

OUTDOOR TRAVEL



OUTLINES TRAVEL NEWS

November 2019

See our latest travel news, savings & new ideas

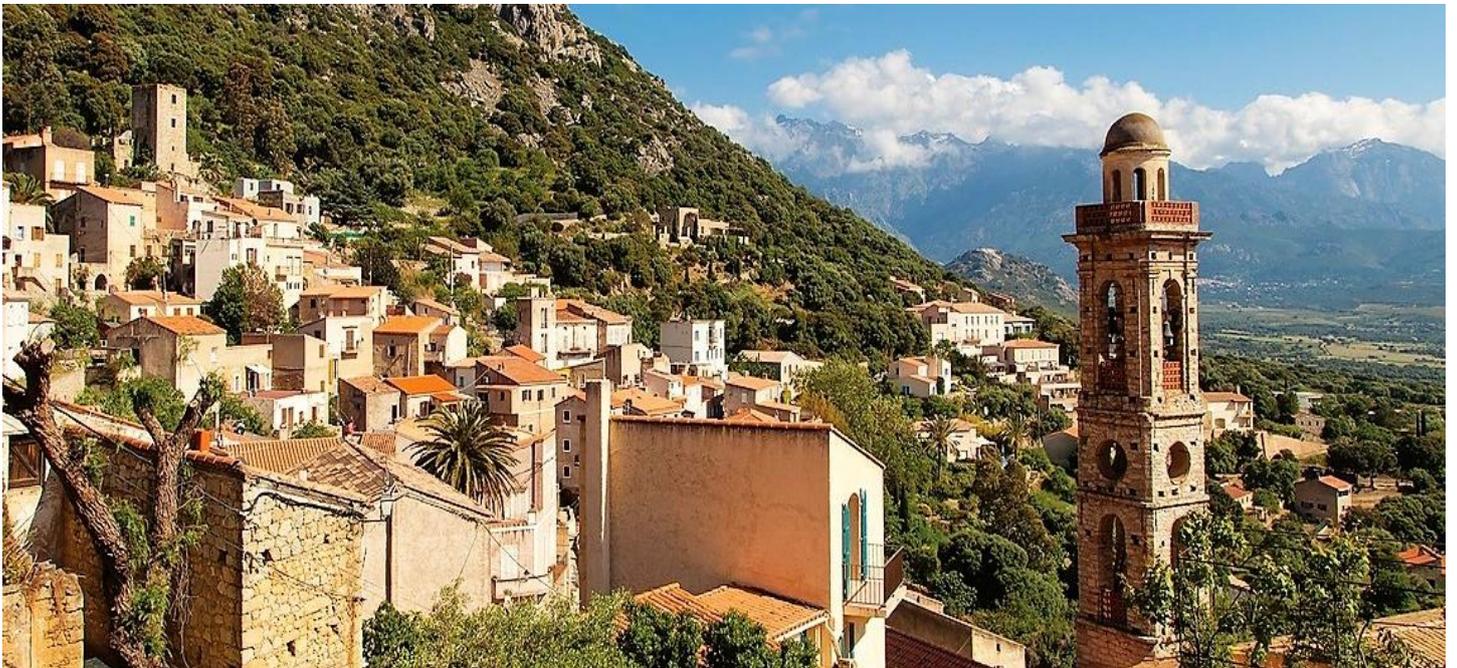
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WHAT'S NEW FROM OUTDOOR TRAVEL?

Always researching new ways to be active in NEW destinations

FRANCE WALKING: CORSICA

8-days / 7-nights two-centre GUIDED walking and sightseeing tour



Geographically situated in the Mediterranean Sea, Corsica is a French island, strongly influenced by its close neighbour Italy (it was once ruled by the Genoese, and the larger island of Sardinia). It has its very own distinct culture and history as well as an incredibly diverse landscape. From dense forests, jagged mountains and pristine beaches with blue, blue bays, Corsica is mostly inhabited along the coast and is covered by high mountains with a variety of walking trails. The walking is not easy, it involves some rather steep ups and downs with rocky paths and stone steps but it is rewarding with glistening sea views and ancient hilltop towns. The higher you travel the more you discover the Moorish heritage of Corsica, with ancient settlements constructed far away from the marauding pirates that once ruled the seas. This beautiful Mediterranean jewel offers a wealth of wonderful walks, a colourful history and an authentic Corsican charm.

Holiday highlights include walks on the Revellata Peninsula with views of Calvi Bay and Corsica's towering mountains, discovering the heart of the Balagne area with its beautiful villages and following the world-famous GR20 long distance route through the mountains.

Departs: 19th April; 3rd May; 11th October, 2020

Tour includes: 7 nights in a comfortable hotel room with ensuite bathroom, 7 breakfasts, 7 evening meals, experienced walks leader guiding walks on 5 days, local transport to/from the walks and between centres, arrival/departure transfers from/to Bastia airport at set times. For more information see: <https://bit.ly/32WSbjk>

FRANCE – LOIRE CANALS, CASTLES & SANCERRE VINEYARDS

8-days / 7-nights easy to moderate cycling on a **STANDARD PLUS** barge, from Briare to Nevers or v.v.



Explore the Loire Valley in the heart of France, located between the cities of Briare and Nevers. Follow the flow of the Loire River with easy-to-moderate cycling through the green countryside with little villages, Renaissance castles and palaces, through seemingly endless vineyards and stop for a Wine-tasting in the region of Sancerre and the Pouilly Fumé wines. This cycling cruise includes all meals and ensuite cabin accommodation onboard a traditional style hotel barge with chance to sample the local cuisine that makes this region so famous. For more information see: <https://bit.ly/31MRdoW>

SWEDEN & DENMARK: STOCKHOLM TO COPENHAGEN

8 days / 7 nights SELF GUIDED inn-to-inn easy to moderate cycling tour of coasts & castles



Discover the UNESCO listed royal palace at Drottningholm, the fascinating archipelago of Gothenburg, the Kattlegatt bike path, nature reserves alive with birdlife, unique regional cuisine and culinary highlights, the waterfront cityscape of cosmopolitan Stockholm, an archipelago of 14 islands on Lake Mälaren, and finally the Nordic capital, Copenhagen, a city famed for its cycling infrastructure. Ride on well sign-posted cycle paths, gravel roads and quiet backroads on bikes that are ideally suited to the terrain. The route is mostly flat, with few sections that are seldom undulating and as you approach the cities, short sections of the ride are on busier roads with more traffic. For more information see: <https://bit.ly/2ML4sT5>

FRANCE – ALSACE LORRAINE AND THE RHINE-MARNE CANAL

8-days/7-nights easy to moderate guided cycling on a **STANDARD PLUS** barge, Nancy to Strasbourg

This region has a mixed French German history and culture was much fought over in many wars but today is a centre for European reconciliation and unification with the European Union Parliament and the European Court of Human Rights both in Strasbourg. Starting in the beautiful city of Nancy in the Lorraine, we follow the impressive Rhine-Marne Canal all the way to the Strasbourg. Strasbourg is a Rhine River border town, showcasing the Franco-German heritage of the region and its mix of cultures offers great examples of wine and beer making, as well as a varied cuisine which is unique to the region.

For more information see: <https://bit.ly/35ZWbCl>



HOLLAND OR THE NETHERLANDS?

Did you ever wonder which is the right name for the land of windmills, clogs and tulips?

Well, you're not alone...

The official name for the home of the Dutch is the Koninkrijk der Nederlanden (Kingdom of the Netherlands), which is usually just shortened to Nederland (or The Netherlands). The word 'Netherlands' is a Germanic term for *lowlands*. The area has been referred to as 'low' in many languages by non-Dutch people since Roman times. A pretty accurate description considering the region is barely higher than sea level, if not below it!

Holland on the other hand, started out as a county in the north-west corner of the modern Dutch nation back in the 11th century, ruled by the Count of Holland. As the centuries passed this county became a province, losing the Count but keeping the name.

During the Golden Age of the Dutch Republic, from the 16th to 18th Centuries, Holland was the most politically and economically active of all Dutch provinces. Ships sailed all over the world from its ports, and famous painters such as Rembrandt and Vermeer lived in important cities like Amsterdam, Delft, Leiden, Rotterdam and The Hague.

It was thanks to this province's international reputation that 'Holland' was adopted abroad as a misnomer, or inaccurate name, for the entire Dutch nation. Thus, through common use in other countries, the name Holland came to informally represent the Dutch region in general.

Today, Holland as an official province doesn't even exist anymore. What happened to it? In 1840 Holland was split to become North Holland and South Holland. Ask the locals yourself, our Bike & Barge trips for next year are filling up quickly. See: <https://bit.ly/35Krhxl>

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

A STOP ON THE WAY

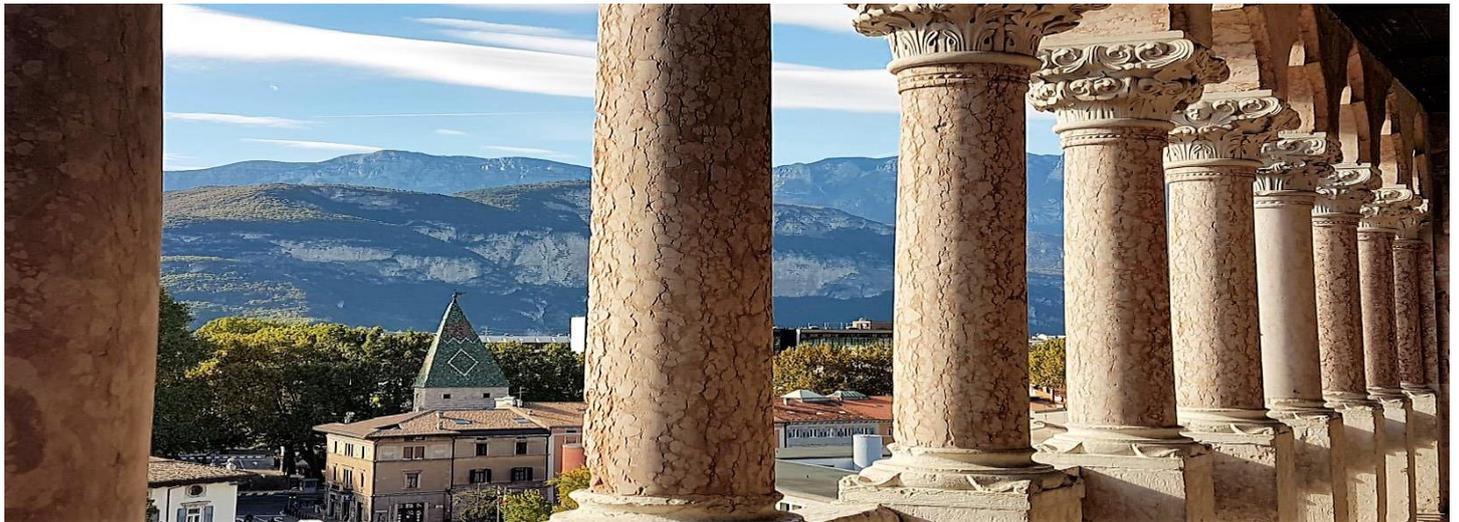
Some of our favourite places, well worth an extended stopover

TRENTO IN ITALY

Cycling from Bolzano to Venice in Italy

From the foothills of the Alps to the sea this is rapidly becoming an iconic ride passing through such wonderful places as Trento, Riva on Lake Garda, Verona, Vicenza - home of the architect Andrea Palladio whose style influenced many classical buildings across Europe, in England and North America - on the way to Venice. It is easy to see why a stop in Trento is a must.

For more details of the ride see: <https://bit.ly/2luJ9du>



PISTOIA IN ITALY

Cycling from Pisa to Florence in Italy

Nothing finer than cycling from the leaning tower of Pisa to the Ponte Vecchio in the centre of Florence. A postcard-worthy landscape of terraced vineyards, silvery-green olive groves, hills topped medieval villages, with mostly flat backroads lined with cypress trees with a history that has inspired many artists, architects, composers, inventors and painters for centuries.

Along the way see the pretty little medieval city of Pistoia, sitting snugly at the foot of the Apennines. Pistoia recently earned its status as the European City of Culture - with its Piazza del Duomo, dominated by a 5th Century cathedral and ancient city walls. Its historic centre is incredibly well preserved and stands guardian to striking contemporary art. Easy to see why a stop in Pistoia is a must.

For details of the ride see: <https://bit.ly/2ndryHj>



PORTO IN PORTUGAL



Whether walking or cycling along the Camino de Santiago - from Porto to Santiago - then the city of Porto offers a culture break and a breath of fresh air. Whether it is one of the old Port houses or JK Rowling's favourite bookshop, whether it is the romantic tram rides, the rocky beaches or those wonderful custard tarts, make sure you allow a day or two to see more of this historic city.

Walking: <https://bit.ly/2n3PIId4>

Cycling: <https://bit.ly/2n2DBaN>

More of both: <https://bit.ly/2Wp1wOs>

ON THE RIVER DANUBE

Cycle to the Schlägener Loop from Vienna

Without doubt one of the most popular long distance cycling route, the Donau Radweg is a purpose built off-road trail. Flat, with a mostly sealed surface the scenery is spectacular with picturesque villages, vineyards, ruined castles and an ever changing landscape of forests and fields. There are plenty of places of interests along the way, including ferry crossings and historic towns.

Early bookings are essential for 2020

Passau to Budapest Bike & Boat: <https://bit.ly/2mzs5Un>

Passau to Belgrade Bike & Ship: <https://bit.ly/2mzwCpR>

Passau to Vienna Bike & Ship: <https://bit.ly/2JZjtyF>

Passau to Vienna Inn-to-Inn: <https://bit.ly/2myACqF>

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ALBEROBELLO – PUGLIA ITALY

Puglia is a rural region near the 'heel' of Southern Italy. Fringed by the azure Ionian and Adriatic seas, the gentle rolling countryside offers wide open views across the plains and snow-capped mountains. Puglia offers ancient culture, deep-held local traditions, beautiful weather, Mediterranean cuisine and the warmth and hospitality of the people, which captivate you and leave unforgettable memories.

Once one of Italy's best-kept secrets, Alberobello is a quaint little village in the region of Puglia with the largest concentration of Trulli, (over 1400 concentrated in the town). Trulli are limestone dwellings that are remarkable examples of prehistoric dry-stone wall construction. There is an explosion of colour everywhere you look with many vineyards, olive trees and ancient farmhouses. It is easily one of our favourite spots at the moment, and you will see why.

For more details on Walking see: <https://bit.ly/2JWqFeZ> or self-guided Cycling see: <https://bit.ly/32mSnli>



WHERE NEXT FOR A HOLIDAY?

Some of our top choices for 2020

CYCLING WALKING OR KAYAKING IN CROATIA



There are hundreds of sun-drenched islands, the pearls of Southern Dalmatia, ideal for an early season active holiday. Leaving from Dubrovnik, Split or Pula on the Istrian Peninsula near to the border with Italy, there are plenty of ways to explore this country regarded by many as 'old Europe'. Bike & Boat cycling cruises are a favourite.

For more Details - see: <https://bit.ly/2qJsy4K>

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AFRICA – LUXURY SAFARI & CRUISING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

9-day/8-night Safari & Premium Plus Cruising Holiday South Africa, Botswana, Namibia & Zimbabwe



Explore Southern Africa for a once-in-a-lifetime experience in luxurious lodges, and on board a new ship designed to provide an intimate look at the nature. This holiday, combines land and water in a unique and unforgettable in-depth exploration of South Africa, Botswana, Namibia & Zimbabwe, including safari, cruising on a luxury hotel boat, and guided touring.



Highlights include a visit to Johannesburg, the largest city in the centre of South Africa. Travel to the Chobe National Park in Botswana, staying in a luxurious safari lodge on an island in the Zambezi River. See elephant, hippo, crocodile and many of the park's bird species. Visit islands on the Zambezi River to learn more of the local customs and culture. Spend three nights on-board a PREMIUM PLUS hotel boat on Lake Kariba, discovering the lake's tributaries and gorges. See Matusadona National Park, a sanctuary for the endangered black rhino, enjoy a tour of Victoria Falls, one of the world's largest, spectacular waterfalls.

For more details see: <https://bit.ly/2pCDXXb>



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ANZAC SERVICE IN THE SOMME REGION OF FRANCE



The Australian Government's Department of Veterans' Affairs will conduct the Anzac Day Service in 2020 in Villers-Bretonneux, in the Somme region of France.

Visitors planning to attend the commemorations on Saturday 25th April 2020 are required to register for an attendance pass. Attendance pass registrations for Anzac Day 2020 are not yet available and details will be made available on the website: <https://bit.ly/2kDpsjq>

Outdoor Travel's Bike & Barge cycling cruises from Bruges to Paris through the Somme - with an opportunity to visit the Anzac sites. First departure is 2nd May, early bookings are essential - see: <https://bit.ly/2k14Elk>

EUROPEAN SELF-SKIPPERED MOTOR CRUISING HOLIDAYS

EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNTS FOR 2020*

With 17 destinations in 8 countries around Europe and the UK, a self-skipped motor cruising holiday is ideal for a couple, a group of friends or a family. Explore the waterways in comfort, no experience or licence required and a wide choice of self-contained, fully equipped boats to suit everyone's needs.



There are so many benefits to booking early. Save with the Early Booking Discount, have your pick of boat, destination and dates before they sell out and fly cheaper by booking your airfares at the best prices.

2020 Special Early Bird Offers – valid for sale to 1st December 2019*

5% discount on all cruises on Horizons boats

10% discount on all cruises on Visions, Royal Mystique & Mystique boats

15% discount on all cruises on Comfort & Budget category boats

* Valid across all destinations and all 2020 departure dates - conditions apply to all our offers - ask us for full details when making your reservation.

See the current brochure: <https://bit.ly/2zOeXNM> See indicative prices: <https://bit.ly/2kAwISB>

**LUXURY HOTEL BARGING IN EUROPE
HUGE SAVINGS ON CABINS AND SELECTED CHARTERS**



Luxury hotel barge cruises offer an intimate, house-party atmosphere and access to small canals and rivers that the large cruise ships just can't navigate. These luxury holidays are all-inclusive; prices include accommodation in a comfortable and spacious air-conditioned cabin; all meals, with gourmet cuisine prepared by an onboard master chef; a fully stocked open bar; and unique daily escorted excursions.

The crew on these hotel barges are experienced, attentive and highly professional and their service is top-notch. Each barge in the fleet has been carefully designed and fitted out with utmost attention to detail to provide luxury boutique accommodation from 4 to 20 passengers. These barges are also perfect for a group of family or friends to charter for exclusive use and enjoy their own bespoke private cruise.

SAVINGS ON 2020 CRUISE BOOKINGS MADE AND DEPOSITED BY 6TH JANUARY 2020

10% off per charter on cruises in the Burgundy, Bordeaux, Canal du Midi & Loire Valley regions of France

10% off per charter on cruises in Holland, Italy & Scotland

10% off per cabin on cruises in Burgundy, Champagne, Canal du Midi and Paris regions of France

10% off per cabin on cruises in Holland & Italy

* Offers valid for new bookings made and deposited before 6th January 2020. Terms and conditions apply for NEW bookings only - subject to availability, on selected barges and departures only. Cannot be combined with any other hotel barging offers.

Dates and prices for 2020: <https://bit.ly/2OhRNbb> See the European Waterways – Go Barging brochure: <https://bit.ly/2MSckVK>

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BIKE & BARGE CHARTERS FOR 2021

Have you ever thought about chartering a barge with a group of friends, your local cycling group or the extended family? Our boats fill up very quickly for the season, so we are now taking early bookings and new enquiries for 2021!

See more information of our tours here: <https://bit.ly/2WZplx4> or give us a call more details.



WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT OUR HOLIDAYS

MY WALKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT



"We started in the Lake District and it remains a highlight. We really enjoyed it, especially the walking tour and the options available.

Derwent Bank manor house was incredible in all respects, the house itself, the conservatory, the beautiful gardens and Derwent Water lakeside location. The management and staff were friendly and superefficient and the food quality top quality, focussed on local produce.

Thanks for your advice upgrade our room to have lake views. It was well worth the extra \$. The evening activities were also a treat. Only downside was, due to a fairly late booking, we only got the four night/three day version as opposed to the full week

We look forward to Outdoor Travel's advice and assistance with our next trip." Peter

For details: <https://bit.ly/2IVL6zj>

OUR WALKING HOLIDAY IN THE DORDOGNE, FRANCE



"..back from my trip and wanted to give you some feedback now that I'm over the jet lag. All the different bits were wonderful, especially the Dordogne walk.

We really should have taken a bit longer on the walk. It was quite tough, especially in 35 degree heat! The villages were gorgeous and on the whole the hotels very good. The only disappointment was my room in Rocamadour, 2.7m x 2.7m, no AC, 36 degrees and an awful bed. The highlight was Loubressac, which was truly beautiful. We all thought the indicative times for the daily walks were very optimistic. We seem to take at least an extra hour every day. It was all fabulous and recommended." Regards, Jennifer

For details of this walk see: <https://bit.ly/2kS7ABi>

OUR EUROPEAN ADVENTURE - TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY



Thank you for organising such a wonderful trip for us! We had an amazing seven weeks together experiencing some very diverse parts of Europe.

Every aspect of the whole trip was seamless due to your excellent suggestions and preparation. You made the whole process of putting together our special holiday an absolute pleasure! We will not hesitate in singing your praises to anyone who asks.

I have included a few snaps of our highlights, outside Muiderslot riding from Bruges to Amsterdam Bike and Barge, Jungfrauoch on the Swiss Rail Tour, enjoying the delights of Tuscany in the courtyard of the holiday house in Pescia, and the back deck of the Aramara Pusuit in Kotor, Montenegro.

It was hard to pick highlights as everything was wonderful! Again, thank you for everything. It was a spectacular holiday! – David, Tania, John & Kerry

WALKING & SIGHTSEEING CHINA - FROM BEIJING TO HONG KONG



"Thank you so much for all the work you and the OUTDOOR TRAVEL team did behind the scenes in putting our China Walking Tour together. The addition of a National Guide topped it all off and we had an amazing trip. To then end the tour in the Regal Hotel in Hong Kong with Executive Club privileges was a perfect way to transition from just completing over 160klms of walking, to heading back to our real worlds. They were all super accommodating and couldn't do enough for us.

Our guide Charles was a major contributor to the overall experience as we literally turned our brains off and just took in all the tour had to offer. Charles took care of all the daily organisation from meals to tickets for transport and shows and making sure we were informed about everything we may see and experience. He was amazing. Thank you for the suggestion. I would highly recommend a national guide for the value they bring to the tour group. Due to Charles travelling with us 24/7 he very quickly became familiar with our likes and capabilities so he was able to adjust the days ahead accordingly without leaving anything off the itinerary and keeping the whole group happy.



The trip proved to be a stretch for most of us. We chose the tour more because it 'wasn't a bus tour'; not because it was a walking tour. We weren't prepared for the number of steps we walked each day, the steep hills and all the stairs up and down the wall and the mountains. We each thought that if we knew what it was like prior to booking, we may not have booked. But all of us are really glad we did and have come back with a huge sense of achievement. Charles' favorite saying was always that we were with 'OUTDOOR TRAVEL' not INDOOR TRAVEL'. He was also very encouraging and motivating. You probably realise this was our first walking tour.

The trip was always action packed. Not much time for rest or shopping, but we managed both. We all yearned for just one day without shoes on. There were many highlights and each day had its own. Some days we felt like the only people in the country, on top of the world. Other days we were on a subway with all the rest of the people in the country.

The trip exceeded expectations. We saw things and met people that we wouldn't have if we went on a generic bus tour of China. We heard stories and listened to the history from a guide that was a great storey teller. It has firmly entrenched itself as one of the best holidays we have been on.

If I was to change any part of the itinerary, I would take out the museum at Shanghai. All of us hung out on seats or in the café for the 1 ½ hours to give our feet a break. We really aren't museum type of people, plus we had Charles with us who told us stories about the Chinese history which is so much more interesting than

reading them on small plaques. I believe there maybe some 'knock off markets' or even a river cruise would probably have suited us better.

Even though we didn't stop, we got to experience everything from buses to subways, to bullet trains, internal flights, bikes, rafts and of course hiking. The food was also a highlight with shared meals each night and even a hot lunch waiting for us on the Great Wall on our 3rd day. That was amazing." - Leonie & Family

For details on the trip, see: <https://bit.ly/2PPJAMi>

AIRFARES FOR 2020



Most airlines have now released availability for flights to Europe in September and October 2020.

With 30 years of experience Outdoor Travel has access to a wide range of airlines and airfares to destinations around the world. We offer Economy fares, Premium Economy (with more legroom), Mixed Class (where you fly the short sectors in Economy Class and long sectors in Business Class), Business Class or First Class airfares to destinations such as the United Kingdom and Europe, New Zealand, Vietnam, the USA or Canada and more.

Give Yvette or Sera a call directly on (03) 57 501044 or email on fares@outdoortravel.com.au

[Click here for all tours](#)

OUTDOOR TRAVEL – YOUR ACTIVE TRAVEL COMPANY

Don't quote us, as the numbers are changing all the time but we currently offer over **800 active holidays** worldwide with an amazing 151 different **Bike & Barge** routes with over 68 different barges or boats in 18 different countries mostly in Europe. You will find 257 **guided or self-guided walking tours** in 28 different countries and 115 **inn-to-inn cycling tours** in 17 countries mostly in Europe but also in Japan, China, Vietnam, South Africa, New Zealand, the USA and Canada.

For **boating** enthusiasts we offer 37 **hotel barge** itineraries on 25 different barges and 182 **self-skipped motor cruiser** destinations in Europe and in the UK a fleet of 44 different **narrowboats** at 16 different bases. There are itineraries for **sea kayaking, horse riding**, holiday apartments, **cooking** courses, wildlife **safaris** or expeditions in many countries around the world.

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