



OUTLINES

November Update2007

“Anyone who fears death should consider the time before he was born. The past infinity of pre-natal non-existence is like the future infinity of post-mortem non-existence; it is as though nature has put up a mirror to let us see what our future non-existence will be like. But we do not consider not having existed for an eternity before our births to be a terrible thing; therefore, neither should we think not existing for an eternity after our deaths to be evil” – Epicurean poet Lucretius (341-271 BCE)

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NEWS UPDATE

Where have we been?

Firstly, let me apologise to those who have been waiting for a newsletter from us & apologise again that this edition will be just a brief update. This is an important time of year for Outdoor Travel as not only do we wrap-up 2007 & road-test new products but we are getting new programs finalised, brochures printed, systems updated & employing new staff for the season ahead.

Personally, I have just returned from a 5-week journey across Europe meeting tour operators, inspecting hotels, learning about destinations & attending travel industry workshops. I visited Germany, Greece, Italy, the UK & the Czech Republic & had the opportunity to try for myself a new Bike & Barge trip aboard the wonderful barge Merlijn on the River Moselle, I cycled around Elba Island & the beautiful Tuscan coastline, went island hopping in Greece, investigated the majesty of the Zagoria Villages in western Greece, walked the rugged East Sussex coastline to Beach Head, visited Pisa, Florence, the magical city of Prague and Southern Bohemia, Thessaloniki, Athens, Frankfurt & an absolute host of airports & railway stations.....road-testing many of the low-cost airlines & Eurail train services. Having done this now regularly for over 20-years I am always amazed at how much changes each year. Expect the next newsletter to be a bumper edition!

I will use the opportunity of these newsletters to explain in more detail some of the things that we have come up with for next year including new walks or cycling trips in areas such as Greece, southern Italy, France & the Czech Republic.

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'.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

BIKE & BARGE IN EUROPE UPDATE

What do we have available?

The rise in interest in Bike & Barge cruises is phenomenal based on several factors. It combines two popular ways of exploring Europe (cycling & river cruising), it allows partners of different abilities & interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for non-cycling partners, leisure cyclist OR enthusiasts), you unpack once & come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom.

Standards on the boats we offer are generally high but there are differences in the quality of the accommodation & meals (mostly reflected in the price). Overall the cycling routes are the priority, the scenery; places of interest, practicality, quality of the bikes & equipment are always well thought out & prepared.

Several boats have been inspected or road-tested by our staff & associates including Fleur, Iris, Sailing Home, Allure, Merlijn, Panagiota, Anne Marie IV. All met our expectations & can be highly recommended.

The overwhelming message from Europe too is that demand is fast outstripping supply with these barges & early bookings are absolutely essential. Here is what we still have available:

BELGIUM/FRANCE	Bruges to Paris 22 nd March (just 3 cabins available) Paris to Bruges 18 th October (just 4 cabins left)
GERMANY	River Moselle 5 th July & 13 th September (limited spaces)
GERMANY/HOLLAND	Repositioning cruise Koblenz to Amsterdam 18 th October (two boats)
HOLLAND/GERMANY	Around IJsselmeer 3 rd May (just 6 cabins available) Amsterdam to Rotterdam 17 th May River Maine, Rhine & Neckar 14 th June Ludwigburg to Koblenz 5 th July (limited space) River Moselle – Saarbrücken to Koblenz 18 th October
FRANCE	Loire Valley selected Saturday departures April to October
GREECE	Weekly departures in Cyclades from April to October
CROATIA	Weekly departures on Dalmatian coast – several boats from April to October
TURKEY	Weekly departures along west coast – several boats from April to October

Much of the details for these trips is available on our website – contact us for day-to-day itineraries & 2008 costs. Costs include twin share or single cabin accommodation (with own bathrooms), buffet breakfasts, packed lunch (or free choice), 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

Early bookings are absolutely essential – call 1800 331 582 for details or info@outdoortravel.com.au

WALKING IN GREECE

Walking in the Pindos Mountains

The Greeks have more reason than most to be proud of their architectural heritage. However, far less well known than the great works of the classical age are the stone-built villages of Zagoria, an unspoilt region of the Pindos Mountains. This is a dramatic wilderness of 2500m peaks, deep chasms, and extensive natural forests.

The prospect of a self-guided walking tour in Greece, where both the signposts and the maps are in an alien script may appear daunting, but it is not so. The route is now well marked, route notes are detailed and our local representative, Konstantinos, is an experienced mountaineer, well qualified to check this easy-to-follow self-guided walk. As well as keeping your eye on the notes, maps and impressive scenery, you may even spot a wolf, lynx, bear or wild boar; all of which are still found in the Pindos.

In Spring, the mountain meadows are also a mass of colour with crocus, orchids and gentians. From the traditional stone built village of Tsepelovo we have a day to stretch our legs and test our stamina by walking uphill to the highest village in Zagoria and on up to a superb viewpoint at Beloi.

Leaving Tsepelovo for a second time heading for Vitsa and the head of the Vikos Gorge the route pass the 1000-year-old 'Paliojefira' stone building, the villages of Kipi and Koukouli, the "Misiou" bridge and finally climbs the Vitsa steps to the village perched on the edge of the gorge. Descending into the 1000m deep gorge is the start of a spectacular day's walk through some truly incredible scenery. The ascent to the village of Vikos can be punctuated with a quick dip in the crystal clear Voidomatis springs that should refresh you sufficiently to complete the climb to the coffee shop and friendly pension. There is still plenty to see as our route crosses the gorge once more and passes below the imposing massive Papingo Towers before reaching the delightful village of Papingo itself.

By now you should be feeling fit and ready for a big day ascending towards Astraka peak. You can either rest around the Hellenic Alpine Club Hut, where we stay for the night, or walk on to the beautiful Dragon Lake on the edge of the great limestone cliff that borders the Aaos Valley.

The last walk retraces our route to Papingo, from where a transfer is arranged to Ioannina for a relaxing evening near the shores of Lake Pamvotis.

Available: Self-guided walks are available every Sunday from May to early October
Duration: 7 nights/8 days
Grade: Moderate – Challenging
Day Stages: Min 5km, max 18km - 3 to 6 hours walking

Ask for a brochure or detailed trip dossier – call 1800 331 582

WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT OUR HOLIDAYS

News & comments this month

Walking in Provence - *We are just back from our trip to France, which incorporated the walk in Provence It was marvellous!* Judi & John

Camino De Santiago in Spain - *We have recently returned from our walk on the Camino. We could not fault anything. Our accommodation was excellent (with possibly the exception of Maison Villasante, Triacastela which we nicknamed 'Fawly Towers' - maybe try for another venue there?). Having our own ensuite every night was an absolute blessing! Having our meals (and that bottle of red!) there every night - marvellous. Having our luggage carried on - ecstasy! We thought the pricing well worth every cent.*

Special mention must be made for the extra care (and marvellous food) at Casa Mendez, Villafrance del Bierzo and the excellent meal at Hotel Roma, Sarria. Lesley

Walking in Switzerland - *We thoroughly enjoyed our Bernese Oberland walk in Switzerland. The walk took us to Switzerland's most iconic mountains including the Eiger and the Matterhorn, and each day the suggested walks encompassed easy, medium and hard walking options. Owing to Switzerland's excellent public transport, the option is always there to reduce all or part of the walking with a gondola, cog train or post bus.*

The hotels were excellent - mostly family-run affairs. They were usually typical Swiss chalets - clean, comfortable with a full Swiss breakfast each morning. Many of the owners were keen walkers themselves, and were keen to know what walking we would be doing that day. The Grindelwald and Zermatt hotels have balconies to-die-for with views of the Eiger and Matterhorn respectively.

We would thoroughly recommend this walking tour, and found it excellent value for money and a wonderful holiday experience. Julie

Walking in UK & Ireland - *We returned on Tuesday morning from our UK/Europe adventure and I am just letting you know that we had a great trip and everything went as planned. No real dramas and no hold-ups or missed connections, even though we had a tight and busy itinerary. We thoroughly enjoyed our self-guided*

walk in the Cotswolds and the guided walk (and other activities) in the Ring of Kerry in western Ireland. You were right in saying that it is the best part as far as scenery is concerned. Michael

Walking in Gorge du Verdon in France - All the Hotels were great, we have travelled quite a bit in Europe so would actually say they were better than I expected and everything went very smoothly with bookings etc. The meals provided were extremely good too and the hoteliers were very friendly and obviously used to dealing with Sherpa clients.

We are both pretty fit too and do bushwalking but I think I would say some of the days were probably slightly harder than I might have thought, expected the Gorge to be difficult but you really did need a good to better level of fitness for that day alone. I also think that you do need some walking fitness outside just "road walking" and there was a bit of scrambling up and down even on some of the easier days...nothing too difficult but you absolutely need good boots etc.

Keep holding the fort !! Karen

Bike & Barge in France - Just a bit of feedback on the Bike and Barge trip we booked through Outdoor travel. From the information provided prior to the trip we didn't actually get the idea that the trip was a lot more bike than it was barge.

Basically each day we left the barge at 9am on the bike and most days did not return until 5pm or later. The kilometers were 55 or more each day rather than the 40 suggested. We are reasonably fit people (having walked Mt Blanc a week earlier than the barge trip), so the cycling wasn't hard for us but most other people struggled because it would seem they also didn't get the idea that it was more bike than barge and did no training at all. One or two days there was the option of staying on the barge (at least for part of a day).

The food on the boat was really quite good and there was a lot of it. The scenery at times was fantastic (nuclear power plant aside) and we went through some lovely little towns. Jenny & Paul

ANZAC DAY IN THE SOMME

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

Interest in the 6-day program for 2008 has been overwhelming & over 600 Australians are booked to travel next April. Additional accommodation is being sourced for this trip so if you are interested please register your interest by email to info@outdoortravel.com.au

For those looking for a more comprehensive tour - which will include the WW2 sites including those of the Normandy landings – we can offer a special 12-day tour starting from Paris from 23rd April – 4th May 2008:

Highlights:

- Anzac Day Dawn Service in Villers-Bretonneux
- Ceremony at the Australian National Memorial in Villers-Bretonneux on 26 April
- Ceremony at the Bullecourt Memorial Park on 26 April
- The Last Post ceremony at Menin Gate

Inclusions:

- 11-nights accommodation in 3 star hotels
- 11-breakfasts (B), 4 dinners (D)
- Sightseeing by luxury air-conditioned touring coach as mentioned in the itinerary
- Anzac Day Dawn Service in Villers-Bretonneux
- Other regional commemorations as detailed in the itinerary
- Visit World War 2 Landing Beaches
- Visit the site of the Battle of Waterloo
- Services of a professional English speaking escort throughout the tour
- Specialist local guides for the battlefields sites

Exclusions:

- Airfares – see our SmartFares website at www.outdoortravel.com.au
- Paris hotel transfers

- Meals other than those specified
- Drinks, tips, personal expenses

Day 1 Paris

Arrival in Paris and transfer to your hotel on own arrangements. Stay overnight at the Mercure Paris Porte d'Orleans (or similar).

Day 2 Paris / Amiens / Arras

After breakfast, depart for Amiens. After a guided tour through the city you will have free time to visit the Old Town and take lunch. In the afternoon, commence your journey along the Circuit of Remembrance – the most important sites and memorials of the Great War. In Villers-Bretonneux see Australian National Memorial and the ANZAC Museum located in the Victoria School, a memorial to Victorian soldiers. Also in Villers-Bretonneux, visit the Adelaide Cemetery, exhumation site of the Unknown Soldier whose remains now lie at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Other sites include the Australian Corps Memorial Park at Le Hamel, the 1st Division Memorial at Pozières and the Tanks monument at Flers. Continue to the Express by Holidays Inn (or similar) in Arras, which will be your base for 7 nights. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner at a restaurant in Arras. **[BD]**

Day 3 Anzac Day Dawn Service in Villers-Bretonneux – 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux

Early morning departure for Villers-Bretonneux where you will attend the Dawn Service to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux. The remainder of the day is dedicated to continuing your discovery of the Circuit of Remembrance. In Peronne you will visit the Historial de la Grande Guerre. This museum traces the history of the First World War. In Mont St Quentin see the 2nd Division Memorial – a 2.5 metre tall slouch-hatted Digger in battle dress. Visit Butte de Warlencourt in Bapaume before returning to Arras. **[B]**

Day 4 Villers-Bretonneux

Depart for Villers-Bretonneux to attend the town's official ceremony of the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux at the Australian National Memorial. Enjoy some time at leisure in the town before driving to Bullecourt for an afternoon ceremony at Bullecourt Memorial Park. Free time after the ceremony to discover some of the town's memorials including the Australian Slouch Hat Memorial. Return to Arras. **[B]**

Day 5 Albert

Depart for Albert for a guided tour of the Newfoundland Memorial Park of Beaumont-Hamel with its a well preserved trench system. See Ulster Tower and the Franco-British memorial at Thiepval. After lunch, drive to the Lochnagar Crater at La Boisselle and the Somme 1916 Museum in Albert. Here, alcoves and show cases depicting life in the trenches are set along an underground passage which was used as an air-raid shelter during the Second World War. Visit the New Zealand National Memorial in Longueval and the Caterpillar Valley Memorial near Montauban. Return to Arras. **[B]**

Day 6 Fromelles / Lille

This morning you will have a guided visit to explore the underground history of Arras. You will discover the network of tunnels, which extend under most of the town. These were used as a shelter and assembly point for the Allied troops during the Battle of Arras in 1917. View a slide show presentation of 2000 years of Arras before enjoying a panoramic view of the town and surrounding countryside from the Belfry. After lunch, departure for the Australian Memorial Park in Fromelles where you will visit the World War 1 Museum. Continue to the Cité Bonjean Memorial then on to Lille for a guided city tour by bus. Return to Arras. **[BD]**

Day 7 Dunkirk / Ypres

Depart for Dunkirk. A guided visit of the museum presents the history of the Battle of Dunkirk and Operation Dynamo, which took place in May and June of 1940. Operation Dynamo was the greatest evacuation operation in military history. Proceed to Ypres in Belgium to see the many memorials including Messines Ridge, Menin Gate, Tyne Cot Cemetery at Passchendaele and the 5th Division Memorial at Polygon Wood, Zonnebeke. See the Buttes New British Cemetery Memorial and the New Zealand National Memorial. At 8.00 pm attend the Last Post ceremony – the traditional salute to the fallen warrior which has been played by a team of local buglers every evening since 1928 under the Menin Gate Memorial. Return to Arras. **[B]**

Day 8 Cambrai / Waterloo

Departure for Cambrai with a stop en route to see the 4th Division Memorial of Le Petit Arbre near Vadancourt at the site of the Hindenburg Line. See the Gréville's Mémorial in Le Quesnoy. Continue to Waterloo in

Belgium. After lunch, discover the site of the Battle of Waterloo. At the visitor's centre, an audiovisual presentation recounts the history of the historic battle. Return to Arras. **[BD]**

Day 9 Arras / Deauville / Caen

Leave Arras for Normandy passing Abbeville, Le Havre and Honfleur. After lunch tour the Cider and Calvados cellar in Pennedepie. Drive to Deauville and Trouville, popular seaside resort towns. Time at leisure to discover their characteristic architecture. Continue to the Novotel Caen Cote de Nacre (or similar) in Caen where you will be based for 2 nights. **[B]**

Day 10 Landing Beaches

The morning is dedicated to a guided tour of the extraordinary Caen Memorial – A Memorial of Peace. The museum offers a moving journey through history from 1918 to the present time. Free time for lunch at the memorial. Departure with a local guide for the Normandy Landing Beaches including Courcelles-sur-Mer, Arromanches, the American cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, Omaha Beach and Pointe du Hoc. Return to Caen. **[B]**

Day 11 Caen / Paris

Return to Paris. Lunch at your leisure upon arrival. In Paris we include a guided city tour to discover the city's magnificent monuments including the Champs-Élysées, Arc de Triomphe, Opéra, Concorde, Eiffel Tower, the Louvre and Nôtre Dame Cathedral. Cruise along the Seine to see Paris' beautiful bridges and riverside attractions including the Pont Alexandre III, Pont de la Concorde, Pont Neuf, Grand Palais, Petit Palais and Musée d'Orsay. This evening you will have the opportunity to bid farewell to your escort and group with a farewell dinner at a typical restaurant. Stay overnight at the Mercure Paris Porte d'Orleans (or similar). **[BD]**

Day 12 Paris

The tour ends at the hotel after breakfast. **[B]**

WALKING IN NEW ZEALAND

Milford Track - New Lodge being built at Lake Mackenzie

A New Zealand walking holiday is something you really *must* do. As a 'freedom walker' or on a *guided walk* there are many hundreds of kilometres of well-maintained wilderness trails for you to choose.

Perhaps the most popular - the Milford Track - is regarded by many as the most difficult. Walkers are expected to carry a medium sized pack with their personal possessions for 15 - 20 kilometres (6 - 8 hours) per day. On most other guided walks a daypack is all that you will carry.

In mid-April, work commenced upon the construction of a magnificent, brand new lodge at Lake Mackenzie on the Routeburn Track. The state of the art, purpose built accommodation is situated closer to the lake along from the existing location. It will be significantly larger than the previous one, thus providing our walkers with a luxurious, spacious retreat in which to recuperate for the following day. The completion date is as yet to be confirmed due to the development being entirely weather dependent, all building materials must be flown in by helicopter!

The Hollyford Valley, Whirinaki and Abel Tasman are far easier walks offering rest days or alternative activities throughout their route. Like the Milford guided walk the Abel Tasman offers all guests lodge accommodation with en-suite bathrooms in every room.

A far greater challenge is the Ball Pass trek in the Mount Cook National Park where snow and ice may demand special equipment.

On the more popular tracks the numbers of walkers is limited each day to avoid congestion and a shortage of lodge beds. Most of these tracks are filled to capacity each year - and we try to hold updated status reports on *all* the walks in our office - even so early reservations are essential.

The season for 2007/8 has now begun & departures are still available on the following walks:

* **Milford Track – guided or self-guided**

* **Routeburn Track – guided or self-guided**

* **Grand Traverse – combines Routeburn & Greenstone walks**

- * **Hollyford Track**
- * **Whirinaki Rainforest Trek**
- * **Abel Tasman Guided Walk**
- * **Tongariro Trek**
- * **Queen Charlotte Walkway**
- * **Stewart Island Kiwi Trek**
- * **Akaroa Walk**
- * **Dusky Track**
- * **Heaphy Track**
- * **Hump Track**
- * **Nelson Lakes Traverse**
- * **Mount Cook Ball Pass Trek**

We also have a variety of small group guided cycling or sea-kayaking holidays in many of these areas – mostly operating from November to Easter.

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.

From the 17th November until the 31st December 2007 we can offer you the following discounts.

ENGLAND - departures from Benson up to the 14th April 2008 - 10% discount

IRELAND - departures from Carrick in May and April 2008 - 10% discount

ITALY - departures for the whole of the 2008 season - 10% discount

FRANCE - departures for the 2008 season in the Burgundy (Nivernais - Loire) region - 10% discount

These can be used in conjunction with the family discount, group discount and long term discounts up to a maximum of 15%.

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

HOTEL BARGING IN FRANCE

Le Phénicien – Provence & the Camargue

Before the memory faded too much we did want to let you know how much we enjoyed our 'Le Phénicien' trip. The crew were wonderful and the owners were obviously very particular and caring about the whole exercise. The food was out of this world and we had brilliant weather which made it all so much more enjoyable.

We managed to get some bike riding in, perhaps not quite as much as we had hoped for but I guess that was made up for in other ways. Anyway thanks so much for making the trip possible for us. Bette and David Roberts

Duration: 7-days / 6-nights – weekly departures from April to October

Cruising: Avignon to Aigues Mortes or vice versa

Costs: All-inclusive from AU\$3950 (single supplement AU\$1585)

Includes: Cabin accommodation with ensuite bathroom, all meals with wine, transfers from the pick up point to the barge & return, excursions, full open bar, tour guide & crew

Highlights: Camargue, with its flamingos, bulls & horses, ancient churches & Roman history, Van Gogh's Arles, mediaeval village of Les Baux & the wines of Châteauneuf-du-Pape

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

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

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

HOTEL BARGE DISCOUNTS IN FRANCE

SAVE \$500 PER PERSON ON SPRING DEPARTURES FROM PARIS

Cruise Picardy from Compiègne - St Mammes 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.

Combining the comforts of a mini ocean liner with the charm of a river steamer, the elegant interior of the M.S. Anacoluthé provides ample space to relax, seasoned wood tones, old world charm. Large windows give all round views of the passing scenery. The Piano Bar, the exercise room and outdoor hot tub add to the ambiance of unprecedented comfort.

Cruise highlights:

- Historic Compiègne, Abby and Chateau visit Giverny, Claude Monet's home & gardens
- Auvers Sur Oise, Van Gogh's early home, visit Chateau de Chantilly
- Paris, "City of Light"— evening cruise
- Chateau Vaux le Vicomte, beautiful interiors and magnificent gardens
- Moret Sur Loing, a small medieval town that was once the home of Alfred Sisley

Cruises depart every Saturday from central Paris – ask for a copy of the new **Canal & Co** brochure

EUROPEAN WATERWAYS

Early - booking offers for 2008 cruises in Europe

FRANCE - Reine Pedauque in Burgundy – **SAVE \$500** discount per cabin if booked & deposited by 31st December 2007 (Discount based on 2 people sharing a suite)

Burgundy... Boasts some of the world's finest wines with almost 60,000 acres of sun-lit vines and arguably the prettiest canal in France. The Nivernais Canal randomly meanders along the path of the picturesque River Yonne. This delightful exchange brings you the finest cruising in Burgundy. Medieval villages are surrounded by unspoiled countryside where gastronomic delights are a culture in themselves

For anyone who has physical limitations, we operate a hotel barge in Southern Burgundy called La Reine Pedauque. Designed specially to accommodate passengers with physical challenges and fitted with a lift for wheelchairs and a stair lift for access between decks, and the doors are wide enough for wheelchair access on all decks.

The Royal suites have a shower seat, commode and handrails next to the shower and the height of the bed is only 70cm high for easy accessibility. The minibus also has a wheelchair lift. The average crew ratio is one crewmember to every two passengers and all cabins have ensuite facilities.

Reine Pedauque cruises for 6 nights from Friday to Thursday between April and October. Every 6 night cruise includes all meals, open bar, regional wines, daily escorted excursions, local return transfer between the vessel and Chateau la Chassagne Hotel near Dijon

VENICE, ITALY - La Dolce Vita in Venice – **SAVE \$200** discount per person if booked & deposited before 31st January 2008 for **ANY** 2008 departure.

Venice, the River Brenta & the Veneto Our cruise along the Brenta River and around the Venetian lagoon is as unique as Venice herself. Venice holds a romantic charm, which has remained largely unaltered for centuries, boasting splendid architecture, elaborate palaces and a sense of culture and mystique unparalleled in hotel barge cruising terms. The Venetians have a very special way of life, transporting everything and everybody, everywhere by water with a variety of adapted watercraft. This extraordinarily special voyage allows time for fascinating excursions, perhaps sampling Venetian Opera, Theatre and of course shopping for fine Italian clothes, local crystal and brassware.

This fairytale adventure allows time to explore the history and legend of the middle ages and before. The islands of the northern Venetian lagoon, Murano, Burano and Torcello exude a charm and intrigue of their own, surpassed only by the Old Lady of the Lagoon, who in her prime ruled much of the Mediterranean. Delicious seafood, local culinary specialities, fine wines and attentive service complete the picture. La Dolce Vita is the only hotel barge cruising this exceptional region

Read what respected Australian travel writer Maggie Oehlbeck had to say after her cruise aboard La Dolce Vita - [click here](#)

Ask for a copy of the new **Go Barging – European Waterways** brochure – call 1800 331 582 or email info@outdoortravel.com.au

A WONDERFUL PHOTO?

Put yourself in the picture.... Cycling along the River Moselle in Germany



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

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 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

- | | |
|--|---|
| (<input type="checkbox"/>) Milford Track Guided or Freedom Walk or the 8-day Ultimate Hike | (<input type="checkbox"/>) Grand Traverse |
| (<input type="checkbox"/>) Abel Tasman | (<input type="checkbox"/>) Hollyford Valley Walk |
| (<input type="checkbox"/>) Tongariro Trek | (<input type="checkbox"/>) Stewart Island Kiwi Trek |
| (<input type="checkbox"/>) Routeburn Walk | (<input type="checkbox"/>) 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
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- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/>
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- 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](#)' (website homepage – 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: