boat and bike exploring the National Parks and Islands of Central Dalmatia



- 2008 Departures:** 19, 26 Apr, 3 May, 7, 14, 28 Jun, 12, 26 Jul, 9, 16, 23, 30 Aug, 13 Sep, 11, 18 Oct
- Cost per person:** Double / Twin cabin AU\$1595 per person
Single cabin supplement AU\$395
Upper deck supplement AU\$100 per person (or AU\$200 for single use)
Bike hire with pannier bag AU\$140 per person
- Included:** 8-day-trip on a motor yacht with a crew of four
7-nights in a double cabin with shower/toilet
Full board (breakfast, lunch & dinner) on your ship
Bed linen and towels
English/ German speaking tour guide & 7-guided cycling tours as described
Entrance fees of the National parks & route maps for cycling
- Not included are:** Personal expenses & gratuities, local port taxes (@ Euros 20 paid to captain), drinks etc
Taxi transfer airport – ship in Trogir (one way Euro 15 paid locally)
Additional accommodation available if required near Trogir
- Additional costs:** Visitor's tax and local charges 20 Euro (to be paid to the captain) & tips for crew and Tour guides. Drinks on board (tally sheet)

Croatia has a beautiful and well-chartered coast with thousands of islands, reefs and bays. Numerous romantic ruins, hills and bluffs and countless beautiful bays and inlets are waiting to be discovered. You will visit two national parks and the charming islands of Central Dalmatia starting from Trogir. Highlights include the UNESCO-listed old towns of Trogir, Primosten and Sibenik with its famous cathedral and Zadar. See also the magnificent Krka-Waterfalls and Kornati Islands.

Spend a week aboard our carefully chosen ship cruising between the Croatian mainland and the islands of the Adriatic Sea. Great cuisine with a local flavour, friendly well-trained crew and knowledgeable tour guides are provided. After a relaxing breakfast we cycle usually until midday when we meet the ship for lunch. In the evening the ship will be waiting in the next harbour, so that you can enjoy fantastic cuisine and sunsets. After dinner perhaps take a stroll through the historic harbour town.

Finally, settle down in your cabin to sleep - or stay on deck under a thousand stars...



SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Day 1 (Sat) Trogir and Rogoznica (approx. 35 km by bicycle)

Individual arrival to the picturesque port of Trogir, either by car to Trogir or by airplane to Split airport, from where transfer to the ship will be organised. Check-in on the motor yacht starts at 11 am, and after the first lunch, you will cycle through quiet villages and roads to Rogoznica, where you will have dinner and spend the night.

Day 2 (Sun) Rogoznica – Primošten – Šibenik – Skradin (approx. 20 + 10 km by bicycle)

In the morning you will bike to Primošten. Your motor yacht will then take you through a narrow passage to Šibenik. After visiting the famous cathedral, your ship will take off again and advance further and further up the Krka River. In the evening you will arrive in Skradin, from where you will explore the magnificent lower waterfalls of Krka in the national park of the Canyon of Krka, a geological peculiarity under protection. Here the Krka meanders the first 10 km through a flat region, the following 40 km through canyons and then 20 km through lakes, which are connected with the Adriatic.

Day 3 (Mon) Skradin – Murter (approx. 40 + 30 km by bicycle)

Today you will be cycling from Skradin through farmlands to Vodice, where you will have lunch and the opportunity to bathe on a beautiful beach. In the afternoon you will reach the island of Murter, which is connected with the mainland by a lifting bridge. You will meet the ship for dinner in a romantic quiet harbour.

Day 4 (Tue) Islands of Pašman and Ugljan – Zadar (approx. 30 km)

In the morning your ship will take you to the island of Pašman in the channel of Zadar. You will cycle along the east coast and cross a bridge to reach the island of Ugljan. You will have lunch in a peaceful bay. In the afternoon you will travel by ship to Zadar. Your tour guide will take you on a long stroll through the alleys of the lively Old town. You will spend the night in the harbour of Zadar.

Day 5 (Wed) Island of Dugi Otok (tour of 35 km)

After breakfast you will cross over to the island of Dugi Otok with a bathing-break in between. Your bike-tour will start in the bay of Božava, which is surrounded by woods of pine, agaves and tamarisk trees, and you will ride on a road nearly free of traffic. Your first destination will be the lighthouse "Veli Rat" and a solitary beach. Afterwards you will cycle across the island on the panorama route. You will meet your ship in Savar for lunch. On a panoramic route you will cycle further on to the picturesque harbour of Sali and spend the night there.

Day 6 (Thu) National park of Kornati (approx. 30 km)

In the morning you will ride to the National park of Telascica with its impressive cliff line. In the afternoon you will go for a cruise through the national park of Kornati, an archipelago surrounded by crystal clear water. In the evening you stop overnight on Zlarin, an ancient coral island.

Day 7 (Fri) Island of Zlarin – Trogir (approx. 45 km)

In the morning your motor yacht will take you to Primošten. On your last bike tour you will visit small villages in the hinterland, biking on roads with little traffic until you reach Trogir. The final descent will offer you a grand view of the coastline of Split. In the afternoon you can stroll through the narrow alleys of the Old town, protected as World Cultural Heritage, and devote your attention to the cultural side of the trip.

Day 8 (Sat) Departure

Tour ends after breakfast, ie 9 am.

Requirements: The bike routes require a basic level of fitness, which you should have acquired by occasional or daily cycling. The routes can reach an altitude of 100 – 300 metres. The daily routes, of 30-50 km, cover hilly terrain and can be completed without time constraints. You will also come across some rather steep climbs, where walking your bike is of course permitted. The roads are mostly asphalted and there is little traffic outside of holiday-periods. You can decide every day for yourself, whether you would like to cycle individually, using the maps provided, or join one of the tour guides (or individual participants).

ON-BOARD ACCOMMODATION - WE OFFER A CHOICE OF TWO SHIPS IN CROATIA:

Ship LINDA (all cabins with shower/toilet)



Captain Damir's LINDA is a spacious wooden motor yacht. She was built in 1955 and renovated to meet the requirements of cycle touring and island hopping. 31 metres long and 6 metres wide the MV LINDA is among the bigger ships in our Croatian fleet. The spacious saloon can accommodate 32 guests, and the middle sundeck is constructed in a way that meals can also be served outside. The upper deck measures 40m² and is big enough for sunbathing. The three cosy cabins below deck are equipped with French beds and two portholes each. On deck there are twelve double cabins. Four of the double cabins have a French bed with an additional bunk bed above the large bed, so that three people can also book them. Five double cabins are equipped with separate beds.

Ship KAPETAN JURE (all cabins with shower/toilet)



The KAPETAN JURE is a 27-metre-long and 7-metre-wide comfortable and spacious wooden motor yacht that was built in 2000. Eleven of the 15 cabins are on deck. Ten of these are furnished with the two beds arranged side by side, while one cabin has bunk beds. The remaining 4 cabins are below deck, and are furnished with a French bed (140cm wide) and a porthole. Captain Anton and his crew form an experienced team, which knows how to pamper their guests with delicious specialties. The cabins have simple, but functional equipment and are furnished with two beds and a small wardrobe or an open shelf. There is enough space for sleeping and storing a sea bag or a travel bag. Due to the shape of the ship's hull, the size of the cabins may vary. However, a price differentiation is made only with respect to cabins "on deck" and "below deck".

Catering: The cook on board is a member of the crew and prepares the breakfast and two warm meals a day. The full board starts with the lunch on the arrival day and ends with the breakfast on the departure day.

Guided cycling tours: The tour will generally be guided in German however one of the guides will translate into English for non-German-speaking participants. There will be a minimum of 16 participants & maximum: 30 participants

TOUR DE FRANCE

Join the tour cycling holiday - 11 Day/10 Night Tour de France Group Tour - Alps to Paris.

On this tour you will see all the crucial Alpine stages as well as the all-important Final Time Trial and the finish on the cobblestones of the Champs Elysee. For those bringing bikes you will be able to ride the famous climbs such as the Col du Restefond (Europe's highest Col), Izoard, Vars, Lauteret, Galibier & Alpe d'Huez.

Following the Tour de France for 10 days can be a challenge therefore this tour has been designed with the minimum amount of hotel changes. Apart from the first & last 2 nights in Paris we shall spend 5 nights in the beautiful ski town of Serre Chevalier and 2 nights in the spa city of Vichy, famous for its mineral water.

FULL TOUR PRICE PER PERSON

Twin Share: \$7,598.00 pp
Single Share: \$9,048.00 pp

LAND ONLY PRICE PER PERSON

Twin Share: \$4,748.00 pp
Single Share: \$6,198.00 pp



Package includes:

- Return economy class flights with Emirates
- 10 Nights Bed & Buffet Breakfast accommodation in Quality 3 Star Hotels
- 7 Evening meals
- Experience: Grand Palais Grandstand on the Champs Elysee for the final stage including controlled access, grandstand seats, refreshments throughout the afternoon and a VIP Tour de France Gift
- Air conditioned coach transportation throughout
- Coach transfers to and from Paris hotel and Paris Charles de Gaulle airport at specific times
- Special bike trailer for the safe keeping & transport of your bike
- Guided bike rides
- Coloured maps with Tour de France route marked
- Detailed itinerary
- Services of 2 guides (1 riding & 1 coach)
- All Hotel Taxes, Ticket Taxes, Booking Fees & Ticket Handling Charges

Package does not include:

- Airline and airport taxes and charges (invoiced separately on ticketing)
- Travel Insurance
- Drinks with meals
- Hotel extras (telephone, drinks, laundry)

Suggested itinerary:

Friday 18th July.

Meet at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport at 10.00hrs, 12.00hrs, 15.00hrs & 17.00hrs for transport to Paris hotels (airport transfer is included in the tour price). We spend 1 night in Paris on Bed & Buffet Breakfast basis at our 3* hotel. We have arranged for you to keep your bike box / bag at the hotel for the duration of the tour as the bikes will travel built up in a special bike trailer.

Saturday 19th July.

After breakfast you will be able to load your bike onto the special bike trailer. We shall leave Paris and travel to the French Alps and the beautiful ski town of Serre Chevalier where we shall spend the next 5 nights on Dinner, Bed & Breakfast basis. Apart from being in a beautiful location our Serre Chevalier base offers excellent access to all the Alpine mountain stages of the Tour de France.

Sunday 20th July.

Today the Tour de France enters the Alps with a 216km stage that will take them from Digne les Bains into Italy and the ski station of Prato Nevoso, en route they will face a number of cols including the 2,000mt Col de Larche whose summit forms the border between France and Italy. After breakfast we shall travel to see the stage, and those with bikes will be able to ride to the Col de Larche from our base in Serre Chevalier, whilst those without bikes will be taken to see the stage in the touring bus. After seeing the stage we shall return to our base in Serre Chevalier.

Monday 21st July.

As the Tour de France spends its 2nd Rest Day in Cuneo (Italy), this gives us the chance to visit and explore Serre Chevalier and the region. Those with bikes will have numerous options open to them as the monumental climbs of the Col du Galibier and Col d'Izoard are within easy reach of Serre Chevalier. Those without bikes will be able to have the day at leisure in Serre Chevalier or visit nearby Briancon.

Tuesday 22nd July.

The Tour de France returns to its home country with a short but brutal stage that takes in Europe's highest pass, the 2,802mt Col de Bonette-Restefond before plunging down to the finish in Jausiers. Prior to climbing the Col de Bonette the stage will also tackle the Col de la Lombarde (2,350mt), which will bring the riders back into France and via the ski station of Isola 2000.

After an early breakfast we shall travel to the town of Jausiers, from where those with bikes will be able to climb the Col de Bonette-Restefond to see the stage, whilst those without bikes will see the stage finish in Jausiers. After seeing the stage we shall return to our hotel in Serre Chevalier.

Wednesday 23rd July.

The best is saved for last.... as L'Alpe d'Huez (cycling's Mecca) will play host to the final Alpine stage, and what a stage it is going to be. It's an absolute classic stage that takes in the monumental climbs of the Col du Lauteret, the mighty Col du Galibier and the Col de la Croix de Fer before climaxing on the 21 hairpin switchbacks to the ski station of L'Alpe d'Huez. Our location in Serre Chevalier could not be better for accessing the stage as it is located on the stage route, and offers those with bikes the opportunity to see the stage on either the Col du Lauteret, Col du Galibier or the final climb to L'Alpe d'Huez whilst those without bikes will be able to see the stage pass the front door of the hotel! After seeing the stage we shall return to our hotel in Serre Chevalier.

Thursday 24th July.

After breakfast we shall leave Serre Chevalier and travel the short distance to Bourg d'Oisans where we shall see the stage start. Those with bikes will have another opportunity of climbing the Col du Lauteret and descending to Bourg d'Oisans. After seeing the stage start we shall rejoin the touring bus and travel to the spa city of Vichy, famous for its bottled mineral water. We shall spend 2 nights in Vichy on half board basis (Dinner B&B) at an excellent 3* hotel.

Friday 25th July.

Today's penultimate road stage of the 2008 Tour de France sees the riders face up to a 163km flat stage between Roanne and Montlucon. Coming to the end of a three week race such as the Tour de France, fuel is vital therefore we have chosen to see today's stage pass through the feed station, which we think will be very close to our base in Vichy. Those with bikes will be able to ride to the feed station from our hotel in Vichy whilst those without bikes will be taken to the feed station by the touring bus. After seeing the stage pass through the feed station we shall return to Vichy for our 2nd nights stay.

Saturday 26th July.

If the 2008 Tour de France hasn't been decided by now, then surely today's 53km Individual Time Trial between Cerilly and Saint Amand-Montrond will. After breakfast we shall leave Vichy and travel to Saint Amand Montrond where you will see the finish of this all important time trial. Those with bikes will have the opportunity of riding out onto the time trial course whilst those without bikes will see the finish.

After seeing the finish of the time trial we shall travel to Paris and our 3* hotel where we shall spend 2 nights on Bed & Buffet Breakfast. We will arrive quite late into Paris but we think it is better for access to tomorrow's final stage on the Champs Elysee. We shall make a dinner stop en-route to Paris.

Sunday 27th July.

After 3 weeks of gruelling racing through the Massif Central, Pyrenees and the high Alps the Tour de France finally arrives on the cobblestones of the Champs Elysee. After breakfast you will have time to box up your bike before we take you the short distance to the Champ Elysee where you will see the 2008 Tour de France conclude with an 8 lap finale up and down the cobblestones.

Monday 28th July.

After breakfast we shall leave Paris. We shall offer transfers from the hotel to Paris Charles de Gaulle airport at the following times 07.30hrs, 11.00hrs & 14.00hrs. This airport transfer is included in package price

WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT OUR HOLIDAYS

News & comments this month

MILFORD TRACK Guided Walk in New Zealand - *The trip was fantastic, more than we had expected. The guided walk in particular, was spectacular, in every aspect.*

It was easily the best family holiday we have had, and we have travelled the world a bit. We managed the walk without too much difficulty, though we were certainly very tired every day. We keep ourselves reasonably fit on a regular basis and I think any of your prospective clients would certainly benefit from reasonably regular training with a backpack and proper boots for several weeks prior to the walk. We intend to do the walk again, and next time I will spend a bit more time doing some quadriceps strengthening exercises and do more stairs for a few weeks before.

I really think a walking stick was an essential item to take, which I did not have, but was very lucky as someone loaned me hers. I think the trip coming down from MacKinnon pass was the hardest part, and the walking stick honestly makes a huge difference, so i would encourage everyone to invest in one. We also made sure we had carried the bare minimum in terms of clothes, etc, which also makes a huge difference. Maya

BIKE & BOAT CROATIA - *We had a brilliant boat/cycling trip in October ("Pearls of Southern Dalmatia" on Kapetan Jure). To see the Adriatic coast - you must be on a boat. Combine that with very scenic & enjoyable cycling + Croatian hospitality - marvellous!*

Great group of people on board the boat, primarily Swiss & German cyclists with a mix of other nationalities. We got on so well; tentative plan is to pick a week in 2009 for as many of the same group who can make it to do another boat/cycling trip together.

Early October was a good time to do it - nice weather without the summer heat and before the winter cold set in. The week we went, most cyclists were in their 40's and 50's which suited us. It sounds like during mid-summer they have a number of family groups bringing children on summer holidays - I guess the parents can take it in turns to cycle and mind the kids on the boat, if the cycling's beyond the kids on any particular day. Ian

WALKING IN NEW ZEALAND

Mount Cook National Park– a most challenging walk across Ball Pass

A New Zealand walking holiday is something you can do to prepare yourself for one of our many walks in Europe from April to October. New Zealand's walking season is from November to March and there are still places available on the following walks:

- * **Milford Track – guided or self-guided**
- * **Grand Traverse**
- * **Abel Tasman Guided Walk**
- * **Stewart Island Kiwi Trek**
- * **Dusky Track**
- * **Hump Track**
- * **Mount Cook Ball Pass Trek**
- * **Routeburn Track – guided or self-guided**
- * **Hollyford Track**
- * **Queen Charlotte Walkway**
- * **Akaroa Walk**
- * **Heaphy Track**
- * **Nelson Lakes Traverse**
- * **Walks at Tongariro / Mount Ruapehu**

THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE TRACK

Four Day Guided Sea-Kayak & Trek

When English explorer Captain James Cook sailed into the settled waters of the Marlborough Sounds in the late 17th Century, he must have believed this was paradise. Join us for a modern day journey in Cook's footsteps along the renowned 71km Queen Charlotte Track. Explore this vast network of drowned river valleys from the unique perspective of this well-formed track and from the seat of a kayak. Here lush coastal beech forest reaches out to greet lapping tides of ever-changing hues. Each night we come to rest at a comfortable accommodation place complete with gourmet restaurant, fine wines and a superb setting.

Suggested itinerary - A pre-tour briefing is held at the Picton Railway Station 5pm the day prior to departure.

Day 1 – Ship Cove to Endeavour Inlet (Walk approx. 5 hours/14km)

We collect you from your accommodation in Picton to join the boat trip to Motuara Island for a bird sanctuary tour en route to Ship Cove. Learn about the fascinating marine life of this area and, if we are lucky, see dolphins as well! Enjoy a short warm up walk on Motuara Island Bird Sanctuary to the lookout – this affords spectacular 360deg views of the Marlborough Sounds – and the opportunity to see many of New Zealand's endangered bird species.

Arrive late morning at Ship Cove to begin our walk. This scenic & historic reserve was a favourite anchorage for Captain Cook during his explorations in the 1770s. Experience virgin beech forest at its best, plus stunning views throughout today's walk.

NB. Our visit to Motuara Island is weather dependent – this is due to the fact there are no toilets or shelter on the island. Packs are to be checked prior to visiting to ensure no traces of our visit are left behind.

Accommodation – Furneaux Lodge - Built early this century, Furneaux Lodge comprises the original homestead, restaurant, bar and fully self-contained chalets or new studio units in a delightfully picturesque setting.

Day 2 – Endeavour Inlet to Punga Cove (Walk approx. 4 hours/12km)

Today's mainly coastal walk takes us around the inlet through regenerating native bush to the call of bellbirds, fantails and other NZ native birds. Pause at the head of the bay to learn more about antimony & the mining industry that thrived there in the 1880s.

Accommodation – Punga Cove

Nestled amidst the native bush, Punga Cove's well-appointed individual chalets or new units are a welcome respite. The gourmet restaurant with its impressive view caps off a perfect day.

Day 3 - Punga Cove to Torea Bay & Kayak to Lochmara Bay (Kayak approx. 4 hours)

The Cougar Line's boat will pick you up from Punga Cove & take you on a cruise around Queen Charlotte Sound to meet your sea-kayaking guide at Torea Bay. After a detailed safety and paddling instruction, and once paddling on the sheltered waters, your guide will explain the history of the sunken valleys of the Marlborough Sounds and point out the wildlife that we see. Lunch is a picnic of Marlborough fare on one of the uninhabited beaches along the way.

Accommodation - Lochmara Lodge

Lochmara Lodge is the ultimate place to relax after a day's kayaking. All you have to do is sit down and enjoy a glass of wine while your guide prepares dinner. Once discovered, it's never forgotten – Lochmara Lodge is situated in paradise right on the water's edge.

Day 4 - Lochmara Bay to Anakiwa or Picton (Kayak approx. 4hours)

Once on the water, we paddle around secluded bays and idyllic coves slowly heading down the Grove Arm of Queen Charlotte Sound. Here bush overhangs the water's edge – forest green against the azure blue of the Sound. After a sumptuous lunch, we paddle down to Anakiwa to meet up with the rest of the walking group or paddle to Picton to meet at the Railway Station.

Tour Cost: AU\$1095 per person

Departs: Set dates usually every Tuesday from November to April

Your fully guided holiday includes:

- 3 nights superior, sea view twin share accommodation with own private ensuite
- All meals – restaurant meals (3 course) on 2 nights and gourmet BBQ on final night
- A complimentary glass of wine with evening meal
- Packed gourmet lunch each day
- Guiding services
- All kayak equipment - full instruction provided (beginners catered for)
- Water transport to and from track
- Luggage transfers
- Single supplement available on request (AU\$250 per person)
- Picton accommodation transfers

Suggestions for accommodation in Picton prior to and after your trip would be:

The Yacht Club <http://www.theyachtclubhotel.com> (Hotel style)

Jasmine Court <http://www.jasminecourt.co.nz> (Motel style in town but without the views)

Beachcomber Inn <http://www.pictonhotel.com> (Motel style with good views of the harbour)

Marineland Motels & Heritage Guesthouse <http://www.marinelandaccom.co.nz> (Guest House)

Sequoia Lodge <http://www.sequoialodge.co.nz> (Backpackers)

Noble House <http://www.noblehouse.co.nz> (Bed & Breakfast)

Places also available on the Milford Track in 2008 – ask our staff to check the weekly status reports.

WALKING VICTORIA'S GREAT OCEAN ROAD

Places still available in March 2008

Departing 17th March this small group guided 5-day walk departs on 17th March 2008 at just \$1375 per person based on twin-share accommodation (with private bathrooms) fully inclusive of meals, experienced guides, luggage transfers & support vehicle – departs from Melbourne:

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 Melbourne to The Cape Otway Centre for Conservation Ecology

From Melbourne we will travel along the Great Ocean Road to the internationally acclaimed The Cape Otway Centre for Conservation Ecology where we will stay for the night. The 165-acre property is uniquely positioned to share a boundary with the Otway National Park, allowing the wildlife a safe habitat of more than 12,750 hectares.

Cape Otway is a natural haven for wildlife. Frequently sighted animals and birds include koalas, eastern grey kangaroos, swamp wallabies, possums, blue-winged parrots, sulphur-crested cockatoos, galahs and kookaburras. Many other species are seen on occasion and require more discreet observation. There are also a number of rare and threatened species surviving in the area. The Centre often sees many of the rescued animals they have released, which is particularly rewarding. Our night walk will give you the opportunity to see many of these birds and animals.

Day 2 Cape Ottaway to Castle Cove - Walking Distance – 15.5 km - Walking Time – 6.25 hrs

The wind sculpted slopes and cliff tops above Station Beach is traversed by a sandy track. Rainbow Falls is spring fed and cascades to rocky platforms below. Part of this walk features the Aire River estuary, rocky escarpments and stunning coastal views.

Day 3 Castle Cove to Milanesia Beach - Walking Distance – 17.2 km - Walking Time – 6.75 hr

Experience heathland, wildflowers, grasstrees and cliff top views before arriving at the spectacular Johanna Beach. Lush valley views, country roads through farmland and forest, concluding at the unforgettable Milanesia Beach.

Day 4 Milanesia Beach to The Gables Lookout - Walking Distance – 15.5 km - Walking Time – 6 hrs

The route starts on the beach and climbs steeply to the cliff tops with sensational views. Continuing through steep hills and coastal forests passing high sea cliffs. This track heads inland along country roads, through Blue Gums and farmland. It ends amongst the heath at the breathtaking Gables lookout.

Day 5 The Gables lookout to the Twelve Apostles - Walking Distance – 18.7 km - Walking Time – 7 hrs

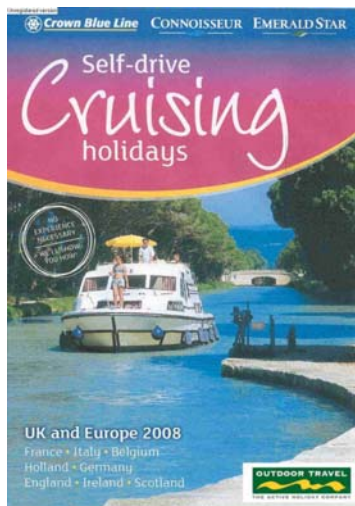
The track heads through the heath to Wreck Beach, passing the anchors and climbing above Devil's Kitchen. Follow the Old Coach Road joining the walking track along cliff tops with impressive views of the Twelve Apostles. In the afternoon we return by bus to central Melbourne.

We have places on our Kangaroo Island Walking Trip (5 days) departing 11th March – ask for details.

CROWN BLUE LINE – LE BOAT

Self-skippered motor cruisers in France & Europe 2008

The new brochure for 2008 is now available – new destinations & new bases are on offer in France, Italy, Germany, Holland, England, Ireland, Scotland & Belgium.



EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNTS – available for all 2008 reservations made from 1st to 29th February:

France	Burgundy - Franche-Comte region	10% discount off all season
France	Brittany	10% discount off June departures
France	Midi - St Gilles, Castelnaudary and Port Cassafieres	10% discount off June departures
France	Burgundy / Loire - Fontenoy le Chateau	10% discount off June departures

NEW BIKES ADDED TO THE FLEET - This season (2008) Crown Blue Line / Le Boat will be investing in 1106 new bikes to supplement the 800 or so we bought for the 2007 - this will mean that the whole bicycle fleet will be aluminium and a maximum of two years old - pretty much the best of any operator in Europe.

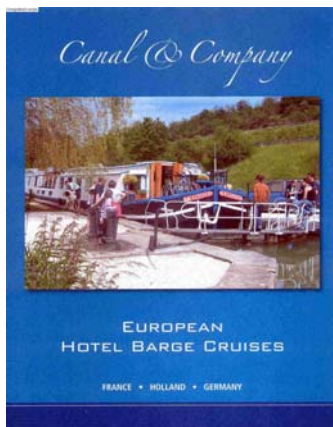
2008 brochure now available – request your copy now info@outdoortravel.com.au

HOTEL BARGE DISCOUNTS IN EUROPE

SAVE \$500 PER PERSON ON SPRING DEPARTURES

Last chance to save - Cruise Picardy from Compiègne - St Mammès or v. v. aboard the hotel barge **Anacoluthé** on either **22nd or 29th March 2008** & save up to **\$500** per person (in a twin share cabin) on this fully inclusive cruising & sightseeing tour.

Also save \$500 per person (on a twin share basis) on the **Charlemagne** on a Tulip Cruise in **Holland on 22nd or 29th March 2008**, save \$500 per person on the **Libellule** in Burgundy on **22nd March 2008** or the **Lorraine** in Alsace on either **22nd or 29th March 2008**. Upper deck cabins are available (with a supplement) on several departures



LATE AVAILABILITY – MAY & SEPTEMBER 2008 - We have 4 twins lower deck and 2 doubles upper deck available on the **24th May 2008** on the **Litote** in **Burgundy**. We also have one last cabin on the **Libellule**, again in **Burgundy**, departing on **13th September 2008**.

Cruises depart every Saturday – ask for a copy of the new 2008 Canal & Co brochure

AIRFARE OFFERS TO EUROPE

What's New from our Fares Desk fares@outdoortravel.com.au

Singapore Airlines - *Early Bird* airfares are still available, book and pay before the 22nd of February to join for example your trip in Split – Croatia. These start at \$1850* plus approximately \$550 taxes (depending on departure city and stopovers in the itinerary)

May departures are only slightly more expensive \$1960 plus taxes.

Travel with **Singapore Airlines** to Dublin in Ireland, the airfares start at \$1650* plus taxes.

In May these are \$1850 plus taxes

If your preferred destination is Zurich in Switzerland, you can travel with **Singapore Airlines** for \$1520* plus taxes. *Low season is from 4 October – 11 November 2008.

Lufthansa has a great *Early Bird* Airfare for \$1723 plus taxes to many destinations in Europe; availability is very limited so book soon. Destinations include: Zurich, Madrid, Paris, Lyon, Edinburgh, Florence and many more.

This special is only for sale until 28 February 2008. This fare is valid for travel from 1 March 2008 until end of February 2009.

All airfares are subject to conditions & availability – call **Yvette** for details or reservations on (03) 57501441 **OR** see our SmartFares airfare search engine on our website <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>

DID YOU KNOW.....

EURAIL ADDS MORE LINES TO ITS RAIL NETWORK IN EUROPE - Eurail announced the addition of the Scandinavian Rail Pass to the Eurail network, adding even more journeys to the existing rail adventures. The addition of Scandinavian Rail Pass sees new locations in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden open up to Eurail passengers.

A Eurail Scandinavia Pass replaces the ScanRail pass and enables 2nd class rail travel in all four participating countries. Prices start at EUR50 for a 4-day *Saver Pass*. The Scandinavian Rail Pass incorporates Danish Railways (DSB), Finnish Railways (VR), Norwegian Railways (NSB) & Swedish Railways (SJ).

“Trains in Scandinavia are modern, comfortable & reliable. High speed trains like Sweden's X2000 & Finland's Pendolino whisk travellers from city to city, while slower scenic routes, like the Bergen Railway in Norway, wind through mountain tunnels & across bridges providing continuous panoramas of unspoiled beauty.”

FOR WINE LOVERS IN FRANCE - The *Union des Grands Crus de Bordeaux* will offer the third edition of its “*Week-End des Grands Amateurs*” – a major and unique event in wine-tourism in Bordeaux, France on the 17th and the 18th of May 2008.

A gathering under one roof of **more than a hundred Grands Crus from Bordeaux region**, the *Week-End des Grands Amateurs* is an outstanding opportunity for wine lovers from around the world to meet Chateaux owners (or their direct representative) and taste some of their finest wines (and amongst them, the very popular 2005 vintage), in conditions normally restricted to trade and press members.

In addition to the tasting, **dinners and wine tours** will be organised by the owners in their Chateaux, and a **golf competition** will oppose châteaux owners to wine lovers on Sunday.

You can find more information and book online at <http://www.wga-ugcb.com>

EARTHWATCH AUSTRALIA - GIVING SOMETHING BACK TO HELP OUR ENVIRONMENT - Earthwatch is an international not-for-profit environmental organisation whose research expeditions allow you to make contributions to important conservation work. You can get up-close and personal with some of Australia's most fascinating creatures while experiencing parts of the ‘sun-burned country’ many never see.

Earthwatch volunteers head to destinations such as the world-renowned Kimberley region in WA, snorkelling for turtles to help scientists determine their population status and conservation needs. On Kangaroo Island in South Australia, volunteers hike through near pristine woodlands and scrublands to explore the lives of two of Australia's most unusual animals – echidnas and goannas. Volunteers also help scientists understand why on St Bees Island (off the central Queensland coast), unmanaged koala populations are healthy and stable in contrast with many parts of their fragmented mainland habitats.

100% of tax-deductible donations to Earthwatch are used for research and education. Volunteers' financial contributions also help fund the important scientific research. *Echidnas and Goannas of Kangaroo Island* (weekends) runs April, October and November. *Freshwater Turtles of the Kimberley* (two weeks) runs June and July. *Koala Ecology* (two weeks) runs May, July and October.

Earthwatch also offers specific programs for teachers and students, and the full range of Earthwatch expeditions is available at <http://www.earthwatch.org.au> or by calling (03) 9682 6828.

AUSTRALIAN RAIL TRAVEL OFFER - Great Southern Rail is offering discounts on Indian Pacific holiday packages for 2008. This offer gives you the chance to buy a **Red Sleeper** and travel in **Gold Service** for just \$1 extra, with the purchase of selected Indian Pacific holiday packages. This offer provides fantastic value:

Sydney to Perth package (7-Days/6-nights) from \$1,775 + \$1 per person - a saving of up to \$1,140 per couple*
Perth to Adelaide package (5-Days/4-nights) from \$1,650 + \$1 per person a saving of up to \$738 per couple*
Sydney to Adelaide package (9-days/8-nights) from \$2,210 + \$1 per person a saving of up to \$360 per couple*

*Offers are based on full Adult fares. The offer is valid for sales made until 15 March 2008, for travel from 01 April 2008 to 31 July 2008.

EUROPE - LOW-COST AIRLINES - Meridiana: Berlin-Florence - From 30th March, a direct connection between Berlin and Florence will be available. Flights will initially be in operation twice a week (Thursdays and Sundays) to then increase to three times a week from June with the arrival of summer day light saving.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE - PLANNING TO LEARN A LANGUAGE **Perhaps challenge your own understanding of English first?**

Can you read these right the first time?

1. The bandage was **wound** around the **wound**.
2. The farm was used to **produce produce**.
3. The dump was so full that it had to **refuse** more **refuse**.
4. We must **polish** the **Polish** furniture.
5. He could **lead** if he would get the **lead** out.
6. The soldier decided to **desert** his dessert in the **desert**.
7. Since there is no time like the **present**, he thought it was time to **present** the **present**.
8. A **bass** was painted on the head of the **bass** drum.
9. When shot at, the **dove dove** into the bushes.
10. I did not **object** to the **object**.
11. The insurance was **invalid** for the **invalid**.
12. There was a **row** among the oarsmen about how to **row**
13. They were too **close** to the door to **close** it.
14. The buck **does** funny things when the **does** are present.
15. A seamstress and a **sewer** fell down into a **sewer** line.
16. To help with planting, the farmer taught his **sow** to **sow**.
17. The **wind** was too strong to **wind** the sail.
18. Upon seeing the **tear** in the painting I shed a **tear**.
19. I had to **subject** the **subject** to a series of tests.
20. How can I **intimate** this to my most **intimate** friend?

A WONDERFUL PHOTO?

Put yourself in the picture.... Walking in Ireland



Happy to receive & publish your photos or comments about your active holiday in our next newsletter!

QUEENSTOWN CENTRE FOR CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY - Talking of photographs, a good friend and the photographer at Lucie & my wedding many years ago, Mike Langford has returned to his native New Zealand to establish a photography school. Mike also worked with us on several photography trips to China and along the Silk Road and in Nepal. We also worked together with author Han-Suyin (of 'Love is a many splendored thing' fame) on a photographic book of China and very successful lecture tour of Australia.

Given that photography is such an integral part of travel I thought you might be interested in learning about the courses offers in Queenstown.



- Australian Geographic Photographer of the Year 2002
- NSW Landscape Photographer of the Year 2002.
- NZIPP Epson Photographer of the Year 2006
- NZIPP Landscape and Architecture Photographer of the Year 2006
- AIPP Landscape Photographer 2007

Queenstown Centre for Creative Photography offers the amateur or professional photographer an opportunity to study photography, take a one-day 4WD photo Safari, or an intensive learning experience found in the monthly weekend photographic workshops.

Mike Langford – an internationally award winning photographer - shares his knowledge and passion for photographs including, landscape photography in NZ, portrait photography, photo-documentary photography using Canon Digital Cameras. Students have access to a variety of lenses and filters throughout the courses, and receive feedback and encouragement to explore the various ways photography can be used as an expressive tool.

- March 21-23 Specializing in landscape photography
- June 20-22 - composition, exposure, quality of light, lenses, camera operation, histograms.

All workshops are tailor made in response to students needs – see <http://www.qccp.co.nz/> .

Schedule:

- 5pm-7pm Friday evening at the Queenstown Centre for Creative Photography.
- This is a general discussion evening over wine and cheese. Students are encouraged to bring along 5 images for a gentle critique of their work.
- This introduction to the course will enable you to get to know your tutors, and other students.
- Saturday and Sunday 9.00 am Workshop begins with practical demonstrations and lessons; the 'hands on 'use, by students of' state of art Canon digital cameras support this. This method will give students instant feedback, and also gain them knowledge of digital capture and out-put techniques.
- Afternoons are for lectures, critiques and demonstrations and the data projection of student's images from the morning session.
- Workshop ends at 5pm.
- Saturday evening dinner with Mike and Jackie. \$10 p/p bring your partner if you choose.

Fee: \$480

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 & the Michelin Guide link on our Active Europe page <http://www.AlltheWeb.com>
- 2) Go to the <http://www.mappy.com/> website for a host of easy to read options
- 3) Go to <http://www.googleearth.com/> for a graphic view of the world we visit 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, Yvette or Sue directly on (03) 57551743.

ORDER YOUR NEW TRAVEL BROCHURES FOR 2008

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, Nepal & Sth America
- () SHERPA CYCLING HOLIDAYS - Self-guided France, Italy, Spain, the UK, Ireland & most places in Europe
- () FRANCE WALKING HOLIDAYS - Small Group Guided Walking with a donkey to carry your lunch in the Lot Valley & in Tuscany, cooking, truffles & wine tours also available
- () 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
- () ONE-HOTEL GUIDED WALKING HOLIDAYS – in (please specify destination)
- () FRENCH CYCLING HOLIDAYS – Small group hotel based cycling holidays
- () GO BARGING – EUROPEAN WATERWAYS – All-inclusive Hotel Barges in France, Germany, UK & Ireland
- () CANAL & CO – Hotel Barges in most regions of France and Holland
- () CROWN BLUE LINE - Self-skippered cruising holidays in France, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Italy & UK
- () BIKE & BARGE CRUISES – France, Holland, Belgium, Croatia, Turkey
- () CASTELLARE DI TONDA – Tuscan farmhouse self-contained apartments
- () SUNSAIL – Yacht Charter or MileCatcher cruises in Queensland, Croatia, Vietnam, Tahiti & Thailand

OTHER DESTINATION – 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
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright 3741
- Travel Agent Licence No 31102

CARBON & THE HOLIDAY & WORK ENVIRONMENT

What we can do to make a difference?

With the release of reports into the global impact to the environment 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](http://www.climatecare.org)' (website homepage – <http://www.climatecare.org>)

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 Pty Ltd do not specifically endorse any of these options & do not vouch for their effectiveness or credibility but we believe this information will help make an informed decision: