

For our neighbours & friends in Victorian that need help in these difficult times - here is the best information link we can offer: <http://www.vic.gov.au/emergencies-safety/emergency-services/emergency-information/victorian-bushfires.html> If you have lost your computer the Australian Information and Communications Technology industry is working to deliver a range of free hardware, software and services to both the communities affected by the Victorian bushfires and the organisations supporting them.

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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 <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au> under 'What's New'.

TALL SHIP SAILING CRUISE

New Caledonia to Sydney via Lord Howe Island departs 11th – 23rd October 2009 OR

Sydney to Auckland - trans Tasman voyage & the Bay of Islands departs 9th – 23rd November



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Join the crew and sail this authentic square-rigged sailing ship – all inclusive from \$3630 per person

The romance and splendour of sailing as our forefathers did is available to all ages, no previous experience is required. Later this year there will be two special cruises that will allow Australian's to discover for themselves the magic and the challenges faced by explorers, sailors, whalers and mariners, by Captain James Cook, Wallis and Bougainville, as they sailed the waters between Sydney and New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Join Søren Larsen – star of the BBC TV series 'the Onedin Line' - and be part of the ship's 22-person Voyage Crew in 2009. To see Søren Larsen lying at anchor in a remote and deserted bay recreates a scene straight out of an 18th century engraving of the early European voyages of exploration.

Your Role as Voyage Crew - This is an adventure holiday where the emphasis is placed on your enjoyment. Participation is part of that adventure and you will be taken on as a Voyage Crew, learning 'hands on' from the professional crew about shipboard life. Allowance is made for age and abilities and as part of the ship's watch system you can handle sail, take the helm, join-in and have fun.

Ocean Sailing or Bluewater Voyages you can be expected to stand watch and participate in all the activities of sailing the ship. The objective is to undertake an authentic blue water passage under square rig. You will be introduced to the traditions of tall ship sailing, working as part of a skilled crew within the watch system

On-board facilities include 2 or 4-berth cabins, a well-equipped saloon and galley, shower / bathrooms, inflatable boats, fishing tackle, windsurfer and snorkelling gear. Berth price includes all meals onboard, all excursions and activities, use of ship's wet-weather gear, inflatable boats and all safety equipment.

On arriving onboard you will be shown your berths, introduced to the crew, and signed on Ship's Articles as Voyage Crew. Much of the first morning will be spent introducing you to the ship and explaining the various routines, safety procedures and equipment and how the watch system works. For those who wish we try to give you a chance to be shown how to haul and rig the sails and climb the masts.

Sailing through Sydney Harbour, one of the world's great harbours, is a thrilling occasion. It was here that Søren Larsen as Flagship of the First Fleet Re-enactment Voyage sailed in with the fleet of Tall ships for Australia's 200th birthday in 1988.

The trip across the Tasman will be an exciting and challenging sail for the first time novice and the experienced sailor. This voyage gives time for a good sailing passage of 1000 miles to the northern tip of New Zealand in the prevailing westerlies. This should take us about a week in reasonable conditions and during the sea passage from Australia the ship is sailing 24 hours a day and as voyage crew you will stand deck watches and work within a normal 4 hours on / 8 hours off watch system. This rotates during the course of the voyage to allow everyone to be on deck during different parts of the day.

There are 13 permanent crew who maintain and sail the ship that are there to assist and help you enjoy your time aboard. Once we drop anchor the deck watch is undertaken by the permanent crew and you the Voyage Crew are free to explore ashore. While on watch the voyage crew are under the care and instruction of the watch officer and two other permanent crew; everyone stands a turn on the helm, takes lookout on bow watch, helps fill in the ship's deck log and help handle the sails as required. The watches on deck will have to work the brigantine rig to best advantage to make the most of the changeable weather. On the longer sea passage there's time for talks about basic navigation, seamanship theory, rope work, history and development of square rigged ships. The timeless routines of the sea and unique beauty and grandeur of the ocean can only really be appreciated by those who have undertaken a blue water passage several days out from land.

Sighting Cape Reinga at the northern tip of North Island will be our first glimpse of New Zealand and soon we shall enter the beautiful Bay of Islands to clear NZ Customs at the tiny fishing village of Opuā. A good ocean passage will allow us time to enjoy 'the Bay' including the historic town of Russell and the picturesque Roberton Island. Dolphins usually delight in escorting us to Cape Brett and the Hole in the Rock archway. Once we drop anchor at the Bay of Islands the deck watch is taken by the permanent crew and the Voyage Crew are free to explore ashore. With 4 or 5 nights in hand we make our way south through the Hauraki Gulf, visiting the marine reserve and the Poor Knights islands and perhaps Kawau or Tiri Tiri island before we arrive at our final destination, Auckland and home-port.

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BIKE & BARGE & ISLAND HOPPING CRUISES FOR 2009

FRANCE, BELGIUM, HOLLAND, GERMANY, GREECE, CROATIA, TURKEY

These cruises combines two popular ways to explore Europe (cycling & river cruising), allowing partners of different abilities & interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for non-cycling partners, leisure cyclist OR enthusiasts), unpack once & come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. Cruises are 8-days / 7-nights (except Bruges to Paris or v. v. which are 2- weeks)

SPECIAL OFFER Save \$465 per person on the 8-day Amsterdam – Bruges Bike & Barge cruise in 2009.

A few additional dates are now available for individual bookings on this popular cycling cruise through Holland and Belgium. Book now for the special price of \$1675 per person twin share (usually \$2140):

30th May from Amsterdam – Bruges
12th September from Bruges – Amsterdam
10th October from Bruges – Amsterdam

Here is our full program of cycling cruises for 2009:

Bike & Barge Escorted Cycling			
France			2, 9, 30 May, 6, 13, 20, 27 Jun, 4, 11, 18,
Loire Valley	8 days/7 nights	\$1,765	25 Jul, 8, 15, 22 Aug, 5, 12, 19, 26 Sep
The Loire Valley to Paris	8 days/7 nights	\$2140	27 Jun
Paris to the Loire Valley	15 days/14 nights	\$3,830	18 April
Loire Valley Canals	8 days/7 nights	\$2,140	27 June
Taste of Burgundy	8 days/7 nights	\$1,765	30 May, 6,13,20,27 Jun, 4,11,18,25 Jul, 1, 22, 29 Aug, 5, 12, 19, 26 Sep
Provence and the Camargue	7 days/6 nights	\$3,195	19, 26 April, 2 Aug, 25 Oct, 1 Nov
France, Holland & Belgium			30 May, 6, 20, 27 Jun, 4,11, 25 Jul, 1, 22, 29 Aug, 5, 12 Sep
Amsterdam to Brussels or v.v.	8 days/7 nights	\$1,440	
Amsterdam to Bruges - Spring Special	8 days/7 nights	\$1,795	25 Apr
Amsterdam to Bruges - Deluxe	8 days/7 nights	\$2,075	7, 28 Jun, 5, 12 Jul, 16 Aug, 27 Sep
Amsterdam to Bruges - Comfort	8 days/7 nights	\$1,765	9 May
Bruges to Amsterdam - Comfort	8 days/7 nights	\$1,765	16 May
Amsterdam to Bruges - Version 2	8 days/7 nights	\$1675	30 May
Bruges to Amsterdam - Version 2	8 days/7 nights	\$1675	12 Sep, 10 Oct
Bruges to Paris - high season	15 days/14 nights	\$4,070	19 Jul - 2 Aug
Paris to Bruges - high season	15 days/14 nights	\$4,070	2 - 16 Aug
Bruges to Paris - Version 2	15 days/14 nights	\$3,350	12 Sep - 26 Sep
Paris to Bruges - Version 2	15 days/14 nights	\$3,350	26 Sep - 10 Oct
Holland			
Highlights of Holland: Rembrandt's Trail	8 days/7 nights	\$1,695	27 Jun, 4 Jul, 1, 22 Aug
Holland in The Springtime	8 days/7 nights	\$2,090	11 Apr
Tulip Tour	4 days/3 nights	\$930	11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28 Apr, 2, 5 May
Tulip Tour - Deluxe	4 days/3 nights	\$995	4, 7 May
Tulip Tour - Deluxe	8 days/7 nights	\$1,980	5, 12, 19 Apr, 17 May
Dutch Cities	8 days/7 nights	\$2,140	18 April
North Holland	8 days/7 nights	\$1,980	21 Jun, 12 Jul, 2, 9 Aug
France Germany Holland Luxembourg			
Metz to Cochem	8 days/7 nights	\$2,140	25 Jul, 3 Oct

Cochem to Metz	8 days/7 nights	\$2,140	1, 15 Aug, 10 Oct
Germany & Holland: Minden to Groningen	8 days/7 nights	\$2,090	6 Jun
Holland & Germany: Arnhem to Mainz	8 days/7 nights	\$2,090	20 Jun
Germany & Holland: Koblenz to Amsterdam	8 days/7 nights	\$2,090	24 Oct
Germany			
Moselle: Saarbrücken to Koblenz	8 days/7 nights	\$2,090	17 Oct
Main & Rhine: Mainz to Bamberg	8 days/7 nights	\$2,090	27 Jun
Moselle, Rhine & Main: Trier to Frankfurt	8 days/7 nights	\$2,090	22 Aug
Moselle River	8 days/7 nights	\$1,690	3, 10 Oct
Along The Rhine River	8 days/7 nights	\$1,800	24 Oct
Italy			
Venice Lagoon & River Po	7 days/6 nights	\$1,675	Saturdays 28 Mar to 24 Oct
Croatia:			
Pearls of Southern Dalmatia	8 days/7 nights	\$2,020	9, 16, 23, 30 May, 6, 13, 20 Jun, 22, 29 Aug, 5, 12, 19, 26 Sep, 3, 10, 17 Oct
Pearls of Southern Dalmatia - Premium	8 days/7 nights	\$2,275	2 May, 13, 27 Jun, 4, 18 Jul, 1, 15, 22 Aug
Croatian National Parks	8 days/7 nights	\$2,020	25 Apr, 2 May, 13, 27 Jun, 15, 22 Aug
Croatian National Parks - Premium	8 days/7 nights	\$2,275	9, 30 May, 6, 20 Jun, 11, 25 Jul, 8, 29 Aug, 5, 12, 19, 26 Sep
Islands of Kvarner Bay	8 days/7 nights	\$1,910	Sundays from early Apr to mid Oct
Istria & the Croatian Coast	8 days/7 nights	\$1,910	24, 31 May, 14, 21 Jun, 20, 27 Sep, 4, 11, 18 Oct
Dalmatia to Dubrovnik	8 days/7 nights	\$2,020	26 Apr, 10, 31 May, 6 Sep
Montenegro			
Dubrovnik to Montenegro & back	8 days/7 nights	\$2,275	3, 17, 24 May, 13, 20, 27 Sep, 4 Oct
Greece			
The Central Aegean	8 days/7 nights	\$2,745	18, 24 April, 2 May, 19, 26 Sep
The Southern Aegean	8 days/7 nights	\$2,745	9, 16, 23, 30 May, 3, 10, 17 Oct
Cyclades Islands	8 days/7 nights	\$2,745	16, 23, 30 May, 5, 12, 19, 26 Sep
The Ionian Islands	8 days/7 nights	\$2,745	18, 25 Apr, 2 May, 7, 14 Jun, 10, 17 Oct
Turkey:			
Southern Coast of Turkey	8 days/7 nights	\$2,745	9, 16, 23, 30 May, 3, 10, 17 Oct
Canada			
Spring Tour	7 days/6 nights	\$2,765	16, 23 May
The Lockkeepers Tour	7 days/6 nights	\$2,590	30 May, 6, 13, 27 Jun, 18 Jul, 22, 29 Aug, 19, 26 Sep, 3 Oct
The Champlain Tour	7 days/6 nights	\$2,765	11 Jul, 15 Aug, 12 Sep
Tour of Two Canadas	7 days/6 nights	\$2,945	25 Jul, 1 Aug
Chemin du Roy - The Kings Tour	7 days/6 nights	\$2,765	4 Jul, 8 Aug, 5 Sep

Remember demand is very high with these barges and space is limited - early bookings are essential. Call us today for 2009 prices, route information & availability

Please note some barges – particularly those cruising in the French canals in areas such as the Loire valley or Burgundy - have a limited depth of water to deal with & accordingly cabins & bathrooms are generally smaller, often with bunk beds & storage space is limited. Of course on cycling holidays time spent in cabins is limited but if cabin size is important to you please talk to us about the other boats that we work with as most offer side-by-side twin beds, good storage areas & of course their own bathrooms.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

CYCLING IN ITALY

Small group guided tour of Umbria

Interested in cycling in the hills of Umbria where you will experience wine tastings, olive groves and medieval Umbrian towns. You'll visit cathedrals, and cycle deep into the stunning Umbrian countryside. Again the cycling does involve hilly climbs – but we do appreciate the importance of a well-chosen route – away from the maddening crowds and busy roads. We appreciate the value of well-maintained bikes suitable for the terrain; carefully selected accommodation with a focus on regional cuisine; good wine and we appreciate the knowledge and experience of professional guides.

We appreciate the company of a small group of like-minded cyclists who share an interest not just in lots of fast kilometres – although the cycling is important - but in the scenery, the culture, the history and the wine and cuisine of some of the most spectacular cycling regions in Europe. And Italians welcome cyclists with respect and enthusiasm.

Our 8-day small group cycling program offers stunning scenery and quiet roads. This tour begins deep in southern Tuscany near the Umbrian border. To the west of [Orvieto](#) are three beautiful little towns in the Maremma region; Sorano, Sovana and Pitigliano are three jewels dating back to Etruscan times that lie far from the usual tourist routes. All three towns are built on the outcrops of extinct volcanoes, although Sovano is low-lying while both Sorano and Pitigliano soar high above their river valleys on high cliffs.

Umbria is hilly and this tour offers good rides but at times challenging hill climbs. You will experience wine tastings, olive groves and medieval Umbrian towns, visit cathedrals and religious centres and cycle deep into the stunning Umbrian countryside.

A guide is with you on the road and detailed route maps are provided. All baggage is carried from hotel to hotel, leaving you free to enjoy each day. Food is important to these tours and each evening the restaurants we choose will highlight the region's cuisine. Our tours are recommended for anyone who is reasonably fit and are ideal for more experienced cyclists, as our guides are often happy to accompany those who wish to do a few more kilometres.

Cost per person: \$3870 (including return local transfers as shown) Single room supplement \$775

Departs: 30th May; 12th or 26th September 2009

Tours Includes: 7-nights in carefully selected hotels, 7-breakfasts & dinners, route notes, sightseeing, daily luggage transfers, cycle tour guide, quality multi-geared bicycle hire and return railway station transfers (but no support vehicle)

Distance: Moderate to challenging cycling - 32 to 60 kilometres on rolling with some climbs. Extra rides (extensions and loop rides) may be available each day.

CYCLING IN VIETNAM

Bike & Barge cruises including Ha Long Bay, Hoi An, Hanoi, Saigon & the Mekong Delta Islands

Departs: 5th April, 11th October & 25th October 2009

Duration: 14-days / 13-nights - 208km by bicycle

Cost per person: AU\$5295 (twin share) – single cabin/room supplement on request

Vietnam, a country full of originality, overwhelming natural beauty and history. It is a country full of contrasts with bustling, vibrant cities, fascinating towns and villages where time seems to have stood still. Explore the rocky fairytale world of Ha Long Bay sailing aboard a traditional but modernised junk and explore this unique landscape by bike and sea-kayak. Admire lush green rice fields and friendly water buffaloes, visit colourful temples and pagodas. Let the emerald-green waters of the South China Sea and the incredible cave formations enchant you. In Central Vietnam we explore impressive monuments of Vietnamese emperors, the historic World Heritage town of Hoi An and in South Vietnam the the water labyrinth that is the Mekong Delta.

For our 2009/10 inn-to-inn [14-day Vietnam](#) cycling tours are 8th Jan, 27th Oct, 16th Nov 2009 & 11th & 30th Jan, 22 Feb 2010 – early bookings essential – call Sue to talk about her recent cycling tour:

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

SMALL GROUP GUIDED WALKING HOLIDAYS FOR THE DISCERNING France, Umbria & England – walking (food, wine, history and more) in quality accommodation.....with a donkey

There can be no better feeling than walking gently in beautiful countryside with not a care in the world and breathing in fresh clean air, covering some eighty easy kilometres in the week and eating and drinking like kings and queens. A small group walking holiday makes you feel healthy and fit by the end of the week ! Not only therefore are the weeks in France set up for this purpose but also the vein of culture, gastronomy and wine will make you feel well-fed and wined and well informed.

For ten years James and Diana Tamlyn, the husband and wife team who run our programs have learned to know the area like the back of their hand. Their attention to detail is outstanding. It is an attention to detail that is impossible to beat and with a genuine interest in informing walkers of facts without boring them!

The beauty also of a walking holiday is being able to talk to friends or new acquaintances in a way that you can do nowhere else. Walking in the countryside for three hours in the morning induces a kind of conversation different to any other. You have time to walk and talk with one person before breaking off and gently moving to talk to someone else. As well as being food and wine aficionados, James and Diana love talking (!) and an incredible variety of subjects are touched upon during the week. The places that are chosen to stay in are private chateau or manor houses or auberges that are all charming and beautifully run and exquisitely decorated. There will be a small number of bedrooms so that the place belongs to your group which encourages the house party feel. The cooking is par excellence as they say in France and all bedrooms and bathrooms are spacious and beautifully presented.

Join us in the **Dordogne / Lot Valley** in France in May for the flowers (some thirty different species of orchid can be found there at this time of year) or in the picturesque and remote countryside of **Umbria** in June where droves of peonies or fields of wild narcissi and wild tulips vie for space in stunning settings.

Suffolk is one of the prettiest counties in England and little known in the walking world. Its villages and landscape have hardly changed since medieval times when this area was particularly rich due to the wool trade. The beauty of these villages lies in the grouping of the high thatch roof and beautiful pastel coloured half-timbered houses. I attach separately a piece on the fabulous Suffolk gastronomy for you. Not forgetting the beautiful Stour valley and Dedham vale that so inspired John Constable. Without doubt one of the beauty spots of England.

And then we offer walking and wine in the **Basque Pyrenees** region of France. The light in spring is fabulous, it is an incredibly beautiful part of the world with beautiful houses to stay in and stunning landscape to walk through. And included: a master of wine and fabulous food starting with the cooking of the very beautiful Florence at her equally beautiful house and finishing with tapas and Spanish cocina the other side of the Pyrenees.

HEDONISTIC HIKING TOURS IN ITALY IN 2009

Parma, Tuscany, Maremma, Piedmont, Emilia Romagna and the Cinque Terre:

What sets us apart at [Hedonistic Hiking](#) is our attention to detail. We know our clients are looking for a quality guided walking holiday and our tours are just that. Yet they are more than that, we take you into the heart of each region, behind the scenes to the real Italy. We can open doors that often remain closed – discovering charming and little known museums and churches. Fluent in Italian we can chat to all the locals – ask the farmers about their crops, the winemaker about this year's vintage, the priest about a particular fresco, the market stall holder about their produce and the *barista* about the local soccer team, the village festival, politics and the local gossip. When we design our tours we ensure that we are giving our clients an authentic experience.

The hotels we use are handpicked, chosen for their comfort and their services and, above all, for the genuine warm reception they give our guests. We have developed a great relationship with all the hotels and they, in turn, treat our guests as their friends too. The walking trails we have painstakingly researched take us along little-trodden routes through the prettiest parts of the region. Our freshly prepared picnic lunches showcase delicious local produce and we serve them with local wines – and, of course, water too. We have a support vehicle so there is never any pressure to walk further than you feel like. In the evenings we carefully select a

fabulous menu in a delightful restaurant. We can guarantee this level of quality and service as we are a small company and we operate our tours ourselves. We love what we do and are always happy to go that extra kilometre for our clients.

Tours and Dates

A Week in Tuscany – new for 2009: Chianti, Castles and Tuscan Cooking - immerse yourself in the heart of Chianti with a week's holiday based in a beautiful villa in Tuscan hills between Florence and Siena. Guided hikes to medieval castles, Renaissance villas, Romanesque churches, wine estates and delightful Tuscan villages. Departs 31st May - 7th June & 6th - 13th September

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 8th - 15th May & 18th - 25th September

Mystical Maremma: Tuscany's last frontier - a continuous walk through a lesser-known area of Tuscany to the Mediterranean coast. Enjoy wonderful spring flowers, natural beauty and fabulous views as you step back in time off the beaten track. Spectacular finish with 2 days at an award-winning 5-star hotel with its own Michelin star restaurant. Departs 20th - 28th May & 29th Sept - 7th Oct

Piedmont and Emilia Romagna: A Celebration of Slow Food - let your taste buds do the walking as we immerse you in the enogastronomic wonders of these two regions. Barolo wine, the legendary white truffle of Alba, porcini mushrooms, Parmesan and prosciutto. Beautiful hotels, stunning walks, fascinating history and culture plus exceptional food and wines. Departs 20th-28th June & 10th-18th October 2009

Please note: We require a minimum of 6 people to operate these tours, however, we understand that you need to book flights and make travel plans in advance. Therefore, if we have fewer than 6 we will still offer the tour and there will be one, instead of two, guides. Some of the walks may be adapted to suit the smaller group but the quality of the tour will not be compromised.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

WALKING THE VIA FRANCIGENA

The Pilgrim's Road to Rome

In a similar way to the Way of Saint James (to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain) the pilgrim's road to Rome, or [Via Francigena](#) is not a single road, as it comprises several possible routes that have changed over the centuries. Today, it is possible to experience the same route as the medieval travellers, walking the unspoilt sections of the route on a self-guided 'inn to inn' walk – staying in 1 or 2-star hotels or agriturismo / guest houses - with your baggage transferred each day.

Outdoor Travel can now offer weekly easy to moderate walking sections from the alpine meadows, down to the coast, through Tuscany and across the Appenines to Rome.

A CHOICE OR EIGHT 8-DAY WALKS DAILY FROM 1ST MAY TO 30TH OCTOBER 2009 - Not just for pilgrims but for those looking for an interesting walking or cycling holiday this route through rural Italy to Rome offers a spiritual or historical dimension as well as the beauty of the countryside and the joy of an *active* holiday. We offer pre-booked accommodation and daily baggage transfers, which allows you the freedom to really enjoy this ancient trail.

SELF-GUIDED INN-TO-INN WALKING – Start at the San Bernardo pass and over eight sections you can travel all the way to Rome. The complete journey of 950km travels from **Bourg St Pierre near Monginevro** just across the Swiss border in the Alps into Italy and on to Rome via Ivrea, Pavia, Fidenza, Aulla, San Miniato, San Quirico d'Orcia and Montefiascone. It offers ever-changing landscapes; from steep alpine meadows to the vineyards and 'creten' hills of Tuscany; from traditional villages bypassed by time to large modern towns and urban centres, passing Roman ruins and Etruscan tombs.

Walks can start on any day of the week from 8 easy to reach start points:

WALKING IN IRELAND

Free extra night of accommodation offer

FREE EXTRA NIGHT – book an 8-day walking tour staying at the **Kerry Ocean Lodge** in Glenbeigh and get an extra night **Free**.

Based at Glenbeigh [County Kerry](#) in the South West of Ireland, we offer a one-hotel bases (no packing and unpacking each day) but with a sense of completing a journey. Walk directly from your guesthouse on 2 days on the Kerry Way, on old coach and butter roads beside the Atlantic Ocean overlooking Dingle Bay. Discover the wild valleys of mid-Kerry and Killarney National Park. Relax and unwind with the superb views, unique flora and fauna and a landscape imbued with folklore. Enjoy the craic (fun) and music in the local pubs.

Your accommodation is in a quality 20-bedroom guesthouse. Every room has a TV, hairdryer, tea and coffee making facilities and private bathroom. There is also free Internet access, free laundry facilities and private parking. Walking tour highlights include a picturesque, vibrant village setting, a strong tradition of music and dance, Rossbeigh Beach, Killarney National Park, Muckross House, the Gap of Dunloe, Dingle Bay, unique flora, folklore, archaeology, ancient rock art & optional boat trip to the Skelligs islands.

Tours depart Saturdays: 23, 30 May, 20, 27 Jun, 4, 25 Jul, 1, 15, 22 Aug, 5, 12, 26 Sep, 10 Oct 2009. **Solos Dates** - we offer single rooms with no additional single supplement (first 7 bookings received) and afterwards the option of sharing a twin room, again with no supplement: 25 Apr, 9 May, 13 Jun, 11 Jul, 19 Sep 2009

FROM YVETTE AT THE OUTDOOR TRAVEL FARES DESK

Airfare bargains to Europe now available

Outdoor Travel have access to a wide range of airlines and airfares - including Economy, Premium Economy (with more legroom) and Business & First Class and the new A380 First Class Suites to all destinations including the UK and Europe, New Zealand, Vietnam, the USA or Canada and more. Please contact the office for all your airfare enquiries - phone Yvette or Lucie on 03 5750 1441 or email fares@outdoortravel.com.au

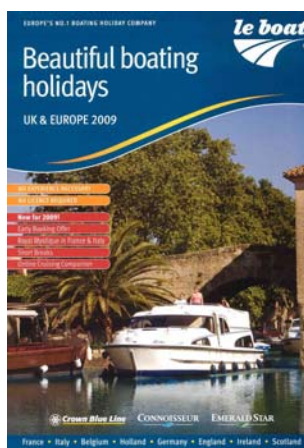
TRAVEL INSURANCE - Please don't forget travel insurance too, this is very important when paying for your holiday especially a long way in advance. We have fully comprehensive travel insurance available – call us or see the SureSave link on our website

Click-here to buy **SURESAVE TRAVEL INSURANCE** or see <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

CROWN BLUE LINE / LE BOAT

Self-skipped motor cruisers - save up to 15% on early bookings for 2009



With our extensive fleet of over [600 self-drive](#) boats in over 40 bases we are able to offer a host of special holiday ideas in destinations in France, Holland, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Scotland & England. These latest discounts are all valid for **new** bookings only made between 1st - 31st March 2009.

Offers are combinable with other offers only up to a maximum discount of 15% (except the special one way discounts)

GENERAL DISCOUNTS

All departures on all boats (except Mystique & Royal Mystique) up to 27th August – on all destinations - 10% discount

ONE WAY DISCOUNTS

Departures in April - France, Germany, Ireland - 25% off all one way cruises

Departures in May - France, Germany, Ireland - 20% off all one way cruises

REGIONAL DISCOUNTS

France (Canal du Midi), Ireland, Scotland & the River Thames in England - 15% off the Consort

France – all regions where available - 15% off the Calypso

Belgium, France, Italy - 15% off the Valentre 1320FB A

Belgium, France, Holland, Ireland, Germany, Italy - 15% off the Caprice

Belgium, France, Germany, Holland - 15% off the Countess

Departures between 24th July & 11th August 2009 on the River Thames in England - 10% discount

Departures up to 23rd July in France on the Canal Du Midi - 10% discount

Departures up to 23rd July in France in the Burgundy Franche - Comte region - 10% discount

Departures up to 27th August – on all destinations - 10% discount

Conditions apply - all our discounts can be combined up to a **maximum of 15%** per booking. Discounts are not applicable to the Royal Mystique and the new Mystique boats. The Mystique are the new boats for 2009 & they will be available from either Port Cassafieres or Castelnaudary as return trips or as a one way between them.

The specifications on this boat are: Length - 14.25m, Width - 4.10m, Air draft - 3.10m

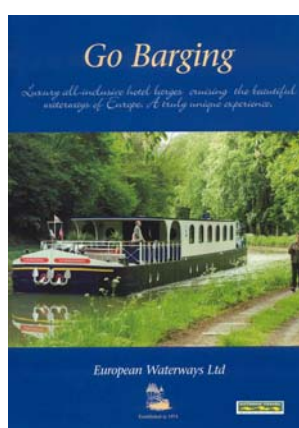
Headroom: aft cabin 1.90m, galley 1.94m, fore cabin 1.86m

Layout - 3 cabins and three bathrooms: 1 fore cabin double king-size (2m x 1.60m), 2 aft cabins 1 x double (2m x 1.47m) or 2 x singles (2m x 0.74m) + make up double in saloon (2.30m x 1.10m)

New full colour brochures – with comprehensive boat & route details are available now

GO BARGING IN EUROPE

New hotel barge brochure now available



Barging is a unique experience, offering a combination of relaxation, gastronomy and immersion in the local landscape and culture. The Go Barging program offers 17 vessels in 6 countries, some of which we have converted ourselves from original cargo barges. Most are small boats catering for groups from 4 – 12 passengers on a fully inclusive program and to a high level of comfort.

Cruises include 6-nights accommodation on board in an air-conditioned en-suite cabin, all transfers, plus daily excursions by chauffeured barge mini-bus and inclusive of entry fees to castles, exclusive vineyards, markets and local places of historical and cultural interest, the services of our experienced Captain / Host, Chef, Housekeeper(s) Driver/Tour Guide, breakfast, Lunch and Dinner aboard. All lunch and evening meals aboard

are a gastronomic adventure using fine local produce, local lunch ashore, once per week on most barges (depending on the route, this may well be in a Michelin starred restaurant), an excellent selection of fine regional and international wines and spirits, plus all day Open Bar, tea and coffee, full use of barge facilities such as bicycles, boules, barge library and on certain vessels, a spa pool.

HUGE DISCOUNTS ON CANAL BARGE HOLIDAYS

Looking for a luxury canal barge holiday for your family or a small group of friends in Europe? Outdoor Travel are offering 20% off the full charter costs of the 7-day / 6-night cruise on **RENAISSANCE, ANJODI, L'ART DE VIVRE, LA BELLE EPOQUE** or **L'IMPRESSIONNISTE** in France and **SCOTTISH HIGHLANDER** in Scotland

For individual cabin reservations we also offer discounts on selected departures in 2009:

Save AU\$1,000 per cabin on all April, May & June 2009 departures aboard **LA BELLE EPOQUE** and **L'IMPRESSIONNISTE** in Burgundy, France.

Save AU\$800 per cabin on **LA BELLE EPOQUE** in Burgundy - *Walking Cruise* departs 18th October 2009.

Free return TGV journeys - for New 2009 Bookings – we offer complimentary 1st class return train tickets for the TGV Train between Paris and the nearest local station for the Hotel Barges **NAPOLEON** in Provence & **HIRONDELLE** in Burgundy.

Free hotel accommodation - for new 2009 bookings when you charter **ALOUETTE** for 2-4 passengers on the Canal du Midi Outdoor Travel will offer **2 complimentary nights** (based on twin/double occupancy of a room) on a bed and breakfast basis, at the wonderful Hotel De La Cite right in the centre of the walled city of in Carcassonne, subject to availability.

Conditions – The normal Go Barging terms and conditions apply. Some cruises may require a minimum of 4 passengers booked to guarantee the cruise. These offers apply to new bookings only and deposits for these special offers must be received by 31st March 2009. Charter promotion offer is valid for all 2009 departures except for September departures on La Belle Epoque, L'Art de Vivre, Anjodi and Renaissance. Space is limited so early booking is recommended – ask for availability or a free brochure today.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

LARGER CANAL BOAT CRUISES IN FRANCE

A choice of cruises in Burgundy or Alsace or Provence

The French hotel barge **LORRAINE** offers 11 twin/double cabins, on a Spa and Health Cruise through the beautiful Vosges Mountains from Fontenay Le Chateau to Nancy in July 2009 with an on-board massage therapist. Formerly part of the now defunct Canal & Co fleet here is their suggested itinerary

Saturday - Meeting at Dijon Railway station and bus transfer to Lorraine and welcome aboard drinks with introduction of the crew.

Sunday - Today after an early lunch we are privileged to have a visit to Luxeuil Les Bains. Luxeuil was first colonized by the Romans in the 1st century who named it Luxovium and established it as a thermal town. It's elegant 18th-century spa is built in a traditional Vosgien style and offers guided tours and programs for holistic health and relaxation. A swim in the spa waters is possible.

Monday - After breakfast your bus will take you to visit the Vittel water factory and in the afternoon we cruise the Canal de L'Est. You are free to bicycle the tow paths, walk from lock to lock, or explore on bicycle canalside villages as we cruise to Les Forges.

Tuesday - The morning is a delightful cruise in this beautiful photogenic countryside or there is time to walk, to bicycle and to explore canalside villages. In the afternoon we will do a tour of Epinal. We will visit the International Museum of Folk Art and the Vosges Departmental Museum. While touring the city we will make a brief stop at the Church of St-Maurice dating from the 13th century with an 11th century tower. In the Parc du Chateau we will see the ruins of a castle destroyed in 1670. This afternoon after lunch we will have a brief visit to the Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial.

Wednesday - We now cruise toward Charmes, a beautiful little town. It has lovely shops and 'Church St Nicolas' dates from the 15th century. Maison des Loups (House of Wolves) dates from 1537. We cruise along a particularly beautiful stretch of canal through the Vosges Mountains. We will leave Lorraine to visit Châtel-sur-Moselle, a medieval fortress built in 1072 with a strategic significance throughout French history including 1940 and 1944.

Thursday - At Lock 40 we will visit the Chateau at Neuviller-sur-Moselle. In addition to a church with a witch hat spire, this 19th century chateau raises from a lovely collection of fortified farm buildings. Our destination is Nancy where we leave Lorraine and go into the city for a tour, letting the boat catch us later. Our boat will park near The Place Stanislas which, along with Placé de la Carrière and Place d'Alliance were added on the World Heritage Sites list by the UNESCO in 1983. There is also a botanical garden in Nancy, "*Le Jardin Botanique*" which has many different types of plants, including tropical, and many other wonderful types of plants and flowers. Tonight is the Gala dinner as we bid farewell to Lorraine tomorrow morning. The staff of Lorraine set out to make this week the best week of your year. We hope that goal was realized and we celebrate with this special dinner.

Friday – The cruise ends after breakfast and you will be transported to the Nancy Railway Station.

Hotel barge cruises on the **LORRAINE** in Burgundy and from July in Alsace are available weekly from March to early November – ask for details & availability. Also in Burgundy, a new boat for us is the **LUCIOLE** with six twin/double cabins and 2 single cabins for those who want to avoid a surcharge – see our website or ask for a detailed cruise itinerary.

In Provence, despite the current economic situation our cruise boat **LE PHÉNICIEN** have undergone a full refurbishment of the nine twin/double cabins to improve the general quality, the "look and feel" and the storage space into the cabins up to or beyond the current standards of a 'deluxe' hotel barge

From 2009 they will offer 6 designated queen-bedded cabins and 3 twin-bedded cabins. One cabin can still accommodate a young child in a crib. All queen-bedded cabins but one will allow access to the bed from both sides.

From the original cabins only the carpets and the toilets remain unchanged. The main changes include new wooden furniture on both sides of the bed/beds with separate and increased storage space, new shelves above the bed/beds, elevated beds giving more clearance underneath the beds for luggage, new linen, news blankets (couette), new pillows, new reading spotlight, new painting on ceilings, new wall paper throughout the cabins (thicker, soundproof, waterproof), new washbasin furniture in the bathroom (more space for soap, shampoo, creams, etc.), new shower cabins/doors and extended tiling from floor to ceiling in the shower and above washbasin

La Phénicien will be available for cruising on the Rhone from Arles to Avignon with a coach accompanying the boat for sightseeing and wine tasting. A select number of departures will be designated to cycling for those looking for a more active itinerary – ask for details

CASTELARE DI TONDA

Tuscan Farmhouse Apartments – 7-nights for the price of 5 offer



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Just a twenty-minute drive from **San Gimignano in Tuscany** – this wonderfully restored farming estate dates back to the Strozzi, a noble family of the Florentine period. Working with the finest craftsmen from across the region, **twelve traditional old farmsteads** have been lovingly restored and converted into tasteful, fully equipped, self-contained 1, 2 and 3-bedroom apartments each with access to a swimming pool / barbecue area.

Set in a typical hillside landscape, this 280-hectare historic estate at 300 metres above sea level is within easy driving distance of **Florence, Siena, Pisa and the Tuscan coastline**.

ACCOMMODATION DISCOUNTS For all new bookings at [Castellare Di Tonda](#) for 2009 Outdoor Travel are offering 7-nights for the price of 5-nights for the period from 18th April – 23rd May (departure day) and from 13th June to 4th July (departure day) – call us know for prices and details.

GENERAL TRAVEL NEWS

A look at what's influencing travel plans & useful information for travellers

ITALY - VENICE Connected is a new on-line booking system for public tourist services is now available - it is now much easier to book local services in Venice thanks to "Venice Connected", the new on-line reservation system set up by the City of Venice. Simply by going to <http://www.veniceconnected.it> it will be possible to book and buy on-line all public tourist services in town and save money at the same time – services include:

- Public transport in Venice and to all the Islands (<http://www.sctv.it>)
- Public water transport to/from the airport (<http://www.alilaguna.it>)
- Public bus transport to/from the airport (<http://www.actv.it>)
- Limited Traffic Zone (ZTL) tickets for tourist buses
- Communal parking in Piazziale Rome
- Civic Museums (<http://www.museiciviviceneziani.it>)

TORINO + PIEMONTE Card – see <http://www.turismotorino.org> - This versatile card is available in different versions for every need. The card gives access to over 160 cultural sites, offers the free use of surface public transportation and tourist transportation in Turin plus the free climb by elevator to the Mole Antonelliana and the use of the cog railway Sassi-Superga.

PADOVA Card – see <http://www.padovacard.it> - The Padova Card is a useful tool to navigate freely within the city of Padova and its province. The card grants free entrance to historic sites, including municipal museums. Furthermore, the card offers discounted fares on the Riviera del Brenta boats. Starting in 2009, the city of Asiago will also offer a card delivered free with the Padova Card. The Asiago Card offers discounted fares for services and stays in the city of Asiago, famous for its thermal baths.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFER FAIRER COMPENSATION FOR AIR TRAVELLERS - Australians flying overseas will now receive fairer and timelier compensation in the event they lose their luggage, their flight is extensively delayed or they are involved in an airline accident. This compares to the old system where compensation was commonly capped at an amount set in the 1920s in a currency that no longer exists. Some 86 countries have already ratified the Convention, including most major destinations for Australian travellers. See: <http://www.minister.infrastructure.gov.au/aa/releases/2009/january/aa0>

POOR YEAR FOR DOMESTIC AIRLINES - The reliability of Australia's domestic airlines is under the spotlight with government figures showing 23 per cent of all domestic services arrived late last year according to the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Economics in Canberra

SPAIN'S GREEN HIGH SPEED TRAINS WIN OVER TIRED FLYERS: Spain's sleek new high-speed trains have stolen hundreds of thousands of passengers from airlines over the last year, slashing carbon emissions and marking a radical change in the way Spaniards travel. Passenger numbers on domestic flights fell 20% in the year to November 2008 as commuters and tourists swapped cramped airline seats for the space and convenience of the train. High-speed rail travel - boosted by the opening of a line that slashed the journey time from Madrid to Barcelona to 2 hours 35 minutes in February - grew 28% over the same period. About 400,000 travellers avoided the airports and opted for the 220mph AVE trains. Last year's drop in air travel was also helped by new high-speed lines from Madrid to Valladolid, Segovia and Malaga, marked the beginning of what experts say is a revolution in Spanish travel habits.

Two routes, from Barcelona to Malaga and Seville, opened last week and new lines are being built to connect Madrid with Valencia, Alicante, the Basque country and Galicia. The government has promised to lay 10,000km of high-speed track by 2020 to ensure that 90% of Spaniards live within 30 miles of a station.

Another key factor could be that high-speed rail tickets are often cheaper. The lowest one-way price on the 410-mile Barcelona-Madrid route this month is €44. Rail operator Renfe says 99% of trains on the route arrive on time. Zapatero, who has put infrastructure projects at the heart of an anti-recession surge in public spending, plans to invest €108 in the high-speed rail network until 2020.

STRANDED HIKER IN NZ - It was reported this month that a lone Australian walker survived nine days in a hut in rugged New Zealand bush near the South Island town of Wanaka on just muesli bars and Weetbix. Realising she was not sufficiently well equipped or fit enough for the walk she had planned she made it to a hut but was "too exhausted and too terrified" to attempt the walk back alone.

Phillip Melchior, chairman of New Zealand's national search and rescue organisation LandSAR warned "It's an example of someone being woefully ill-prepared for what they're about to do." The path she chose, the Motatapu Track, was relatively difficult and rarely used. Mr Melchior said it was vital locals or tourists planning to hike thoroughly research the difficulty levels of the tracks, take appropriate equipment and clothing and preferably walk with at least two others.

LUXURY TRAVEL MAGAZINE TOP TEN DESTINATIONS (see <http://editorstips.luxurytravelmag.com.au/>) - Here is a list for luxury lovers from Australia's *Luxury Travel Magazine* – a publication we regularly advertise in – the list suggests many of the destinations we cover on our website:

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - Antarctica is out –Galapagos Islands are in. 2009 is the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of Origin of Species. So visit the islands that inspired the theory of evolution. Private yacht charter is only way is to go.

ARGENTINA - Qantas resumed direct flights to Buenos Aires late last year and so one of the world's sexiest cities is now back on the radar. Lan-Chile also flies the Sydney to BA route. You can tango the night away in Buenos Aires or pay homage to the style (if not the politics) of Eva Peron at Recoleta cemetery, go gaucho on a ranch near San Antonio de Areco, visit Iquazu Falls or go wild in Patagonia.

NEW ZEALAND - A tightening of the Hermes belt means that even luxury lovers like the option of holidaying near home. New Zealand has spectacular scenery, heavenly wine, and some of the world's best designer lodges –all good incentives to visit. Now is the year to take a short break across the Tasman.

LITHUANIA - Each year, the E.U. bestows the title Capital of Culture to one or more European destinations. This year, Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, is being honoured along with Linz in Austria. In 2009 Vilnius, an UNESCO heritage site, is putting on a special show with over 900 special events. For Australians the good news is that although it's a member of the EU, Lithuania doesn't use the euro as its currency, which makes it a more affordable destination than other parts of Europe.

ENGLAND - Lovers of Blighty are taking another look at one of Australia's favourite destinations (just under 1 million of us visited Britain last year). The travel plans are inspired by the Australian dollar's worth against the pound (currently at 46 pence at time of writing) as we hope it travels towards that magic "1 dollar buys 50 pence". For the luxury lover there are so many options from castles and manor houses to legendary hotels and chic boutique stays.

SCOTLAND - Quote Robert Burns while drinking a 12-year old malt in front of a roaring log fire. 2009 is Homecoming Year for Scotland so the country will be celebrating in style. Sublime golf courses, decent whiskey –what's not to like?

SOUTH AFRICA - The country is gearing up for the FIFA Soccer World Cup in 2010 with new roads and infrastructure and a whole host of new hotels so go this year to take advantage of all this before the crowds descend. Explore the café scene in Cape Town; head for the wine country a whole pride of up-market safari lodges. For a dinner party, best head to the wild North East coast when the sardines are swimming to see thousands of seabirds, bet your safari-loving friends won't be able to beat that.

SPAIN - The Euro-elite have always talked about "their little place in Tuscany or flocked to the South of France, but Spain had previously been considered a little too wild for some. Not any more. Luxury seekers are heading to Spain to Bilbao, more than a port since the Guggenheim gallery arrived, to Granada and the lacy

charms of the Alhambra and to Barcelona whose funky party vibe has now become sophisticated. Even Malaga has the odd boutique hotel of choice.

QATAR - If you think the Guggenheim transformed Bilbao imagine what the world's first major museum dedicated to Islamic art which has opened in Qatar's capital, Doha might do. This tiered palace, designed by I.M.Pei, will be a magnet for culture vultures and could mean that Dubai and Oman might have some competition

VIETNAM - Once upon a time Vietnam was the hot new Asian destination for intrepid backpackers before Cambodia and then Laos took its place. Now, thanks to resorts built by some serious hoteliers, Vietnam has come of age and is back in the rankings as a place where luxury lovers can relax after they've experienced the very best of the rest of the Asian luxury circuit.

WALKING IN NEW ZEALAND

The Hollyford – more than just a walk

The [Hollyford Track](#) is an incredible 'memories last a lifetime' 3 Day / 2 Night all-inclusive Guided Wilderness Experience. Located in Fiordland National Park (World Heritage Area), Hollyford Track is a very special place and a very special adventure. It's a walk from the heart of New Zealand - the Southern Alps, to its western boundary - the Tasman Sea. Imagine walking into a world that has remained largely unchanged since the age of the dinosaur. You'll travel through scenery that is geologically spectacular and ever changing - snow capped mountains, glaciers, rainforests, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, sand dunes, reefs and surf. The diversity of landforms, vegetation and wildlife within this one valley is unequalled. The experiences are just as diverse, it's a walk that includes hiking through World Heritage wilderness, wildlife interaction, a captivating Jet Boat ride, exploring historical sights, and culminates in a stunning scenic flight to Milford Sound.

Small groups (16 max) mean it's a personal and intimate experience far removed from sharing the outdoors with hundreds of others. Your guides, experts in local flora, fauna, history and geology, are there to share their knowledge and passion for the area with you. It's a wonderful way to explore the very essence of New Zealand's wilderness.

The trip begins and ends in either Queenstown or Te Anau and is suitable for a wide range of fitness levels. It's a moderate walk, and if you have reasonable fitness you will find it pleasantly challenging and achievable. The package includes return transport, accommodation in well appointed and welcoming private lodges with hot showers, superb meals, Jet boat ride and scenic coastal flight.

If you're looking for:

- An adventure
- Some of the most beautiful and unique scenery in the world
- Somewhere different and off the beaten track
- A diverse range of experiences unmatched by any other track in New Zealand
- A holiday that allows you to interact and share your experience with others
- An opportunity to learn about where you are rather than just looking at it
- A truly memorable lifetime experience that you will thank yourself for

Then join us for a journey into the most beautiful valley in New Zealand.

WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT OUR HOLIDAYS

Walking in New Zealand: *"Of all the things we had read & been told about the [Milford Track](#), no-one ever mentioned how incredibly beautiful it was. Can't believe this hotel room with ringside seats to Mt Cook... how good can it get?"* Di

Bike & Barging in Europe from Bruges to Paris: [The Fleur](#) was so great, the food, accommodation; Tour Leaders for the bike were excellent. I have recommended this trip for some of my friends who are interested in this type of holiday. It was so friendly and very well planned, accommodating various grades of bicycle riders, from the very good riders to the not so good riders. The food every night was a 3-course dinner, cooked to perfection by Ellen the chef, for the amount of money we paid it was excellent value. Ruth

Editors family holiday: *Having finally found a time when my wife and I and our four children could take a short holiday we decided that the prospect of finding a destination that we could all agree on was impossible. So we kept it a secret right up to the airport. We then revealed a 10-day program in New Zealand that*

included 3-days sailing a tall ship in the Hauraki Gulf, jumping off Auckland's Sky-tower, swimming with the sharks at Kelly Tarlton's aquarium and 4 days of sea-kayaking, walking and cycling in the [Abel Tasman National Park](#) and around Nelson.

The holiday was a huge success and unexpected highlights included the Chinese New Year festival and fireworks in Auckland, fresh fruit ice cream and strawberry picking and the best fush & chips in New Zealand.

I will describe the programs in more details in future newsletters – but I wanted to thank and recommend all our activity providers and recommend two accommodation providers The Custom House Backpackers in Nelson <http://www.customhousenelson.co.nz> and in Motueka <http://www.equestrianlodge.co.nz>

AND NOW FOR THE OTHER NEWS:

NO NO SHERRY..... The name Sherry, or *Jerez* in Spanish, has been reclaimed by its place of origin. Like Champagne and Burgundy before it or cheddar or perhaps one-day pizza, no longer can a sherry produced outside of the Spanish regions of Jerez be named *Jerez*, *Xérès* or *Sherry*. It's a complex drink and it, like the ports of Portugal were once very fashionable in both the UK and Australia. There are many varieties of Sherry available & courtesy of Gourmet Traveller Magazine here are some suggestions:

Fino - Very dry, yeasty and pale with a nutty, even salty tang. **Manzanilla** - Similar to fino, but even more bone-dry, with a delicate, fruity green-apple lift to the yeasty tang. **Amontillado** - Off-dry to medium-dry, bronze-coloured with a distinct flavour of hazelnuts. **Palo cortado** - Halfway between the nutty lightness of an amontillado and the savoury seriousness of an oloroso. Perhaps the ultimate sherry for jamón, it is also great with hard cheeses. **Oloroso** - This spends more time in the barrel than most other sherries, and has a spicier flavour of walnut and wood. **Cream** - Sweet and mellow with a gentle hint of raisin. **Pedro Ximénez** - Also known as PX, this unctuous black sherry, made from super-ripe, intensely flavoured grapes, is a classic match for dark chocolate.

Of course the perfect accompaniment to a good glass of sherry is a relaxing walking holiday in Spain – see our website for details

THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN YARN (forgive me for this):

Two cattle drovers standing in an outback bar; one asked, "What are you up to, mate?"
"Ahh, I'm takin' a mob of 6000 from Goondiwindi to Gympie."
"Oh yeah...and what route are you takin'?"
"Ah, prob'ly the Missus; after all, she stuck by me durin' the drought."

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.

SMART TRAVELLER – Government travel advisories - all countries see: <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au>

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

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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