



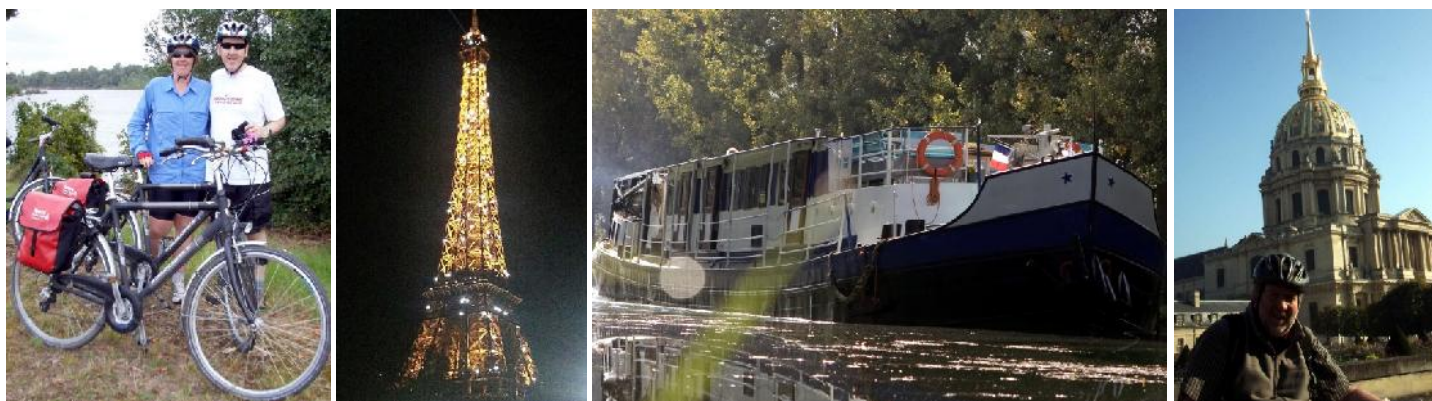
## OUTLINES TRAVEL NEWS

December 2014

For those receiving our e-newsletter for the first time, welcome. If you are interested in past copies they are stored on our website: [http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/whats\\_new\\_outlines](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/whats_new_outlines) Should you change your address or wish to add the name of a friend or stop receiving this material please contact us immediately.

## BIKE & BARGE CYCLING CRUISES

What's **NEW** – Paris Highlights easy to moderate cycling, Moret-sur-Loing to Compiègne or return



See Paris from a totally different perspective, cruising and cycling through the city and surrounding villages and countryside which inspired artists, architects, kings and emperors. This **new** tour for 2015 crosses the city of Paris from picturesque Moret-sur-Loing to Compiègne with a free day mid-way to explore the city.

Cycling along the winding rivers Seine and Oise, we visit the chateau of Fontainebleau and Chantilly through the forests of Senart and Compiègne. We see scenes that inspired Van Gogh and Sisley and many other Impressionist painters. We have a free day to explore Paris independently – you choose which sights of Paris to concentrate on be it the Eiffel Tower, one of the many museums, Notre Dame Cathedral or Sacré Coeur, the exclusive shops of the Champs Élysées or Bohemian Left Bank. Paris by night is floodlit and spectacular and we cruise through historic locks and swing bridges along a 19th Century canal.

Our cruise through the Ile de France and the city of Paris offers easy-to-moderate guided cycling, often on cycle paths and quiet roads. Well-maintained multi-gear bicycles with panniers are provided – comfortable, easy to ride and ideal for this route. There is a fascinating, varied guided cycling program with time to explore.

Our newly renovated barge on this route has 9 cabins (5 with twin split-level beds, 3 have a double bed and one cabin is for single use) for up to 17 guests. All cabins have en-suite shower/toilet and are simply furnished with two split level beds. No bunk beds on this barge. Bike & Barge cruises combine two popular ways of exploring Europe (cycling and river cruising), they allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for leisure cyclists OR cycling enthusiasts). Unpack just once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal cooked and served onboard and to a comfortable cabin to relax in.

**Cost:** \$1595 per person (twin share). \$445 Single cabin supplement (limited availability)

**Departs:** Every Saturday from 6<sup>th</sup> May to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015 (excluding 11th July)

**Starts:** Paris Gare du Nord, then transfer to Moret-sur-Loing **Ends:** Compiègne

For full details see: [http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/France\\_Bike\\_Barge\\_Paris\\_Highlights\\_h\\_2015.pdf](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/France_Bike_Barge_Paris_Highlights_h_2015.pdf)

For all tours see: [http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/OT\\_Bike\\_Barge\\_Pricelist\\_provisional\\_2015.pdf](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/OT_Bike_Barge_Pricelist_provisional_2015.pdf)

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

# BIKE & BARGING ON THE RIVERS SAAR & MOSELLE IN GERMANY

A personal perspective from Sue Texler – the Outdoor Travel Reservations Manager



On a sunny day in September, my husband, Karl & I made our way to the delightful riverside towns of Kattenes/Alken, for our week's Bike & Barge tour on the Moselle & Saar Rivers in Germany. Arriving early, we met an obliging crew, dropped our luggage on the barge and wandered off to a pretty little Gasthof (waterside pub) for our first taste of Germany and the riverside life we would enjoy for the next week.

Our group comprised 11 Aussies, Canadians and Americans, in their 50's 60's & early 70's, all fairly fit but not necessarily the Tour de France. Some were repeat Bike & Barge fans and the rest of us soon would be.

Two of us chose E-Bikes, although we probably would have been OK on normal bikes for the most part. There is a certain E-Bike-delight however, in being able to keep up with the pack, sail up hills and still be in good shape at the end of the day. There were a few more serious bikers who wanted to do some extra km's and our guide was happy to oblige them, or let them head off self-guided, but for most of us the daily distances were just right. I had intentions of staying aboard on one day to experience the 'barging', but the cycle touring was too good to miss. Luckily we were collected on one afternoon, so we did get to enjoy cruising for a bit.

The crew were excellent and very welcoming. They had the barge and the tour running like clockwork and even though it was our guide's first tour in that area, he had obviously done lots of research and showed us the most delightful trails and landscapes. The food was plentiful and exactly right for hungry cyclists with the some amazing meals at the end of every day; everything from fresh local flavours, pastries and breads to dinner with a Moroccan theme and a gala dinner complete with Black Forest Torte. Of course the bar on board was well stocked also!

Our barge for the week came with an interesting maritime history and a friendliness lacking in some of the big river ships. That made it endearingly personal and still well appointed, with lovely sunlit areas to sit both in the lounge and up on deck. As we had delightful, sunny weather, we took maximum advantage of the on-deck table and chairs. Our cabin was small and cosy, with everything we needed, including comfy lower beds and an excellent shower which worked a treat after a day in the saddle.

Most of the tour for the week was on bike paths or bike lanes on the side of roads - our guide Bert was excellent at choosing the quieter routes. The bike paths were very popular with other cyclists, hikers and dog walkers and the group quickly developed a system of alerting calls. Of course villages represented a whole new challenge, but within a couple of days we had traffic, people and the savage danger of stone kerbs all sorted out.

The Moselle section of the tour was a plethora of immaculate, flower festooned villages, vine-clad hillsides, the lovely river, and perfectly manicured riverside parks and gardens. Everything was so green and it was amazing how steep and high upon the slopes the grapevines are planted. We were also impressed at the masses of grape bunches hanging heavily and almost ready for harvest.

The landscape was rich in history, especially Roman heritage, with hill-top forts, monasteries and castles dotting the skyline. Cochem had the most amazing views from our mooring especially when lit up at night. Early in the week we took a hike to the most breathtaking Castle Eltz, hidden in the forest and still used today. The tour through its perfectly preserved rooms was astonishing and you could imagine yourself as a knight or lady in times past. The riverside village of Zell with its fabled Black Cat was an absolute delight and we could have stayed there much longer. It was also one of our most picturesque mooring points.

Cycling was the best way to see things, and often you would come around another bend, to find a stunning river vista open out in front of you. It was also an easy way to get from village to village without having to tangle with the traffic on a busy motorway. Coming across a tiny chapel on a forest track or stopping for coffee in a small village certainly made us feel like we were discovering the local history and lifestyle. One day we had cycled up a vine-clad hill and then turned to traverse through the vines heavy with red and white grapes. The sun came out, lit up the entire landscape and the Moselle River winding through the valley below and it was a spectacular picture-postcard moment.

The Saar was an entirely different landscape, with more natural forests, tracks and steep wooded hills bracketing the winding river. This was a delightful contrast to the first part of the week. It is also home to some of the big-ticket items that were a must: Trier is one of the oldest German cities with a rich, well-preserved historic precinct, amazing Roman amphitheatre, Roman baths, spectacular churches and of course the spectacular Porta Nigra. Then there is Saarburg, with its amazing castle directly above our mooring point and fantastic winding streets, mill and waterwheels right through the centre of the town.

It was surprising how fast the week flew and before we knew it we were at our final celebration dinner and our tour was at an end. We bid a fond farewell to our bikes, barge and crew, hoping that before long we will be back to do it again... the only question is where?

#### **Other comments about this tour:**

*Can't describe how wonderful the Bike/Barge was - we all agreed it was one of our best over 16 years of walking together as a group. The crew on board were so much fun and I would recommend that barge to anyone. From Albert who led the biking each day, to Ingeborg who cooked fabulous meals, to Marya who organised us and was a laugh a minute, to Ilya the captain who steered us without mishap, and to Yippy, their dear little dog. It was just fabulous. Valerie*

#### **For more details of this Bike & Barge cycling cruise see:**

For details: [http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/Germany\\_Luxembourg\\_Bike\\_Barge\\_Moselle\\_Saar\\_Premium\\_z\\_2015.pdf](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/Germany_Luxembourg_Bike_Barge_Moselle_Saar_Premium_z_2015.pdf)

#### **Other comments about Bike & Barge cycling cruises:**

*Rod and I have just returned from our second cycling barge holiday travelling from Amsterdam to Bruges on the barge Sailing Home. We had a magnificent time and the barge was fantastic with a great Captain Willy, fantastic chef Markus and staff and our guide Piet who was a lot of fun.*

*Rod celebrated his 70th birthday on board, Chef Markus cooked a birthday cake, the staff decorated the barge and gave a beautiful presentation gift of a print of the barge for Rod to take home.*

*We could not have picked a better bunch of fellow cyclists if we had tried so all in all there are plans for cycling trip no3 in 2016 –even if we have to order E Bikes! We cycled over 320 kms for the week and felt fantastic at the end of our week on board. Margie*

For details: [http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/more/Holland\\_Belgium\\_Bike\\_Barge\\_Amsterdam\\_to\\_Bruges\\_various\\_2015.pdf](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/more/Holland_Belgium_Bike_Barge_Amsterdam_to_Bruges_various_2015.pdf)

*I would just like to say thanks to everyone at Outdoor Travel for organising our recent holiday to Croatia. We did the cycling and sailing tour of Southern Dalmatia just a few weeks ago and can't speak highly enough about it. The whole experience was fantastic with an excellent crew, more delicious food than we expected, helpful and fun guides, the other cyclists on the boat from all over the world were great friends by the end of the trip and the cycling was great – hard work but well worth the effort I especially loved my e-bike. My husband enjoyed it all especially the hills, which were amazing (he wasn't on an e-bike). The scenery was spectacular and the weather was perfect.*

*Croatia is such a beautiful country and we plan to return. All in all it was a wonderful experience which we would recommend to anyone thinking about doing something similar.*

*Please thank everyone involved and we look forward to booking another trip soon. Grant & Debbie*

For full details see: [http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/Croatia\\_Bike\\_Boat\\_Pearls\\_of\\_Southern\\_Dalmatia\\_2015.pdf](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/Croatia_Bike_Boat_Pearls_of_Southern_Dalmatia_2015.pdf)

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# SAVINGS ON HOTEL BARGE CANAL CRUISING IN FRANCE FOR 2015

Burgundy or The Somme ANZAC Hotel Barge Cruises & Self-skippered Motor Cruiser hire discounts



Our last newsletter for the year and with it we offer savings of up to 25% off the cost of hotel barge cruising in Burgundy, up to 10% off special World War 1 commemorative ANZAC Day hotel barge cruises, and up to 8% off self-skippered motor cruising on the waterways of Europe.

## Save up to 25% on Luxury Hotel Barge cruising in Burgundy

Cruising and boating holiday specialists **Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd**, based in Bright, Victoria, are offering up to 25% off selected hotel barge cruise departures in April and June 2015. Make a booking **before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014** to take advantage of these spectacular savings – save up to \$2000 off the per-cabin price.

Cruise along the Burgundy canal and the Saône River in our intimate, comfortable barge, perfectly sized to access the smaller waterways linking towns, villages, charming French chateaux and vineyards; visit larger towns and cities like Beaune and Dijon on shore excursions by minibus.

This region is world-renowned for its exquisite cuisine and fine wine and this cruise is ideal for wine lovers as we go through several growing regions. Highlights include wine tastings at Meursault, the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Clos de Vougeot winery, the Chateau de Marguerite, and Beaune, surrounded by vineyards and winemakers. These all-inclusive cruises offer a high standard of meals prepared by the onboard chef, serving traditional and regional cuisine with local wines and cheeses. In the afternoon or early evening there is an opportunity to stroll or cycle along the towpaths or perhaps a take guided city-walk or join in a host of other activities.

Price per person was \$4195 twin share, now \$3150 on the following cruises:

Departs:           Dijon to St Leger – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
                      St Leger to Lyon – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
                      Dijon to St Leger – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Availability is strictly limited so call **Outdoor Travel** now to take advantage of these offers on: **1800 331 582**

## Save up to 10% on ANZAC Hotel Barge cruises in The Somme

Make your booking **before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014** and save 10% off selected World War 1 commemorative cruises in 2015. With the choice of two cruise itineraries on different dates, follow the Canal de la Somme and the Canal du Nord starting or finishing near Villers-Bretonneux. The departure on the 19<sup>th</sup> April from Compiègne will conclude on the day of the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Corbie (near Villers-Bretonneux).

Make a booking before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 and save up to 10% (a saving of up to €440 or approximately \$700 per person, twin-share) off the normal price for these departures.

These 7-day / 6-night all-inclusive cruises aboard the 12-passenger hotel barge follow waterways that were at the centre of important WW1 battles and there will be excursions to sites in Flanders, such as the Menin Gate in Ypres for the moving Last Post ceremony, several battlefields and museums in the valley of the River Somme and to the forest clearing at Compiègne where the Armistice was signed.

The excursion program will have some flexibility to allow, where possible, guests of different nationalities to visit sites of particular significance to their own countries. Other cruise highlights include passing through the historic city of Lille and negotiating the 4.5km Ruyaulcourt Tunnel.

## ANZAC cruise departure dates:

5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2015: Compiègne to Quesnoy

12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2015: Quesnoy to Compiègne

\*\* save 10% off charter rate

19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2015: Compiègne to Corbie (near Villers-Bretonneux)

\*\* save 10% off per cabin rate

26<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2015: Corbie (near Villers-Bretonneux) to Compiègne

\*\* save 10% off per cabin rate

## Further Hotel Barge discounts – saving of up to 10% off the published prices:

The European spring is an ideal time to explore the sunny Canal du Midi in the south of France, the wine-making region of Burgundy, or the Venice Lagoon in Italy, and of course the tulips and colourful spring flowers of Holland. Travel in a comfortable cabin or stateroom onboard a luxury hotel barge, or charter a barge for exclusive use of your party. Savings of up to €880 per cabin or up to €5000 per charter apply on selected March and April 2015 cruises. Book **before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014** to take advantage of these offers:

Barge	Region	Select offer dates in 2015
<i>L'Impressionniste</i> 10% off per cabin / 10% off per charter	<b>Burgundy</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> April
<i>L'Art de Vivre</i> 10% off per cabin / 10% off per charter	<b>Burgundy</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> April
<i>Anjodi</i> 10% off per cabin / 10% off per charter	<b>Canal du Midi</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March; 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> April
<i>Enchanté</i> 10% off per cabin 10% off per charter	<b>Canal du Midi</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March; 5 & 12 April 29 <sup>th</sup> March; 5 <sup>th</sup> April
<i>Clair de Lune</i> 10% off per cabin 10% off per charter	<b>Canal du Midi</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March; 12 <sup>th</sup> April 12 <sup>th</sup> April
<i>Rosa</i> 10% off per cabin 10% off per charter	<b>Gascony</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March; 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> April 29 <sup>th</sup> March; 5 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> April
<i>Panache</i> 10% off per cabin 10% off per charter	<b>Holland</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March; 5 <sup>th</sup> April 29 <sup>th</sup> March
<i>La Bella Vita</i> 10% off per cabin 10% off per charter	<b>Venice/Po Valley</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March; 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> April 29 <sup>th</sup> March; 5 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> April
<i>Scottish Highlander</i> 10% off per cabin / 10% off per charter	<b>Scotland</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> April
<i>Magna Carta</i> 10% off per cabin 10% off per charter	<b>River Thames, England</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March; 12 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> April 29 <sup>th</sup> March; 12 <sup>th</sup> April

See the brochure: [http://issuu.com/europeanwaterways/docs/european\\_waterways\\_brochure\\_2015\\_-\\_/?e=2247178/9606767](http://issuu.com/europeanwaterways/docs/european_waterways_brochure_2015_-_/?e=2247178/9606767)

For Dates / Prices: [http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/OT\\_Go\\_Barging\\_Price\\_List\\_Booking\\_Form\\_Conditions\\_2015.pdf](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/OT_Go_Barging_Price_List_Booking_Form_Conditions_2015.pdf)

## SELF-SKIPPERED MOTOR CRUISING - SAVE UP TO 8% FOR 2015

Enjoy a **EUROPEAN BOATING HOLIDAY** in 2015 with savings of up to 8% off self-skippered motor cruising on the canals and rivers of Europe, for new bookings made **before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014**. Choose flexibility and freedom when you choose self-skippered boat hire. Stop wherever and whenever you want and travel at your own speed. Whether you are a first-time sailor or an experienced hand, on a romantic holiday for two or in a large group of family and friends, there is a boat for you.

Our luxury motor cruisers are easy to handle, and you'll receive a full demonstration and briefing when you pick up your boat at one of our convenient bases. **No previous boating experience is necessary and no licence required on most routes.** Locks are often fully automatic, operated by a lock-keeper and free to use.

Boat hire is available in all of the most popular destinations in Europe, including France, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Ireland and Great Britain.

Picture yourself relaxing in the dappled shade of the deciduous trees lining the beautiful Canal du Midi in the South of France. Moor your boat and explore ancient Roman towns, Cathar castles, Gothic cathedrals and iconic sites like the UNESCO listed fortress at Carcassonne. With a mix of tranquil rural landscapes, vine-covered hills, a long and chequered history, cosmopolitan towns and medieval villages, the Midi offers something for everyone. Or perhaps Burgundy is more your style – visit the villages of Chablis or Sancerre with their world-renowned vineyards and the historical city of Auxerre with its beautiful half-timbered houses, taste superb wines or dine out on one of the famous specialities of the region - Coq au Vin or Bœuf Bourguignon - at a waterside bistro or brasserie. Sample the delights and delicacies of sunny Aquitaine, with its prunes, Armagnac and foie gras, and wines from nearby Bordeaux vineyards. Perhaps choose Britain for your beautiful boating holiday – cruise the royal River Thames past Windsor Castle or the spires of Oxford, or indulge your taste for whiskey, venison and salmon on a route through the magical and wild highlands of Scotland on the Caledonian Canal.

**Outdoor Travel** offer access to one of the biggest fleets in Europe – hire boats can accommodate 2 to 12 passengers, cabins have comfortable beds with linen supplied, bathrooms have hot showers, and the galley kitchen is fully equipped to the standards of even the most discerning home cook.

Sample savings:

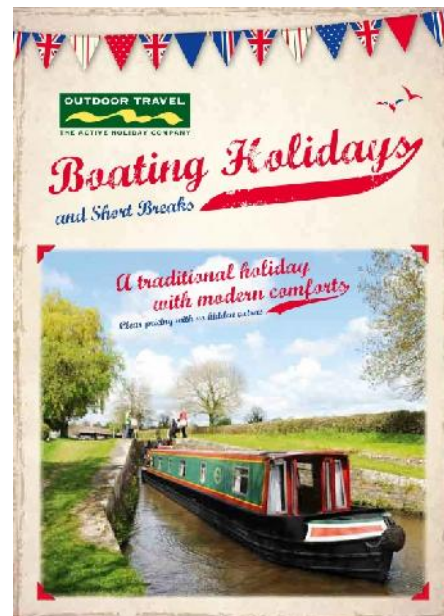
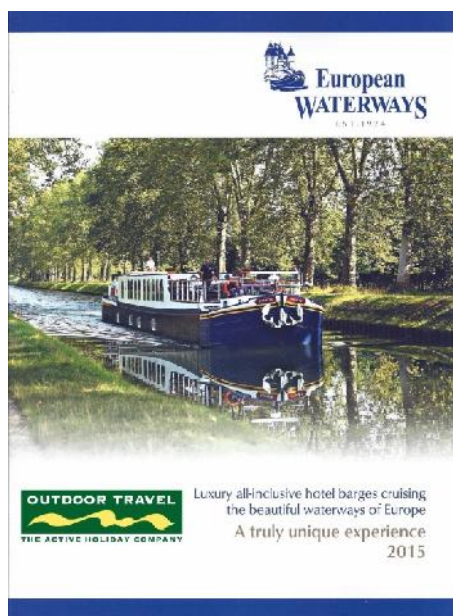
- Up to \$475 off the 7-night hire cost of the 4-anchor-rated Grand Classique, sleeping up to 12 passengers, in France during high season (July/August)
- Up to \$315 off the 8-passenger, 4-anchor-rated Calypso in the popular month of September
- Up to \$175 off the 4-passenger, 3-anchor-rated Cirrus from any base in France in May/June
- Up to \$295 off the 6-passenger, 3-anchor-rated Caprice in Scotland in July/August

**Conditions apply** – offers subject to availability, apply to new bookings only for a 7-night hire and do not apply to 5- and 6-anchor boats unless specified. Offers can be combined up to a maximum discount of 15%.

**Family discounts** - Available in the summer high season of July/August – save 10% off for those travelling with two children and save 5% for those with one child in all destinations in Europe.

See the brochure: [http://leboatbrochures.s3.amazonaws.com/Leboat\\_Brochure\\_2015\\_AU\\_Agent/index.html#/1/](http://leboatbrochures.s3.amazonaws.com/Leboat_Brochure_2015_AU_Agent/index.html#/1/)

See our price list & booking form: [http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/Le\\_Boat\\_Price\\_List\\_Booking\\_Form\\_2015.pdf](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/Le_Boat_Price_List_Booking_Form_2015.pdf)



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# NEW NARROWBOAT HOLIDAY BROCHURE FOR 2015

## Self-skipped traditional cruise boat hire in England, Scotland or Wales

When most people think of canal boat holidays they picture in their mind the traditional British narrowboat or barge constructed during the industrial revolution in the 1700's to carry cargo long the narrow, shallow canal networks built to link industrial centres. Nowadays these barges are very much a part of the English countryside scene as floating accommodation that moves at a snail's pace through some of the most fascinating, historical and attractive regions where canals have always been important such as the Midlands and Birmingham, North Wales and the Llangollen region or northern England.



Call us now to book your holiday on a fully equipped self-skipped narrowboat holiday on 1800 331 582 or

See the e-brochure: <http://www.richprintonline.co.uk/flipbooks/outdoortravel/>

See our price lists: [http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/UK\\_Narrowboat\\_self-skipped\\_canal\\_holidays\\_2015.pdf](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/pdfs/2014/UK_Narrowboat_self-skipped_canal_holidays_2015.pdf)

Call us directly on (03) 57551743 or 1800 331 582 for more details or to make a reservation on any of these wonderful holidays at **bargain** prices. Or, if you are able to come and visit us in beautiful Bright in NE Victoria call to make an appointment to talk with one of our knowledgeable staff members.

**Outdoor Travel** offers a wide range of active holidays, destinations and travel information in Europe. With nearly 30-years of experience we specialise in hotel, inn or lodge-based active holidays walking, cycling, mountain biking, trekking, hiking, boating or barging, sailing, sea-kayaking, cooking, painting, horse riding and much, much more.

For full details see: [http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/whats\\_new\\_holiday#top](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au/content/whats_new_holiday#top)

If we can help with flights, travel insurance, accommodation & any other travel arrangements please call Yvette at our Fares Desk on (03) 57501 044 or email [fares@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:fares@outdoortravel.com.au)

## REMEMBER OUTDOOR TRAVEL IS ON FACEBOOK:



We also have a Facebook Page where you can see our latest offers & can make comments or ask questions about our many active holidays – why not join today: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/206127292733282/>

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