



# OUTLINES

October 2008

On the sixtieth anniversary of Gandhiji's (Mahatma Gandhi) death and at a time of great economic turmoil across the water perhaps it is a pertinent time to reflect on what Gandhi considered to be the traits most spiritually perilous to humanity:

*Wealth without work, commerce without morality, politics without principle, knowledge without character, pleasure without conscience, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice*

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

## IRELAND - CENTRE-BASED WALKING HOLIDAYS

*Experience the gems of the Kerry Peninsula*

In 2009 we are offering a walking and hiking holiday based in the South-west Ireland, in County Kerry. The holiday offers you the convenience of a single accommodation base (no packing and unpacking each day) but still with a sense of completing a journey as you progress through this magical land and seascapes. We will follow the Kerry Way along old coach and butter roads beside the wild Atlantic Ocean overlooking Dingle Bay. We can discover the splendid green valleys of mid-Kerry and Killarney National Park.

There will be time to relax and unwind with the superb views, unique flora and fauna and a landscape imbued with folklore. Time to enjoy the *craic* (fun) and music in the local pubs. There is also an optional boat trip to the Skelligs islands (a monastic Christian settlement from 600AD and nearby gannet and puffin sanctuary home to many hundreds of thousands of seabirds)

**Highlights:** Glenbeigh \* Traditional music and dance \* Rossbeigh Beach \* Killarney National Park \* Muckross House and Gardens \* the Gap of Dunloe \* Dingle Bay \* Sub-tropical flora \* Folklore \* 4000 year old Rock Art

**Departs:** Saturdays: 23, 30 May, 20, 27 Jun, 4, 25 Jul, 1, 15, 22 Aug, 5, 12, 26 Sep, 10 Oct 2009.

Special Solos Dates - on the following dates we offer single rooms with no additional single supplement (for the 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

**Inclusions:** Courtesy transfer from and to Kerry and Shannon Airports on Saturdays, 7-nights in Irish Tourist Board approved guesthouse with en-suite facilities, full Irish breakfasts, packed lunches, 6-dinners, local transfers, experienced local walking guide route notes and maps.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

# MOROCCAN HIGHLIGHTS & WALKING TOUR 2009

A recent quote we prepared mixing walking with a desert excursion & sightseeing

A small group of clients are planning to visit Morocco and want to break away from the standard group tours – here are a couple of options that we prepared for them to consider – why not contact us if you are interested in a similar sort of holiday:



Day 1: Arrive Marrakech & private transfer on arrival to your accommodation - stay at Riad Les Trois Mages for 2-nights Bed & Breakfast (BB) in standard rooms

Day 2: Marrakech sightseeing -half day included city tour

*With the touch of a journey back in time and quite the best introduction to this garden city, we shall visit the dramatic Almohad Koutoubia Minaret and the lavishly decorated Saadien Tombs - some dating from the middle 1550s. Next is the 14th century Ben Youssef Medersa - one of the most beautiful buildings in Marrakech and thence through the labyrinth of narrow alleyways making up the renowned cool, colourful and aromatic Souks of Marrakech - the Dyers' Souk being the last to be visited - finishing our guided visit in the Djemaa el Fna Square ('The Assembly of the Dead'), where until the 19th century, were traditionally displayed the severed heads of criminals.*

*Now we see stalls of goods, from fruit to alarm clocks; snake charmers and water sellers; fortunetellers and public scribes; tumblers and nakkachat - women with syringes full of henna - soothsayers and gnaoua musicians. The perfect start to any stay in Marrakech for, without a doubt, you'll be back in the souks for more, but it's best not to get lost on your first adventure.*

Day 3: Private transfer from Marrakech to Imlil (time of your choosing if extra time in Marrakech required) includes mule service for luggage assistance between Imlil centre and the short walk up to the Kasbah Samra. Accommodation at Kasbah Samra – 3-nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast (HB) - standard rooms

Day 4: Day Hike - IMLIL - TIZI M'ZIK - TIZI OUSSEM - TAMSOUULT WATERFALL - TIZI M'ZIK - IMLIL.

*With the mighty Jbel Toubkal - at 4167m the highest peak in the Maghreb – and her sisters Aguelzim (3547m) and Aksouâl (3847m) almost within touching distance, we set off on our private, guided hike towards the west up through almond, walnut and apple groves to a panoramic vista of the beautiful valley of Imlil and of the Berber hamlets of Tanghourt, Fimlil and of M'Zik, with its red ochre minaret in front of us, all seeming to cling precariously to the mountain slopes. The majority of the villages we shall see on our hike are built of pisé, dug from the earth of the surrounding slopes.*

*Our piste takes us through a couloir of red and bluish rocks until we reach the Tizi M'Zik (2664m) where we shall stop to admire the Jbel Oukaïmeden range, the high plateau of Tazaghârt and of the beginning of the renowned Valley of the Assif Aït n'Ouissedene with its numerous palmeraies. It has taken us some 2 ½ hours to reach this point and we now start our descent for a further 1½ hours through woods of juniper and pine of the valley created by the Jbel Tasghimout (2664m) and the Adrar Adj (3729m) to the Tamsoult Cascade (2204m), also known as the Irhoulidene Cascade, where we stop for our field picnic lunch (bring your swimsuit with you during the late spring to early autumn).*

*When you feel up to it, we'll stroll back via the same route, but by different paths via the Tizi M'Zik and on to our welcoming return to Jacqueline's Douar for a shower and our excellent dinner before retiring for the night.*

Day 5: Free day or

Optional extra day of hiking (add \$60 per person for 4 persons) - IMLIL - AROUMD - SIDI CHAMHAROUCH - IMLIL.

*We set off today towards the southwest skirting the Berber town of Imlil (1740m), known as Morocco's 'Little Chamonix', set, as we are, in the upper level foothills of the Western High Atlas mountains of the Toubkal National Park. With streams and paths branching out in all directions, we traverse the Tamatert Valley until we reach the hamlet of Achelm to strike out for some 4km towards the south towards the Berber village of Aroumd (Aremd) (1843m), passing the hamlets of Taourirt, Targa, and Imoula, up and down the stark slopes, the jagged Western High Atlas peaks of the Jbel Toubkal Massif - at 4167m the highest peak in North Africa - before us, with her awe-inspiring sister peaks the Jbels Aguelzim (3547m), Aksouâl (3847m) and the Adrar Adj (3122m) watching us all the way.*

*We shall stop at Aroumd to visit this rather singular village in the Assif Aït Mizane Valley, built seemingly house upon house on a large moraine spur overlooking ancient irrigated terraced fields of barley, corn and vegetables and always surrounded by almond and walnut trees. We thence carry on for another 8km to the equally quaint village of Sidi Chamharouch, a Berber village set beside a waterfall and small stream; again with its pisé homes seemingly built somewhat chaotically one into another. This village is a place of pilgrimage for devout Moslems and it is where there is a marabout shrine – forbidden to non-Moslems - said to be a relic of a pre-Islamic religious and naturalist cult.*

*We take a break for a picnic, within full view of Jbel Toubkal, prior to setting off back down the other side of the valley at a gentle pace back to the delightful Douar Samra where you bid farewell - 'bissalaama' - to your mountain guide.*

Day 6: Depart for three-day hike over the valleys and through the Berber Villages from Imlil to Setti Fadma

IMLIL - IMENANE VALLEY - TACHEDDIRT

*With streams and paths branching out all around us we set out along a piste for a 1 hour and 45 minutes hike towards the east up to the Tizi n'Tamatert (2272m) on through fields of wheat and orchards of walnut, apple and cherry trees until we reach the village of Tamatert (1810m).*

*Once through the village we shall take a path which leads us up through pine and juniper woods we stop at the Tizi to admire the Imlil and Imenane Valleys, this latter with its many Berber villages tucked precariously onto the slopes stretching around us, with Jbel Oukaïmeden (3268m) known locally as "Ouka" - and almost as high as the Rockies - on the near horizon. We carry on along the upper valley slopes for another hour or so to the villages of first Ouaneskra and then Amghedoul (2130m) set amidst terraced plots of land carved from the hard slopes where we shall stop for our picnic on the plateau used, in summer, as a favoured bivouac site.*

*Our afternoon will be spent hiking for some 3 hours up through the valley along mule trails until we reach the pretty - and the oldest - Berber village in the Toubkal Massif - Tacheddirt (2291m), set amongst terraced plots clawed from the surrounding craggy slopes, where we'll overnight in a Gite d'Etape (Berber House with hot shower).*

*Whilst dinner is being prepared, there's ample opportunity to visit the village and the always - welcoming hardy Berber villagers.*

Day 7: TACHEDDIRT - IAABASSENE - TIMICHI.

*After an early breakfast we start our 7hour hike south-eastwards to the terraced village of Timichi (1860m), at the western offshoot head of the Ourika Valley. For 2 ½ we hike slowly up to the Tizi n'Tacheddirt (3200m), which affords us a stunning panoramic view of the Jebel Aksouâl (3842m) on one side and of Bou Iguenouane (3882m) and Angour (3616m) on the other, with the beginning of the luscious nature of the beautiful, verdant Valley stretching out way below us. We shall traverse the pass and continue on down through the rocks north-eastwards for a further 2½ hours until we reach the Berber village of Iaabassene (2030m), where we'll stop for our welcome picnic next to a spring just outside of the village.*

*The afternoon's 2hour hike takes us up further to the northeast down the valley to the old village of Timichi, set amongst ancient nut trees, where we'll have our dinner and overnight in a Berber family's home.*

Day 8: TIMICHI - ISGHOUARNE - AGADIR n'AÏT BOULMANE - SETTI FADMA.

*After breakfast we set out for a 5 to 6 hour hike eastwards down along the valley full of cornfields and orange groves, with many streams flowing down from the upper slopes, passing through the villages of Isghouarne and Agadir n'Aït Boulmane to arrive at the end of the beautiful Ourika Valley proper and the renowned Berber village of Setti Fadma, with its ancient nut trees and waterfalls. We shall stop for our picnic just outside of the village, before hiking on for a further half an hour to rejoin our vehicle to take us back to Marrakech.*

Day 9: Finish hike at Setti Fadma and transfer back to Marrakech - stay at Hotel Tichka – 1-night BB

Day 10: Meet your English-speaking driver at your hotel with hire vehicle (Toyota Prado or similar with air-conditioning) to drive over High Atlas via Kasbahs of Telouet and Ait Ben Haddou to Ouarzazate - stay at Mercure Hotel – 1-night HB

Day 11: Continue driving east via Skoura Oasis, Dades Valley and Todra Gorge - stay at Kasbah Tizimi in Erfoud – 1-night HB

Day 12: MÉHARÉE DROMEDARY TREK TO MOROCCO'S ERG CHEBBI "

Depart on overnight desert trip (4WD & camel) to Erg Chebbi at Merzouga

Day 13: ERFOUD – MERZOUGA – ERG CHEBBI.

*From the rendezvous point at the Hotel Tizimi in Erfoud at 2pm during the winter months, 3pm in summer, we set out half an hour later for a 1½ hours' drive in our 4WD towards the south, crossing the Oued Ziz, first along a tarmac road for some 16km, then another 35km of sandy piste trails carved out of the desert crust by motorbikes and other adventurous vehicles to the tiny desert town of Merzouga in an enormous palmeraie.*

*We shall see, in a dramatic line almost perfectly from north to south, the incredible panorama of the sea of sand dunes of the Erg Chebbi.*

*Once we've arrived at Merzouga, we alight to enjoy a traditional welcoming glass, or two, of mint tea at the Auberge du Sud whilst your baggage is being loaded onto the pack animals.*

*At around 4pm winter (5pm summer) we set off, one person per dromedary, for some 2 hours across a sea of golden dunes. This is the only 'true' desert area of the kingdom of Morocco and an area where meteorites continue to be found, as well as crocodile teeth, shark, pterosaur and spinosaurus fossils. We stop in the middle of 'nowhere' to witness, from the high dunes, nature's incredible light show of sunset over ever-changing colours of dunes, to continue on under the star-filled heavens to our bivouac site of a carpeted Berber tent in a small oasis.*

*First things first, a glass of mint tea once our packs are being unloaded. Our tagine dinner is prepared and, after dessert, tea or coffee seated around our campfire - it can get cold at night! – we sing and chat to our heart's content.*

Day 14: ERG CHEBBI – MERZOUGA - ERFOUD.

*Our last brilliant sunrise, equal almost to last night's unforgettable sunset, a Bedouin breakfast of tea, bread, jam and cheese tucked away, our dromedaries having been saddled up for the return stage, we set off back across the dunes around 8:30 for our final Méharée of some 2½ hours to the Auberge Du Sud, where you are free to freshen up (i.e. take a shower) before boarding our 4WD and an 1½ hour drive back to Erfoud and the original starting point at the Hotel Tizimi.*

Day 15: Return from desert, freshen up at Auberge du Sud & rejoin your driver and vehicle at Erfoud and drive north via Midelt for lunch (not included but best option) and then on to Ifrane on the way to Fez - stay at Hotel Perce Neige – 1-night HB

Day 16: Arrive into Fez and stay at Hotel Menzeh Zalagh – 2-nights HB (optional upgrade to Riad Mabrouka or Hotel Merinides for \$45 per person per night but on BB)

Day 17: Fez sightseeing - half-day city tour included

*Leaving our hotel at 09:00, we drive via the Mechouer to the impressive Dar el Makhzen for a 15-minute stop at the Royal Palace with its magnificent seven bronze gates. From here we walk to and through the Mellah with its intense atmosphere and fine examples of Mauro-Hispanic architecture. At around 10:00 we drive to the Borj Sud to take in the panoramic view of the Medina.*

*Off now down to start our Walking Tour of the labyrinth of the ancient Fes Medina (a UNESCO World Heritage Site); of the colourful es-Sebbaghine with its Street of the Dyers; of the brass workers at es-Seffarine, of the aromas of the Souq el-Atterine area of spices and groceries; of the impressive al-Quarawiyyin Mosque and University, the el-Atterine Medersa; the Kissaria and the Draz quarters, where you'll see materials being woven the traditional way on really old-fashioned looms; the renowned Tanneries on the bank of the Oued Fes and the delightful el-Nejjarine Square with its fountain and caravanserai and on to the potteries, perfumes and beauty products at the Souq el-Henna. Leaving the Medina from the Bab Boujloud around 1 o'clock, we should be back at our hotel in time for lunch, should you decide not to have a light snack surrounded by 1,200 years of history.*

Day 18: More Fez sightseeing and onward visit to Volubilis and Meknes - stay 1-night in Volubilis Inn overlooking the ancient site

Day 19: Return to Marrakech for last night - optional visits of Rabat and Casablanca en route or return via Mid Atlas route and visit cascades d'Ouzoud.

Stay at Tichka hotel in Marrakech for 1-night & drop off driver and vehicle

Day 20: Transfer to Marrakech Airport for flight home

**Cost: Based on a minimum of 4 persons – from AU\$3690 per person twin share**

**Includes:**

- \* Airport transfers
- \* 13 nights accommodation with all local taxes
- \* Half day guided sightseeing in Marrakech and Fez
- \* One day hike in High Atlas from Kasbah Samra
- \* Fully inclusive 3-day hike
- \* Transfers back and forth to Imlil with mules for assistance for luggage
- \* Vehicle Toyota Prado with English-speaking driver for 8 days (fully-inclusive –except fuel)
- \* Fully inclusive overnight desert trip
- \* FREE guidebooks
- \* 24hr local English speaking representative support services

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

## EUROPEAN TRAVEL NEWS

### A look at what's influencing travel plans

**The Hostellerie Bérard & SPA in Provence** – looking for that ideal combination of quality accommodation with an opportunity to both relax, explore AND learn about French cooking from a master Chef?

Full of charm, located in a small medieval village of La Cadière d'Azur, in the heart of the Bandol appellation (just 30 minutes from Marseilles and 3 hours from Paris by TGV), the Hostellerie Bérard & Spa is the ideal place to taste with "the Art de Vivre en Provence".

With 37 rooms decorated in a Provençal style & 4 deluxe rooms in a Provençal house situated 3 kms away from our village, Chef Mr. René Bérard, Master Chef of France with his son, Jean-François (from Jeune Restaurateur d'Europe" – one star on the Michelin Guide 2006), offer a gourmet restaurant with a accent on Provence, cooking classes in our marvellous "Bastide des Saveurs", and an introduction to wine (there are over 11000 bottles from 850 vineyards in their cellar).

There is also a new AromaSpa with 7-cabins for wellness treatment. Call Outdoor Travel for details or see our website

**Octoberfest – well next year its in.....March!** Munich's "Strong Beer" Festival, which is described as a mini-*Oktoberfest*, is traditionally celebrated in March. The Paulaner beer hall "Am Nockherberg" is the venue for most of the events. People first took note of the event when the guest comedians began to lampoon the politicians in attendance. Even today, these high-profile public figures have to bite their tongues and smile while everyone else laughs at them. Normal visitors, on the other hand, can look forward to 17 days of uninterrupted entertainment focused on this distinctive style of beer. *Starkbier* (strong beer).

The beer was originally brewed by monks, who drank it to keep their spirits up during Lent, though the "strong" actually refers to the high concentration of wort. More information see [www.nockherberg.com](http://www.nockherberg.com)

**Walk the Camino de Santiago 2009** – details - including prices - for our self-guided walks are now available & early bookings are flooding in especially for the popular September period next year.

The dates for our fully guided 'Value Walking Tour' on this route in 2009 are: on Sundays 7<sup>th</sup> June, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September or 11<sup>th</sup> October. They include 8 nights half board accommodation, all transport on walking days (no support vehicle however), luggage transfers and transfers to and from Santiago Airport. Places on these tours are very limited and early booking is essential.

For those interested in walking along pilgrim trails our new & exclusive self-guided **Via Francigena** – the Road to Rome – available in 8-one-week sections from the Swiss border, via the Cinque Terre Coast, through Tuscany to Rome – will be released very shortly. Register your interest today on [info@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:info@outdoortravel.com.au)

**Santa's little helpers will be appearing in .....Austria this year?** The Innsbruck Christmas Market is one of the liveliest in the European Alps region. The childrens markets at Marktplatz will be the first to open on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The traditional site is in Innsbruck's old town centre, in front of the Goldenes Dachl (Golden Roof) with a huge and brightly lit Christmas tree from 21<sup>st</sup> November. And just one day later, the Christmas market opens on Maria-Theresien-Straße, again in Innsbruck. Bring your stocking or see [http://www.innsbruck.info/xxl/\\_site/innsbruck/\\_lang/en/\\_area/478341/\\_subArea/478357/\\_artikelId/1033102/index.html](http://www.innsbruck.info/xxl/_site/innsbruck/_lang/en/_area/478341/_subArea/478357/_artikelId/1033102/index.html)

*And yes George, there are NO kangaroos in Austria. Enjoy your retirement.*

**Plan to visit two rather special English stately homes....but see the movie first.** The Duchess, a new film starring Keira Knightley as Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, Ralph Fiennes as the Duke of Devonshire and Charlotte Rampling as Lady Spencer also showcases two English rather wonderful stately homes. Georgiana Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire was born in 1757 as Lady Georgiana Spencer. She was a fashion icon of her day, a celebrated beauty and a socialite. She was also an active political campaigner a century before women's suffrage. The film based on her life features two key locations in England's Peak District, both open to visitors.

**Kedleston Hall** in Derby, Derbyshire, is a neo-classical 18th-century mansion designed by Robert Adam and set in 330 hectares (820 acres) of landscaped gardens and open parkland. Visitors to the house's staterooms can see the original collections of paintings and sculpture. **Chatsworth House** in Bakewell, Derbyshire, is the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, where Georgiana lived following her marriage to the 5th Duke. The house has one of Europe's finest private art collections and is open between March and October and 1 November to 23 December. An exhibition about Georgiana and her life is scheduled for 2009.

Outdoor Travel offer guided walking holidays in Derbyshire and in many others in most regions of England, in Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Many are based in large country homes or selected country hotels. Look for our one-hotel or centre-based walks on our website

**In Memoriam: Remembering the Great War, Imperial War Museum London** – on exhibition until September 2009. A major exhibition is now on to commemorate the ninetieth anniversary of the Armistice. Focusing on the individual stories of those who fought, worked, waited, loved and lost, the exhibition looks at the human experience of war: from the front line soldier, sailor and airman to the munitions worker and nurse. From the prisoner-of-war and the internee to the artist and the writer; the disabled and shell-shocked.

Rarely-seen items from the Imperial War Museum's unique First World War collections will be on display including a wreath tossed into the car carrying Prime Minister David Lloyd George after the signing of the Treaty

of Versailles, the smashed aircraft windscreen of British flying ace James McCudden and the last letter and Victoria Cross awarded to Jack Cornwell who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Jutland (one of the youngest recipients of the VC).

Remember too that Outdoor Travel have places still available on the ANZAC Day tour at Villers-Bretonneux in April 2009 in the Somme in France, we also offer small group guided 4-day tours of the important Australian sites in this area all year round. New too for 2009 are our Bruges to Paris Bike & barge cruises with a two-night stop in the Peronne region of the Somme. Call 1800 331 582 or email [info@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:info@outdoortravel.com.au) for details.

**What's on in Italy - International White Truffle Festival - Alba 4<sup>th</sup> October – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2008** see <http://www.fieradeltartufo.org>

This exhibition is dedicated to the white truffle market & it will be accompanied by various other events including the Art prize "Città d'Alba", air balloon flights, the Palio degli Asini in costume, the Festa del Vino and an international auction that will connect Grinzane Cavour, Merano and Tokyo.

## THE WALKING PARTY

### Walking holiday news in France & England

Outdoor Travel Walking Party dates for 2009 – these are unique, very personalised small group tours - early bookings are essential:

FRANCE - TRUFFLE HOP: 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009

SPAIN - CATALUNYA HOP: 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009

FRANCE - BASQUE PYRENEEES WEEK: 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 29<sup>th</sup> September – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009

ENGLAND - SUFFOLK WEEK: 25<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 27<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2009

FRANCE - DORDOGNE/QUERCY: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May and 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 2009

FRANCE - HAUT QUERCY: 10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May and 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009

ITALY - UMBRIA WEEK: 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2009

FRANCE - COOKING WEEK: 31<sup>st</sup> October – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2009

On our Cooking Week (which includes gentle walking in the wonderful Lot countryside) the wines will include Yon Figeac 1996 and La Louviere 1995 - both excellent, the former a St Emilion the latter a Graves. There is a fascinating afternoon learning about truffle culture (a real eye opener to the gastronomic wonder of the black diamond). Past clients have commented... *"a great slice of French life ... four French chefs and loads of recipes and getting ones hands dirty"*.

Early bookings are essential on all these small group tours – call 1800 331 582 for details.

## CROWN BLUE LINE / LE BOAT

### Save 10-15% 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. Regular discounts of up to 25% off the hire price are usually offered each month for selected boats in the *Le Boat* fleet - call today for your last-minute reservations for 2008:

For early bookings for 2009 we are now offering the 2008 rates less 10% for all new reservations confirmed before 31st December 2008

Also you can save up to 10% off extended cruises - receive 5% off all cruises lasting 14-20 days. Receive 10% off all cruises lasting 21 days or more.

All our discounts can be combined up to a maximum of 15%.

New full colour brochures – with comprehensive boat & route details are due from the printer shortly – order your free copy now:

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

# 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):

<b>Bike &amp; Barge Escorted Cycling</b>	<b>Departure Dates</b>
<b>France</b>	
Paris to the Loire Valley	18, 25 Apr, 2, 9, 30 May, 6, 13, 20, 27 June,
The Loire Valley to Paris	4, 11, 18, 25 Jul, 8, 15, 22 Aug, 5, 12, 19, 26 Sep
Taste of Burgundy	6,13,20,27Jun, 4,11,18,25Jul, 1,22,29 Aug, 5,12,19,26 Sep
<b>France, Holland &amp; Belgium</b>	
Amsterdam to Brussels or v.v.	30 May, 6,20,27 Jun, 4,11,25 Jul, 1,22,29 Aug, 5, 12 Sep
Amsterdam to Bruges - Deluxe	7, 28 June, 5, 12 July, 16 August, 27 September
Bruges to Paris - low season	21 March - 4 April (Full)
Bruges to Paris - high season	19 July - 2 August
Paris to Bruges - high season	2 - 16 August
Bruges to Paris - high season	30 August - 13 September
Bruges to Paris - high season	12 September - 26 September
Paris to Bruges - high season	13 September - 27 September
Paris to Bruges - high season	26 September - 10 October
Paris to Bruges - low season	17 October - 31 October (full)
<b>Holland</b>	
Highlights of Holland: Rembrandt's Trail	27 June, 4 July, 1, 22 August
Holland in The Springtime	11 April
Tulip Tour	11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28 April, 2, 5 May
Tulip Tour - Deluxe	4, 7 May
Tulip Tour - Deluxe	5, 12, 19 April
North Holland	21 June, 12 July, 2, 9 August
Holland Groningen to Arnhem	13 June
<b>Germany</b>	
Metz to Cochem	8 August
Cochem to Metz	15 August
Germany & Holland: Minden to Groningen	6 June
Holland & Germany: Arnhem to Mainz	20 June
Germany & Luxemburg: Koblenz to Merzig	1 August
Germany & Holland: Koblenz to Amsterdam	24 October
<b>Germany</b>	
Moselle: Saarbrücken to Koblenz	17 October
Main & Rhine: Mainz to Bamberg	27 June
Moselle, Rhine & Main: Trier to Frankfurt	22 August
Main & Rhine: Bamberg to Main	19 September
<b>Italy</b>	
Venice Lagoon & River Po	Every Saturday from 28 March to 24 October

<b>Croatia:</b>	11,18 Apr, 9, 16, 23, 30 May, 6, 13, 20 Jun,
Pearls of Southern Dalmatia	22, 29 Aug, 5, 12, 19, 26 Sep, 3, 10, 17 Oct
Pearls of Southern Dalmatia - Premium	25 Apr, 2 May, 13, 27 June, 4, 18 July, 1, 15, 22 Aug
Croatian National Parks	25 Apr, 2 May, 13, 27 Jun, 15, 22 Aug
Croatian National Parks - Premium	9,30 May, 6,20 Jun, 11,25 Jul, 8,29 Aug, 5,12,19,26 Sep, 3,10 Oct
Islands of Kvarner Bay	Every Sunday from early April to mid October
Istria & the Croatian Coast	24, 31 May, 14, 21 June, 20, 27 September, 4, 11, 18 October
Dalmatia to Dubrovnik	26 Apr, 10, 31 May, 6 September

### Montenegro

Dubrovnik to Montenegro & back	3, 17, 24 May, 13, 20, 27 September, 4 October
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### Greece

The Central Aegean	18, 24 April, 2 May, 19, 26 September
The Southern Aegean	9, 16, 23, 30 May, 3, 10, 17 October
Cyclades Islands	16, 23, 30 May, 5, 12, 19, 26 September
The Ionian Islands	18, 25 Apr, 2 May, 7, 14 June, 10, 17 October

### Turkey:

Southern Coast of Turkey	9, 16, 23, 30 May, 3, 10, 17 October
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### Canada

Spring Tour	16, 23 May
The Lockkeepers Tour	30 May, 6,13,20,27 Jun, 11,18 Jul, 8,15,22,29 Aug, 12, 19 Sep
Chemin du Roy - Champlain Tour	4 Jul, 5 Sep, 3 Oct
Tour of Two Canadas	25 Jul, 1 Aug
The Kings Tour	28 Jun, 29 Aug, 26 Sep

### Vietnam

Vietnam Bike & Boat	5 April, 11 October, 25 October
Vietnam Cycling Only	8 January, 27 October, 16 November

## Bike & Ship Self-guided Cycling | Departure Dates

### Austria, Germany

Danube Impressions	2, 16, 23 May, 29 August, 12, 19 September, 3 October
Danube Impressions - High	6, 13, 27 June, 18 July, 1, 8, 22 August
Danube Waltz	18, 25 April, 10 October
Danube Waltz - Mid	9 May, 5, 26 September
Danube Waltz - High	30 May, 20 June, 4, 25 July, 15 August

Demand is very high with these barges and 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 VIETNAM**

### **What's the difference?**

We introduced cycling holidays in Vietnam to our programs last year – mostly due to your requests & we now have both bike & boat cruises and inn-to-inn cycling holidays

We asked our tour operator in Vietnam to help us distinguish the differences with some – perhaps cheaper – trips from other Australian based travel companies. His response makes interesting reading:

I have had a look at (the other) itinerary. There are two big differences that I can see. The most important is that they cycle on Highway 1 on several days. The traffic on Highway 1 has increased enormously to the point where we no longer consider it a safe route to cycle. We spent a long time in Vietnam finding quiet backroads as alternatives which are much more pleasant, and most importantly, much safer to cycle.

The second is that, while Vietnam is as much a cultural experience as a cycling experience, we find that most people like to cycle on most days. Other offer cycling on just 7 of the 14 days whilst we cycle on 9 of the 14 days, with options for day trips on 2 more days.

Others fly from Nha Trang to Ho Chi Minh City - I have flown that sector, and found that it took most of the day to make the flight, by the time you leave mid-morning, drive to the airport, wait for the flight (which will probably be delayed) and transfer to the hotel at the other end. The whole day is nearly wasted. I have also cycled HCMC to Nha Trang and it was very pleasant, coastal riding with little traffic. Others include a night on the Reunification Express train, which was not popular with our clients.

The big unknown, of course, is the standard of hotels that they use. We use three and four star, many of the latter. Several operators I know use much cheaper hotels. For a group of 18 cyclists we use three air-conditioned mini buses to give maximum service.

We also charge extra for our bikes because we do use the best bikes in Vietnam, 27 speed Trek 7.5, alloy frames, carbon forks, bike computer, rear rack and trunk bag and helmet included. For other than a 10 km ride, a good quality bike is essential. Some others use a 21-speed bike but it will be of lesser quality.

To back all this up Sue, our Reservations Manager will be joining a two-week cycling trip in November. If we can tempt you into a cycling adventure in Vietnam give us a call for details on (03) 57551743 or email [info@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:info@outdoortravel.com.au)

## **WALKS IN AUSTRALIA**

### **Places still available on these small group guided walks:**

Australia's Coast to Coast - 27th November - 3 days

Kangaroo Island Walking - 11th Oct, 8th Nov, 6th December - 5 days

Yurrebilla Trail - 3rd October, 17th October, 7th November - 3 days

Great South West Walk & Glenelg River - 11th November - 8 days

Great Ocean Road Walk - 4th Oct, 23rd Nov, 7th Dec - 5 days

Best of the Grampians - 18th Oct, 24th Oct, 29th Nov, 13th Dec - 6 days

## **SAVINGS ON WALKING IN TASMANIA**

### **The Freycinet experience**

Planning a walking holiday in Australia this summer then Outdoor Travel is offering an exclusive \$100 discount \* for all bookings for walks departing between November 2008 – May 2009.

This four-day guided wilderness walk covers the entire length of the Freycinet Peninsula on Tasmania's east coast. Rise to the sights, sounds and smells of the Australian 'bush' and the sea, enjoy the spectacular vistas of the clear waters of the Tasman Sea, see the contrast of bright orange lichen on granite against pristine white beaches, hear the song of the birds and waves collapsing on the shore, relish the warm honey smell of Kunzea in flower.

This walk allows you to experience the challenge of a good days walk with the indulgence of having to carry no more than your lunch as you return each evening to our lodge for candlelit dinners, a hot bath and a comfortable bed. The highlight for many is the stunning accommodation at the award winning Friendly Beaches Lodge. Every aspect of the lodge and surrounds is purpose designed to have maximum comfort for the guests and a minimal impact on the environment.



Friendly Beaches Lodge is set in **blissful isolation** amongst 130 hectares of private land surrounded by Freycinet National Park and is the only building on Friendly Beaches. Two accommodation lodges branch off from the main lodge with a collection of double / twin rooms. Both lodges contain a lounge area with fireplace, a bathroom with a claw footbath, a separate shower room and two composting toilets.

Explore a **contemporary menu** of exceptional quality; freshly prepared, healthy and with just enough indulgence. Enjoy local oysters plucked from the sea only hours before you eat them and try a range of **Tassie's finest cheese and wines**. Our Lodge Co-ordinators will make you feel at home and will help you unwind. The lodge is used exclusively for walking groups.

#### **Departure Dates: 2008**

Fri 7, Thurs 13, Fri 21, Fri 28 November, Fri 5, Fri 12, Sun 21, Sat 27, Wed 31 December 2008

#### **Departure Dates: 2009**

Sun 4, Thurs 8, Mon 12, Fri 16, Fri 23, Fri 30 January, Fri 6, Fri 13, Fri 20, Fri 27 February 2009  
Fri 6, Fri 13, Fri 20, Fri 27 March, Fri 3, Fri 10, Fri 17, Fri 24 April 2009

Cost per person:                      \$2075

Costs include:                      3-nights Friendly Beaches Lodge accommodation with shared bathroom / toilet facilities, all transport from Hobart, meals (including wine with dinner), experienced and knowledgeable walk guides, park fees, rain jacket and daypack hire. Maximum group size is ten participants (with two experienced guides & two Lodge Co-ordinators)

**The walk is organised so that people who are active will enjoy the trip.** Guests will walk between 36 - 40 kms over the four days so walkers must be moderately fit and preparation before the walk is important. On the second day of the walk there is a choice between doing a challenging eight-hour 16km walk to climb Mount Graham (579 metres above sea level) or choosing a more relaxed 12km route along coastal heath lands and fabulous beaches. On the third day, there is a 12km (approximately 6 hours) walk to Friendly Beaches Lodge from Bluestone Bay.

\* Discount is not available with any other discount offer on this walk.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

## **WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT OUR HOLIDAYS**

**Walking in the Auvergne in France:** *I have just finished my walking tour of France. It has been the most wonderful experience. The family who run Les Estables are truly wonderful, great hosts and very good sense of humours. The food has been superb, the company great, the walks outstanding, the hotel so nice and comfortable. In fact, I prefer this one based hotel walking tour to the trip I did last year in Tuscany. I will certainly be telling everyone I can about this trip.*

*There were only in all four English speaking people in the group, but that was not an issue, we all managed to communicate. And Alexander the tour guide explained everything to us in very good English. The area we walked in was so interesting, and I did not find the isolation an issue (we discussed this before I left if you remember). The walks were challenging, but this is what I wanted. So just to say a very big thank you. Gayl*

**Bike & Boat island hopping in Croatia:** *The boating & cycling were both great! It is so good to experience a different culture, cycle every day, see so much of the coast & islands and yet sleep in the same bed every night.*

*The response when we first saw the Kapitan Jure in Trogir was "Wow, that's our boat!" Our cabin was small but adequate - it encouraged us to spend time cycling, walking or on deck. In fact, when we were on board it was mainly meal time or sleep time! The crew was also very good. Captain Anton was friendly & smiled a lot, the steward was always ready to serve drinks or make espresso, and the cook turned out plentiful & tasty food. No-one could say they were hungry! The wine wasn't bad (I just have to keep reminding myself that our Aust wine is especially good).*

*The cycling was excellent! Yes, parts of it were challenging (one day the hill was so long & the gradient so steep that a few of us walked & pushed our bikes to the top - and that wasn't easy either!) and not many - if any - rides were flat. However, I enjoyed the cycling and other than riding every day, it probably wasn't much different in terms of difficulty to what I'd do at home.*

*Overall, it was a great holiday - It must have been 'cos I'm planning another one with more friends! Jan*

**Bike & Barge Loire Valley France:** *We very much enjoyed the whole trip. The cabins on the boat were very small but we had expected that from the article we read in the Age. The meals were more than adequate, plenty to eat. The crew were great, very friendly and helpful.*

*Our guide had not been on the route before but was familiar with area as he had worked in the region and the few u-turns that we made were something to laugh about at the end of the day. a bonus was the friends he had at a couple of wineries that we visited, we were made to feel very welcome indeed.*

*The bikes were well-gearred and easy to ride, the seats were comfortable but they also had a supply of removable gel seats to go over the regular seats which were appreciated...some of the other participants had taken their own of these which would be a good idea.*

*The days were not strenuous apart from the odd hill or two. There was never any pressure to ride faster than we were comfortable with and it was perfectly OK to get off and push if necessary! I think that we were lucky in that our group was of very similar standards and that everyone got along and looked out for each other as it was important that we rode together...there was a high potential for getting lost if you couldn't see those in front.*

*The itinerary was good, a mixture of chateaux, wineries and small towns to visit that broke up the riding well. Sometimes we did feel a bit stranded when we had time to fill in a town but it was lunchtime and most things would be shut! We got the impression that the itinerary was fairly flexible, for example if the group was more interested in wineries then that would have been accommodated.*

*The weather was fantastic while we were there, only 1 day of rain and it gradually became much warmer towards the end of the week...we did have some discussions with the skipper about how hot it got in the summer on the barge and apparently it can be very very warm at night, he uses fans and water running over the roof to cool it all down when its very hot. We would recommend spring or autumn rather than mid-summer!*

*We thought the trip was fantastic value for money, drinks (including water) on the barge plus incidentals like the odd entrance fee and coffee along the way were our only other expenses and that really wasn't very much. The barge really did become our home for the week and we looked forward to it (and its hot showers) at the end of the day.*

*All in all we had a great holiday with no hitches, thankyou to you and Yvette for your organisation. Mandy*

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

# EARLYBIRD AIRFARES TO UK & EUROPE NOW AVAILABLE

Call us for all your travel needs in 2009



Outdoor Travel have just released **Singapore Airlines Earlybird airfare to Europe for 2009**. You can travel from Australian capital cities via Singapore to your preferred destination in Europe including Paris, Rome, London, Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona or Manchester (more cities are available – ask for details)

**Low season prices start at \$1,419.00 plus taxes** (for departures between 24<sup>th</sup> Sep 09 – 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 09). We are offering a special low cost airfare during May – one of the most popular times of year for our walking, cycling or boating holidays – for departures between 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> **May 2009 for only \$1,720.00 plus taxes.**

The taxes do vary but you should budget from Melbourne to London to add around \$750.00 per person to the airfare.

These fares are only for sale from today up to the 19<sup>th</sup> of December.

We are also offering flight to Europe with one of the most popular airlines **Emirates**. You can travel from most capital cities in Australia via Dubai to London, Paris, Rome, Venice, Istanbul (again more cities are available – ask for details). **Prices start at \$2,070.00 plus taxes for departures between 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

Again taxes vary, but Emirates has included most of the taxes in the airfare and for a Perth to Paris return ticket the taxes come to \$145.00. **Total cost \$2,215.00**

**Traditionally Earlybird fares offer the best value way to start your holiday planning & they coincide with the release of our new brochures or price lists for a range of active holidays in Europe. It is well worth contacting us to see which Earlybird airfare works out the best for your itinerary.**

To make a flight reservation I will need your name as per passport, your preferred itinerary (and date of birth for children less than 12 year of age). We also ask for a non-refundable deposit to start making the flight arrangements for you.

Earlybird fares are only for sale for a limited time and are subject to availability. Full payment may be required soon after making your reservations; the airlines stipulate this when the bookings are made, you will be advised upon reservation. After full payment, cancellation, change and amendment fees do apply.

You can contact Yvette by phone on (03) 57501441 or by email to [fares@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:fares@outdoortravel.com.au) .

**Outdoor Travel Fares can offer flights with many other airlines & to many other destinations around the world** - check the latest information and up to the minute fare deals through our Outdoor Travel Smartfares **Computer Reservations System**, click-on to: [Outdoor Travel fares](#) for an up to date quote on your travel plans - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or see our website [www.outdoortravel.com.au](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au) or call (03) 57501 441 or email [fares@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:fares@outdoortravel.com.au)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS

Specialist travel lawyer Anthony Cordato discusses legal issues of vital importance

This article looks at the flight check-in and explains why an early check-in will guard passenger rights with the airline. Think of check-in as the equivalent to flicking a switch to turn on a light. Check-in activates a whole series of flight conditions, which are found in the ticket, which up to that time have lain dormant.

Specialist travel lawyer Anthony Cordato points out that a world of difference exists before check-in and after check-in, regarding travellers' rights to compensation *if the flight is delayed or cancelled by the airline*.

He quotes Consumer Affairs Victoria, which says that the *failure to provide flights on the booked dates and times* is one of the issues that dominate consumer complaints about airlines. "You gain a whole bundle of legal rights once you check-in," Cordato states. "Let us now compare and contrast the travellers' rights before check-in and after check-in."

## **Before check-in**

### *Airlines can rely on the ticket conditions to delay and cancel flights*

"Before you check-in, an airline in Australia has the right to reschedule the flight times and cancel flights without compensating you for the inconvenience (and loss) caused.

In their Conditions of Carriage, Qantas domestic, Jetstar and Virgin state that *we do not guarantee flight times advertised*; and Tiger reserves the right to revise any flight schedules without prior notice; while Virgin makes it clear that it will not be liable for any losses incurred *as a result of any delayed or rescheduled flight*.

These Conditions of Carriage apply as soon as the ticket is issued. These conditions allow the airline to delay or cancel flights without obtaining the traveller's permission to do so, and without compensation being payable.

### *Airlines will have a reason to delay and cancel flights*

Airlines have always had the right to delay or cancel flights for operational reasons or *circumstances beyond their reasonable control*. Often in the Conditions of Carriage, airlines will provide these reasons – an airport might be closed because of bad weather conditions causing runway closure; the aircraft may have a technical problem for example with a faulty fuel gauge, the flaps do not extend, the hydraulics are leaking fluid or the landing gear will not retract; or there may be an industrial dispute affecting ground staff, pilots or air traffic control issues; or the inbound aircraft might be late.

### *Airlines should warn travellers of changes to flights booked*

Before check-in, airlines will warn travellers of delays and cancellations. In its Conditions of Carriage, Qantas states – *the flight time shown on your ticket may change ... we will try to let you know about any changes*. For international flights Qantas promises that it will notify delays of greater than 60 minutes, if it is aware of a delay at least 90 minutes before the scheduled departure time.

Airlines are becoming very sophisticated in the way they warn that a flight is delayed or rescheduled. With an e-ticket, they already have your email address, and so will send an email. They will use phone and increasingly, send SMS messages.

Consumer Affairs Victoria notes that failure to notify is a legitimate cause for consumer complaint. Failure to notify might leave open the possibility of compensation.

### *If the change is significant, and due to the airline, a fare refund is offered*

Airlines are aware that failure to provide scheduled flights might constitute misleading conduct under the Fair Trading Laws, and therefore will try to limit their exposure to compensation to a full refund of the fare. Under the Qantas and Jetstar Conditions of Carriage, if there is a *significant change* to the departure time, or the flight is cancelled, which is not in the airline's control, the traveller has the option of a re-booking on another scheduled flight or receiving a fare refund. No other compensation is offered.

## **Summary**

"Provided the airline warns the traveller of the delay or cancellation before check-in, no compensation will be offered and none will be payable to the traveller for the delay, rescheduling or cancellation of a scheduled flight. If there is a significant change for which the airline is responsible, a fare refund might be available instead of a rescheduled flight."

## After check-in

“The check-in ‘switches on’ the legal rights of the traveller. After check-in, airlines bear greater responsibility, compensation is available, and it may be about to become more generous.

“Early check-in is recommended. Not only is it better for the peace of mind of the traveller, but the earlier the check-in, the sooner that legal rights are available. By early check-in, I mean well before the check-in closure times for scheduled departure.” The days of reconfirmation of flights have passed for Australian airlines. Increasingly, airlines are using online check-in to manage flight plans. An online check-in can be made between 24 hours and 1 hour before the schedule departure time, and provides not only a seat selection but also will provide a printed boarding pass. Baggage is catered for at a drop bag counter at the airport.

At the airport, some airlines offer a choice between a kiosk check-in and a counter check-in. Check-in closure times must be strictly observed, because if the traveller is late, the reservation may be cancelled and fees will be payable to re-book. Generally, closure times are 30 minutes before the departure time.

### *The legal position after check-in*

In addition to the traveller having the option of accepting a re-booking on another scheduled flight or a fare refund, *after check-in* the airline will offer to re-route the traveller on another scheduled flight or another airline flies, for no extra charge. In exceptional circumstances, such as where travellers are stranded on route, the airline will arrange an alternative carrier or aircraft to complete the flight.

Currently, there is no other compensation in Australia, particularly if the late or cancelled flight is caused by circumstances *beyond the airline’s control*.

The Qantas Conditions of Carriage state - whether you have checked in or not, we will try to assist you to get to your destination or next stopover, but ...*we will not otherwise be responsible for refunding a non-refundable airfare ..., or paying any costs or expenses you may incur as a result of the delay except as otherwise provided in the convention or any applicable laws.*

*Internationally*, the traveller has rights to claim up to \$8,000 in compensation for delay under the Warsaw Convention and the Montreal Convention, but only where they can demonstrate that the airline is at fault (as opposed to the delay being outside the airline’s control).

### *Compensation beyond the Conditions of Carriage*

As Consumer Affairs Victoria notes, although the three major domestic carriers have similar terms and conditions for check-in, cancellations, refunds, fees and charges, they appear to apply these differently.

“Airlines will often go beyond their legal obligations and provide compensation if requested. There is now talk in Australia of introducing something similar to the European standard of compensation which provides for meals, drinks and accommodation for travellers,” Cordato says.

### *When does the European standard apply?*

“The European standard is mandatory under European Union law where a flight is longer than 3500km and departs from an EU country or elsewhere if the airline is an EU airline. Compensation is payable if there is a cancellation, a long delay (more than 4 hours) or denied boarding (overbooking) and the passenger has presented themselves at check-in not later than 45 minutes before the scheduled departure time. The European standard applies regardless of whether or not the delay or cancellation was under the airline’s control and regardless of any limitations of liability contained in the airline’s

Conditions of Carriage.

### *Compensation for cancellation under the European standard*

The traveller has the choice of receiving €600 and a refund of the ticket or €600 and re-routing (reducible to €300 if the wait is less than 4 hours). Plus, for any waiting time, meals and refreshments, two telephone calls (or emails) free of charge, and if overnight, hotel accommodation and transport to and from the hotel are offered if a re-routed flight is accepted.

## *Compensation for delay under the European standard*

- \* The traveller will not receive any euro compensation, but will receive meals and refreshments which are reasonable in relation to the waiting time; and
- \* Two telephone calls, telex or fax messages, or e-mails, free of charge.
- \* If the flight is delayed overnight, then the hotel accommodation and transfers to and from the hotel will be provided.'

In terms of meals and refreshments for delay, the practice in the EU, is that if a flight is delayed more than an hour, the airline will offer you either light refreshment or a voucher to obtain a light refreshment. After four hours, in Europe, the airline will offer you a meal or a meal voucher.

As Consumer Affairs Victoria notes, in Australia, the airlines will use their discretion to compensate passengers in terms of meals and refreshments, accommodation and transport, despite their conditions of carriage, and even though there is currently no legal requirement to do so at law.

"My experience is that if you ask for this kind of compensation for delays or cancellations in Australia, the airline will give it to you. If compensation is requested after the flight has ended it will often be in the form of a money voucher.

"Given that Consumer Affairs Victoria (and presumably Consumer Affairs or Fair Trading Departments in other states) will be supportive, then my advice is that if the flight is delayed or cancelled after check-in, and if it is overnight, then the travellers would be within their rights to ask the airline to put them up in a hotel. If the airline refused, the travellers would be within their rights to catch a taxi to their hotel of choice, eat their evening meal of choice, select a room of reasonable standard, eat breakfast and claim full reimbursement from the airline.

No Australian airline seems to have put the 'no compensation' provisions of their conditions of carriage to the test in a Tribunal or Court of Law. In practice, I suspect that if pressed, the airlines just compensate quietly."

Most travel insurance policies provide coverage for delay, but that topic is for another day.

### **The best advice is to check-in early**

An early check-in will guard passenger rights with the airline. Take advantage of any online check in facility that is offered, because many airlines allow check-in up to 24 hours before departure. If early check-in is not available, arrive at the airport to check-in as soon as the departure gates open – most gates open 2 hours before departure.

*Anthony Cordato is the author of Australian Travel & Tourism Law (4th Ed), and an expert in travel law. To order his book, visit [www.tourismlegal.com.au](http://www.tourismlegal.com.au). Or email - [ajc@tourismlegal.com.au](mailto:ajc@tourismlegal.com.au). This article is reproduced with his approval – we also give credit to e-Travel Blackboard*

*Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd provides these comments for your information only. We do not support or confirm the opinions or advice given nor do we support, endorse or offer any relationship with the author. We suggest you contact Consumer Affairs Victoria (or your own state body) or your own legal advisors in relation to any matter discussed in this article.*

## **TRAVEL INSURANCE NEWS**

### **Higher costs coming for travellers over 59**

Due to the ever-changing nature of the travel insurance market it has become necessary for some insurance companies to implement a change to their rate structure. Due to the increase in the number of seniors / mature travellers they are increasing premiums by an average of 7%.

To reduce the impact across the range of products and premiums our recommended insurance provider, Suresave has decided to keep their 0 – 59 premiums for Plan A, Regions 2 – 5 at their current levels and only increasing the Plan A, Region 1 premiums by 5%. They have also created a new age bracket of 60 – 69 years to accommodate to alleviate the impact across the range of premiums.

All policy excess limits and excess buyouts amounts will remain unchanged.

Contact Outdoor Travel today to organise your travel insurance needs for 2009 at the current rates. Remember discounts apply on travel insurance purchased in conjunction with our tours & air tickets.

## **AND NOW FOR THE OTHER NEWS:**

**Kiwis face a virtual strip search in Australian airports..... lest they try to pull the wool over our eyes eh bro?** According to The Dominion Post newspaper in New Zealand, Kiwis flying out of Australian airports in the coming weeks could be asked to undergo "virtual strip searches" as part of a security screening trial.

Designed to detect weapons and explosives, including those not picked up by metal detectors, the body scanning machines see underneath a person's clothes, providing a detailed image of their body.

The Australian Transport Security Office said this week that it would start a five-week trial of the scanners and other security measures at Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide airports from the middle of this month. Passengers on whom the scanners were used would still be required to take off their shoes and coat, and to remove all items from their pockets and all jewellery. Those apprehensive about having their body shapes revealed on the scanner screens could opt to go through the existing hand-luggage scanners and walk-through detectors.

**Given my father is Scottish, I thought I would share the latest strategies being employed by frugal parents at Christmas** - A man in Scotland calls his son in London the day before Christmas Eve and says, 'I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough.'

'Dad, what are you talking about?' the son screams. 'We can't stand the sight of each other any longer,' the father says. 'We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her.'

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. 'Like hell they're getting divorced,' she shouts, 'I'll take care of this.' She calls Scotland immediately, and screams at her father, 'You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?' and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. 'Okay,' he says, 'They're coming for Christmas - and yes, they **are** paying their own way.'

## **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.smarttraveller.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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- (  ) 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: .....

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# CARBON & THE HOLIDAY & WORK ENVIRONMENT

## What we can do to make a difference?

With the release of reports into the global impact to the environment by carbon emissions & the use of cars, planes & of power generation there have been some creative new information sites that can give you some ideas about how you can look at a personal contribution to the issue of global warming.



Offsets made simple - '[Carbon Offsetting Explained](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**