

**OUTDOOR TRAVEL**



## **OUTLINES TRAVEL NEWS**

**January 2020**

**See our latest travel news, savings & new ideas**

If you are seeing our e-newsletter for the first time, welcome, and if you are a regular reader, welcome back. If you are interested in past copies they are stored on our website: <https://bit.ly/1NR5eqK>. To change your address, add the name of a friend or to stop receiving this material please contact us.

## **BIKE & BARGE CYCLING CRUISE OFFERS IN FRANCE \***

**Cycle from Burgundy to Provence & save \$800 per person on select dates**

Explore the UNESCO World Heritage listed city of Lyon, with its cultural heritage that dates back over 2000 years. See Vienne and the Île au Beurre nature reserve, the Côte Rôtie with farmland, rolling pastures and the woodlands of the Ardèche. Cruise to Valance with its colourful markets. Cycle to Pouzin in the Drôme area and visit the medieval abbey of Cruas. Cross the rope bridge in Rochemaure, stroll through the historic village of Viviers. Cruise to Saint-Etienne-des-Sorts and ride into the famous wine region of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. In historic Avignon visit the Pope's Palace. Follow in the footsteps of Van Gogh as we ride to Beaucaire, where the Languedoc and Provence regions meet, then explore the Roman history of Arles.

Lyon to Arles 21<sup>st</sup> March & 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Arles to Lyon 28<sup>th</sup> March & 11<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Low season rates from \$2985 (less \$800) per person twin share in a Soleil Suite - PREMIUM PLUS barge

**Details:** <https://bit.ly/2Ld4VfD>

\* Offer is limited to available to first 30 cabins & conditions apply – ask for details



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

## BIKE & BARGE CYCLING CRUISE OFFERS IN FRANCE \*

On new 2020 bookings between Burgundy & Provence - Save \$800 per person on selected dates:



Lyon to Arles 21<sup>st</sup> March & 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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## AUSTRALIA: HIKE TASMANIA'S FREYCINET & SAVE

Save 15% off selected guided walks in January 2020 \* Singles are welcome.



The Freycinet Experience Walk is a four-day guided walk covering the entire length of the Freycinet Peninsula on Tasmania's East Coast three hours' drive from Hobart. Four days of blissful immersion in nature with three

nights of stylish accommodation at the secluded Friendly Beaches Lodge set in 130 acres of private property surrounded by the Freycinet National Park, the only building on Friendly Beaches: a truly pristine location. Boat and vehicle transfers included to the heart of the exquisite Freycinet National Park, the untamed jewel of Tasmania's East Coast, including Wineglass Bay and Schouten Island.

Includes: All gourmet food and wine, use of day-packs and waterproof jackets, 2 experienced and knowledgeable guides, lodge hosts providing incredible food and National Parks Pass.

Details: <https://bit.ly/35pvOFd>

Book now - places limited \* Conditions apply - new bookings only

## WHAT'S NEW FROM OUTDOOR TRAVEL?

Always researching new ways to be active in NEW destinations

## MONTENEGRO – GUIDED WALKING HOLIDAY

8 days / 8 nights – Kotor Bay, Lake Skadar & the Adriatic Coast



Explore the smallest and newest of the Balkan countries Montenegro. Walk in the beautiful Lovcen National Park, pass traditional villages and take a boat on Lake Skadar, one of the largest lakes in Europe, home to 40 different kinds of fish and 270 different bird species. Stay in a hotel directly overlooking the beach and surrounded by olive and orange trees at Petrovac. From here enjoy a week of guided walking holiday with a choice of grades each day exploring coastline towns and the nearby mountains.

The dramatic Kotor Bay, on the Adriatic, is surrounded by the massifs of the Dinaric Alps and is lined with medieval and Venetian-era villages. Other highlights include the Blue Grotto, St Tryphon's Cathedral and Mount Orjen, providing a variety of activities and sightseeing possibilities over the course of your holiday.

Details: <https://bit.ly/36XVuJP>

## ROMANIA: BUCHAREST & TRANSYLVANIA

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



Tucked away in the eastern corner of Europe, Romania is world of beauty with rocky mountainous landscapes, medieval towns, rolling hills and dense forests. What better way to uncover the beauty and its incredible history than on a multi-centre walking holiday. From the diverse architecture of bustling Bucharest, nicknamed the *'little Paris'* because of its French style buildings, to wonderful walks in the Transylvanian Hills, you'll be amazed at every turn. Visit the home of the fabled Count Dracula and the fairy-tale like Bran Castle. See fascinating medieval towns and wooded mountains, the Romanian countryside are home to a rich variety of flora and fauna.

Details: <https://bit.ly/34waxrT>

## CANADA – INN-TO-INN CYCLING IN THE FOOTHILLS OF MONTRÉAL

6-days / 5-nights – self-guided inn-to-inn cycling in the foothills of the Appalachians east of Montréal



Step back into history and absorb the unique French European ambience at the heart of southern Québec's Eastern Townships, in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Discover a land of enchanting forests, vineyards, orchards and lakes. Cycle paths weave throughout the region, passing covered bridges, wooden round barns and sugar shacks. Explore art galleries, studios and antique shops in picture-perfect villages. Stay each night in first-class accommodation offering local hospitality and fine food.

Departs any date between 15<sup>th</sup> May - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

Details: <https://bit.ly/2rRFI9y>

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

## PORTUGAL & SPAIN - CYCLING THE CAMINO PORTUGUÉS

7-days / 6-nights inn-to-inn GUIDED, supported cycle touring from Porto to Santiago de Compostela



An easy to moderate cycling tour starting in the UNESCO listed Porto, following the historic roads and paths, including the Via XIX, built in 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD, which link the cities of Braga and Astorga through Ponte de Lima, Tui, Pontevedra, Santiago and Lugo. This was one of the most relevant Roman roads ever built. We discover the wild Atlantic beauty and sandy beaches of northern Portugal and southern Spain, visiting the Cies Islands National Park with its "best beach in the world". See Viana do Castelo, Caldas de Rey and the famous Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

Details: <https://bit.ly/36Q62Ky>

## FRANCE – BRITTANY & PINK GRANITE CÔTES-D'ARMOR

7-day / 6-nights inn-to-inn **SELF-GUIDED** walk from Lannion including visit to Bréhat Island



This holiday offers easy walking in the heart of the relatively untouristed Côtes-d'Armor, where the pink granite has been sculpted by eons of weather and waves into fantastical shapes contrasting starkly with turquoise water and white sand beaches. The area is full of intriguing relics of Neolithic humans and of Brittany's Celtic heritage, including menhirs and dolmens. Part of your route follows in the footsteps of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century customs officers on the *Sentier des Douaniers*, created in 1791 to help prevent smuggling of textiles, salt, tobacco, wine and brandy. The path fell into disrepair in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century; it was restored in 1968 and incorporated into the Grand Randonnée (long-distance footpath) GR34, which runs along the entire Breton coastline from Mont St Michel to the mouth of the Loire at St-Nazaire.

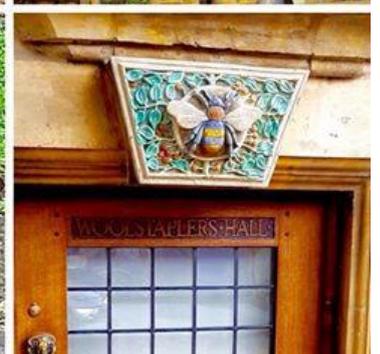
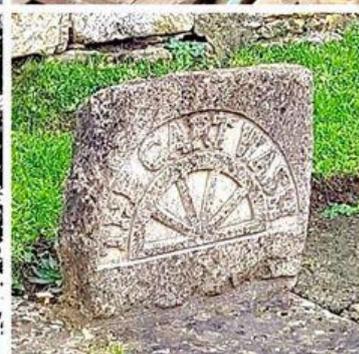
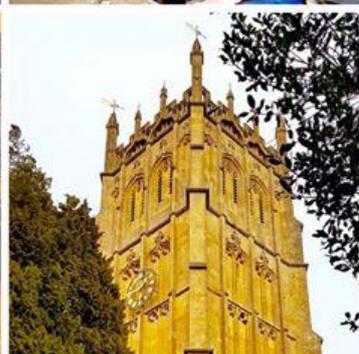
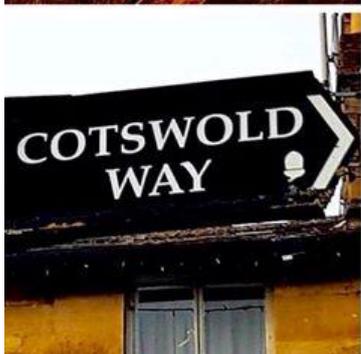
Details: <https://bit.ly/2M92WZX>

# STOP ON THE WAY

Some of our favourite places, well worth an extended stopover

## CHIPPING CAMPDEN, UK

Hiking in the English Cotswolds



This delightful village near Stratford Upon Avon and Bourton on the Water in the English Midlands has a long and rich history. Founded on wool in the Middle Ages the preserved sandstone buildings reflect an age of great prosperity with the once great manor house the rival of the chateaux of France. Search for the cart wheel wash, the covered market place, fine merchant's houses and Wool-staplers hall. Climb the stairs to the workshop of the silversmiths or visit one of the numerous cafes, restaurants, antique shops and fine art galleries

The nearby waymarked Cotswold Way trail follows river valleys and a dramatic sandstone escarpment from Chipping Campden to Bath.

Details: <https://bit.ly/338LeMM>

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## KRAKOW, POLAND



The Tatras Mountains to the south, are just under two hours by car, bus or train from this former capital of Polonia. It is a city expanding rapidly as the country enjoys an economic boom but at its heart is a veritable fairyland of ornate, dramatic building, quaint cafes, bars and restaurants, a red-brick castle overlooking the river, antique shops, curio stalls and market square full of life for young and old.

See Krakow and hike the alpine peaks and meadows based in a charming hotel in Zakopane:

Details: <https://bit.ly/2WX0vxP>

## FERRARA, ITALY

**Bike & Barge from Venice to Mantova**

Off the beaten tourist trail this Renaissance delight offers daily markets, a bustling town centre full of classic Italian architecture and a 9km cycle trail around the longest intact city walls in Europe. Not Ferrari nor Carrara, this colourful gem is just one of the places of interest in this popular.

Cycling cruise information see: <https://bit.ly/31SVXJE>



## CYCLING THE DUNAJEC VALLEY, POLAND

Billed as the new 'Danube' route

Discover a huge infrastructure investment in a designated cycling trail in Lesser Poland near Krakow and the border with Slovakia with newly constructed bridges and safety barriers, plenty of signage and a route app and maps.

Even in the rains of Autumn this is a spectacular trail - about 60% of which is off-road and sealed - through pretty gorges, beside lakes, past hilltop castles, historic cities and picture perfect villages of wooden houses. The route is flat, well signed, easy to follow and varied. Accommodation pre-booked and luggage transferred by our local partners.

These pictures were taken at the end of the cycling season in late autumn yet the region has a great charm. The season runs from May to September each year with guided or self-guided cycling tours.

Details: <https://bit.ly/2NKdFdq>

## CYCLING THE DUNAJEC VALLEY, POLAND



What to look for in Poland: Pierogi are filled dumplings of Central and Eastern European origin, made by wrapping unleavened dough around a savoury or sweet filling and cooking in boiling water, or pan-frying.

They are served almost everywhere along with a wonderful selection of cream buns and cakes (look out for the queues at specially constructed holes in the bakery windows through which the cakes are sold). One type of bun was a particular favourite of the Polish Pope, Pope John Paul II, (known as Kremówka Papieska), a fact much celebrated and these are sold widely in the Krakow area.

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## LUXURY HOTEL BARGING versus RIVER CRUISING - YOU CHOOSE



### Take a look at the advantages:

- See a different side to a country – cruise on smaller waterways that are inaccessible to large river cruisers
- You're a V.I.P with a maximum capacity of 12 on most barges, will enjoy a high level of personal service
- Quickly build a warm rapport with our conscientious crew
- Have it your way – barges can be privately chartered for family getaways, celebrations and special interest groups such as golf, wine tasting and cycling
- Dine on local specialities, visit private, historical places of interest far from the crowds, meet the locals for a glass of pastis and a game of petanque!
- Eager to investigate something you've spotted onshore? Just let the crew know and its highly likely you can hop off at the next lock
- No rough weather, motion sickness, or days at sea – most canals are tranquil, managed waterways not impacted by weather, tides or drought.

### And if you are interested in a themed cruise we have cabins available on these activities for 2020:

- 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020      Fan of a wee dram then our Whisky Trail cruise aboard Scottish Highlander is a true taste of the good life
- 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020      Seasoned connoisseur or budding enthusiast, our Wine Appreciation cruise aboard L'Impressionniste in Burgundy has something for everyone.
- 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020      Pack your clubs and head to the highlands for a Golf Cruise aboard Spirit of Scotland
- 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020      A magical, musical, operatic adventure aboard La Bella Vita in Italy

Other dates and themes to follow - contact us for details on (03) 57 501441

See the brochure: <https://bit.ly/2CZpW8S>

See when and how much: <https://bit.ly/2XvEerm>

Read a short story: <https://bit.ly/2XyF6eC>

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## DESIGNATED COUNTRY HOUSES FOR WALKERS IN BRITAIN



When you plan a walking holiday in Britain take advantage of some of the most wonderful locations and at one of 19 different country houses set up just for walkers.

Each has a boot and drying room, comfortable lounges with activities in the evening, bar and dining room and a map room where you can plan the routes around. Most have grounds and gardens where you can relax.

Each offers a choice of up to three different levels of guided walking each day and access to some of the finest walking trails. Each offers a daily picnic lunch, full English breakfast and three-course dinner.

Come as a single, in a couple or with family or a group of friends. Bring your hiking club friends. But book early each house is popular all year round.

Details: <https://bit.ly/2OhyOwU>

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## NICE – FRANCE

Did you know Nice in France offers access to whales, wolves, wine & walking?



The city of Nice is a well-known and much enjoyed Mediterranean holiday destination. But did you know you can take a zodiac trip in the morning to see one of the world's most spectacular whale sanctuaries, take lunch in a typical Provençal restaurant near the city's flower market and in the afternoon see wolves in the wild in the Mercantour National Park in the Alpes-Maritimes?

The Pelagos Sanctuary is a marine area of 87,500 sq. km between Italy, Monaco and France. It is estimated to contain over 8,500 macroscopic animal species (@ 4 % - 18 % of global marine species) including Fin Whales, the second largest in the whale family after the Blue Whale.

The population of wolves in the wild has been steadily growing in France and there are over 300 wolves in 20-25 separate packs less than 100km from Nice.

Walking is a great way to see Nice and its surrounding clifftop balcony villages. Again within a short distance from the city centre the GR51 National Walking Trail takes you from Menton to Nice via Monte Carlo.

Details: <https://bit.ly/37toLN7>

## BOND, JAMES....

You are about to be bombarded by news and trailers for the new 007 movie that was made in part in the spectacular ancient city of Matera in southern Italy. Believe me, it is a place well worth visiting and truly, trulli, memorable, it should not be missed.

Research last year helped create a cycling itinerary that will show you this region's two UNESCO listed sites, Alberobello and Matera. Leaving the "Sassi" rock caves and stone houses, over a week ride to the Itria Valley, the Valley of the Trulloes with its thousands of "trulli", limestone dwellings. See vineyards, olive groves too, ancient farmhouses and the natural oasis of San Giuliano Lake.

Apulia and Basilicata cycling - see: <https://bit.ly/2Lpd2FU>



## NARROWBOATING IN ENGLAND



The Grand Union Canal skirts around Warwick, a county town famous for its magnificent castle and historic charm. Take a week's holiday from either Gayton or Rugby Marina and moor at Bridge 49 a short walk from the heart of Warwick.

Discover Britain's waterways onboard a fully self-contained, self-drive traditional narrowboat. Ideal for couples, friends or family – no licence or experience required.

Details: <https://bit.ly/2OKah3O>

## HIKE ENGLAND C2C

For those planning to walk the Coast to Coast (C2C) route in 2020 there are still a few places left on the GUIDED walk dates. All the 15 and 17-day guided C2C walk dates are available but not many single rooms left. Places for singles who are happy to share a room available on all dates.

England – Coast to Coast challenging 15-day GUIDED inn-to-inn walk 2020 - see: <https://bit.ly/35C0Md8>

England – Wainwright's Coast to Coast 17-day GUIDED inn-to-inn walk 2020 - see: <https://bit.ly/38uKwwB>

England – Wainwright's Coast to Coast from St Bees to Whitby - the 16-day trip the May date is fully booked.

Places still available for 12th June, 10th July, 14th August, 11th September 2020 - see: <https://bit.ly/2PGku0I>



It is coming to the busy UK booking season and places will sell out on all these trips fairly soon - let us know if we can hold a places for you

## NEW DIRECT SERVICE TO BELGIAN CAPITAL

Singapore Airlines launches a new direct service to Brussels



Services from Australia to Singapore will connect with Brussels flights 4 times a week starting on October 25 next year on new Airbus A350-900 aircraft.

This will be the 20<sup>th</sup> European city connected by SQ to Changi Airport and is ideal for those planning Bike & Barge cycling cruises from Bruges to Paris, Bruges to Amsterdam or to Western Flanders.

Bike & Barge Paris to Bruges see: <https://bit.ly/36MFqdm>

Bruges to Amsterdam: <https://bit.ly/2M6w989>

Western Flanders: <https://bit.ly/2Z5XX1w>

## IRELAND - WALK THE ATLANTIC WAY



Magical scenes as you follow the Famine Road past potato fields and picturesque fishing villages. See the scenic village of Leenane, the seal colony and birdlife on the island of Inishbofin, the prehistoric stone forts on Inishmore and enjoy the craic at the lively city of Galway.

This is a splendid trip along Ireland's Western Atlantic coastline where as part of the trip you visit and walk two beautiful islands off the Western Coast, Inishbofin, off the coast of Connemara, and Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands off the coast of Galway.

**Details:** Self-guided walks depart every Tuesday from April to October 2020: <https://bit.ly/3464R81>

**Outdoor Travel** offers a choice of self-guided or small group guided walking or cycling holidays in Ireland – including the **Wicklow Way**, the **Dingle Peninsula** and the magical **Ring of Kerry** and also in France, Italy, England, Scotland and in other areas of Europe

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# WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT OUR HOLIDAYS

## Bike & Barge – Amsterdam to Bruges

*“Thank you for arranging our booking for the Amsterdam to Bruges Bike and Barge Tour.*

*We thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of our adventure. The accommodation on the barge and the meals provided could not be faulted. The staff were very attentive and our bike tour guide, Albert, was at all times supportive and in tune with the needs of the group. His knowledge of the areas in which were riding and the overnight towns in which we stayed added to the value of the trip.*

*We were well satisfied with this being our first venture into a guided bike and barge tour.” Sandra & Peter*

Details: <https://bit.ly/2Z8zokC>

## Bike & Barge – Amsterdam to Bruges



*“The holiday was most enjoyable and went smoothly and exactly to plan. The accommodation places you booked for us were all of appropriate standard with great locations.*

*We have nothing but praise for the Bike and Barge trip. The accommodation on the Magnifique was of a high standard. We found the meals almost unbelievably good. Nothing was too much trouble for the crew. The bikes seemed quite new and were well maintained. After the initial surprise we found the "Dutch bike" design relaxed and entirely suitable for the paths and terrain. The guides were knowledgeable about the country, local culture and the "touristy" stuff, and as well always gave us careful details about any possible challenges for the those unfamiliar with this sort of cycling.*

*The experience was so good that we are now really sold on bike touring as a way to experience other countries, especially given that popular tourist centres are now so overcrowded and commercialized.*

*We are enthusiastic enough to be seriously considering doing another European bike and barge, or something equally outdoorsy at a similar time.” Graham and Jennifer*

Details: <https://bit.ly/2Z8zokC>

## Bike & Bike Bordeaux



*"My Bordeaux Bike Barge trip was fabulous in every way despite drenching rain every day but one! The service and daily organisation was excellent, helpful staff, and the boat was very comfortable indeed. Our guide Viktor was outstanding. We had a small guided group – only 5 chose a guided cycle, all the other 40 odd were happy to go it alone self-guided and were very happy with the maps they were provided with. But I was relieved to have the personal guide! Not only did it make it much more relaxing but also he took us on some "unmarked" tracks and cycle paths which were delightful, and he had arranged to find some places open for coffee and wine tasting- that was an issue for the others riding independently as nearly everywhere outside of Bordeaux itself and Saint Etienne was closed still, too early in the season.*

*Oh the rides! Such scenery through the vineyards. My bike was brand new and adjusted daily for me by the onboard mechanic. There were more hills than I was expecting for a river cruise but loads of encouragement and I was not the only one to walk up a few of them! There was often a flat alternative.*

*My "pre tour notes" from Outdoor Travel were the envy of the others in my group - they had received nothing as detailed as these. I would do this trip every year if I could, hopefully in warmer drier weather though." Jenni*

**Details:** <https://bit.ly/36U3bAq>

## Bike & Barge Paris to Bruges 15 Day/ 14 nights

*"Many thanks for your help with our trip. We had a lovely time with Bike & Barge. Great company, excellent food and facilities. Our cycle guides were very good - knowledgeable, caring and supportive. Hugo (lead guide) took photos and video clips each day and has compiled a fantastic record of the trip (on Dropbox). Very much appreciated.*

*Neil and I aren't used to so much hopping off and on our bikes when cycle touring, so found travel with a large group (20) not something we really enjoyed. We were off the boat by 9.00am each day, and not encouraged to be back on board until 5.30pm. This was a long day, with temperatures above 30C for the first week. We found 2 other couples who were riding independently each day, so gave this a try ourselves. Unfortunately the map provided by Bike & Barge wasn't sufficiently detailed for navigation. When we used the Ride GPS app to navigate it drained our phone battery by lunchtime (should have had external power pack to recharge). if we'd known, we would have taken our Michelin map book which has every little road and village - this has worked well for us in our past cycle tours of France.*

*That said, it was great not having to pack/unpack every day (like we usually do) and to have the same bed every night! And we were introduced to some wonderful sights/sites and experiences we probably wouldn't have had without our expert guides (loved the smoked garlic festival in Arleux!)" Sue & Neil*

**Details:** <https://bit.ly/2tDEI9z>

## Isle of Skye Walking

*"I have just had a coffee with Neil - he said the Loch Ness cruise was one of the best trips they have ever done - closely followed by the Skye walk. The cruise was made all the better because they had a fantastic group but he couldn't fault the cruise. He was amazed at the quality of the food and wine, the outstanding service, the daily excursions - everything. I have booked a lot of trips for Neil and Rosemary over the last 20 years and I have never seen him so enthusiastic about a trip. They absolutely loved it.*

*The Skye experience was also fantastic - although a little hindered by the weather. The walking was a little more difficult than they expected but it didn't stop them. Their guide even took them to her home on the last day to have lunch because the weather was a bit grim - she said that was a wonderful touch from an excellent guide." Lex*

**Walking details:** <https://bit.ly/2Q7aUnT>

## Luxury Hotel Barge in France



*"My husband Fred and I did the hotel barge trip with La Panache in August this year. We had a fabulous time, all the crew looked after us so well and the food and wine was excellent. The itinerary was well planned with interesting visits to nearby villages, wineries etc.' Anita & Fred*

**Details:** <https://bit.ly/36Uu9HX>

## Moselle River Bike & Barge in Germany

*"We had a great trip. The weather was fine and warm for our whole trip, which certainly helped the enjoyment level. Now for some comments!*

*The bike and barge trip on the Zwaan was superb. The barge is really comfortable and bigger than we imagined. There was plenty of space and we didn't feel crowded. There were only 10 guests, but even with 12 it would have been fine. The captain and crew were really hospitable and nothing was too much trouble. The food was great and there was plenty of it.*

*The things that really stood out were:*

*- tea and coffee available all the time we were on board*

- we never needed to ask for things like refills on the coffee, tea etc- it just happened.
- crew were there and available each day when we returned to the barge
- you could bring your own wine onboard (there was a corkage fee), drinks were sold on an honesty system that seemed to work really well.
- Albert our guide was great- patient and ever helpful.
- the itinerary is excellent. We saw lots of different things and it is a very scenic part of the world. Others on the tour said it is much nicer than the Rhine.
- we always felt welcome and at home.
- we had some great luck on this cruise- the first night in Cochem there was a spectacular fireworks display and the Zwaan was in a prime spot. Just one of those fortuitous things, but it still makes me smile.” **Lea**

### **Moselle River Bike & Barge in Germany**



“Many thanks to Sue and the Outdoor Travel Team - we are back from our adventure up the Moselle River on the *Patria*. Despite some adverse weather and the attendant problems of drying out after rain, we had a wonderful tour up the Moselle from Koblenz to Saarburg. Our guide Dagmar did an very good job in helping us to get organised for each days efforts, along with all the other folk on board.

The Captain and crew were also cheerful and well organised for all activities and a special word for the chef who attracted a big cheer at the Captain's dinner for the quality of food throughout the tour.” **Jeff**

Details: <https://bit.ly/2Sa8nvD>

### **Tailored itinerary including Bike & Boat Croatia**

“We have just returned from the holiday you organised for us yesterday. We just wanted you to know that it was a resounding success, and we really enjoyed ourselves!

The accommodation was all very good, and the train trips went well (except for the cancellation of the Glacier Express, which was unavoidable). Our time in Bellagio was so relaxing and beautiful! We loved it, and thought “gee Croatia better be good to beat this”

We were not disappointed, the bicycle trip in Croatia was excellent! You can't compare it with the Danube bike trip on the Theodor Korner, because it couldn't be more different, but it was just as good! I was worried that Amy and James may not enjoy themselves, because I didn't know what to expect, however they LOVED IT! There were a variety of ages of guests on the trip ranging from 18 to 72, and everyone really enjoyed each other's company and had a great time! The guides were excellent and funny, and the crew all worked in together really well. The food was excellent, which was another thing I was concerned about, as James is gluten free and Amy is vegetarian, however they were both catered for really well and Amy kept saying how good the food was!

We are all so glad that we booked E bikes, as the weather was hot and sometimes humid, and the terrain was very hilly at times. Even though the longest ride was only 35 kms, it was hilly. About 70% of the guests had E bikes, and all of those people really enjoyed themselves. A few of the guests, who are usually fit and thought

they could handle using a normal bike, ended up borrowing E bikes on the last couple of days, because they weren't enjoying themselves (just thinking about the next hill, rather than enjoying the beautiful scenery).

The cycle trip was a "perfect balance of exercise, food, touring, history and relaxation" quote from Amy. We would generally bike in the morning, get hot and sweaty, enjoy the scenery and then we would get back to the boat and then swim off the back landing of the boat in the beautiful, blue sea! This followed by lunch, then touring or cruising to the next stop, as well as offers of walking tours of the towns we stopped at. We all came off the boat, agreeing that we would all like to do another cycling trip. Amy and James are already recommending it to their friends. I just thought you would like to relay some of this information to your customers." **Meredith and Julian**

Details: <https://bit.ly/2sJHyUw>

### Amalfi Coast

"I wanted to pass on some feedback - overall we had a great experience. The local provider of this trip provided a first rate holiday. Of particular note was the catering for my "Gluten Free" requirement. I note I paid a supplement for this dietary requirement, but the meal standard on the boat was fantastic. Staff were constantly checking with me that my needs were being met. Far superior to a number of 5 star hotels I visited later in my holiday.

The only criticism we had was the in the information provided about the challenge of some of the hill riding. My wife is a fit and healthy athlete (running regular 10kms runs) but found the long steep climbs a real challenge. I am a regular but only moderately fit cyclist. I was also challenged by the rides. We still had fun but would have been much better prepared had we been given the altitude charts our guide had which showed exactly the length and height of the climbs in each days ride rather than an overall climbing figure. The weather was a warm 32 so that added to the challenge of course. Future potential tour participants really do need to know a bit more about the terrain.

I note the pre trip literature also suggested it was important to take a water bottle and beach towel - both were provided by the boat crew, so lugged around unnecessarily. Finally the pre tour info stressed we should ensure we tipped the guide separately from the boat crew. Exactly the opposite was the procedure. Our guide explained this changed a couple of years earlier. Finally - thanks for bringing this tour to our attention. We loved it. The boat crew and local Guide Clemente were fantastic meeting all of our expectations and more. I would appreciate if this positive feedback was sent on to the local tour provider." **Bob and Debbie**

Details: <https://bit.ly/2Z4Davn>

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