



## OUTLINES TRAVEL NEWS

November 2015

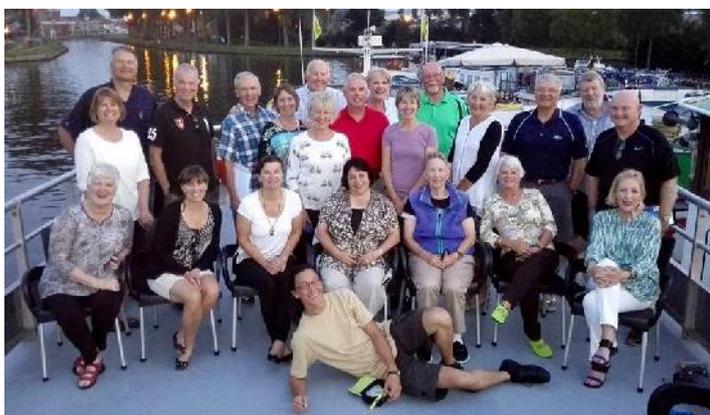
If you are receiving our e-newsletter for the first time, welcome. If you are interested in past copies of our news items and stories they are stored on our website – click-on here: <http://bit.ly/1NR5eqK> If you change your address or wish to add the name of a friend or stop receiving this material please contact us immediately.

You will find all our itineraries, including inn-to-inn cycling holidays, walks, boating, cooking, horse riding, sea-kayaking and much more all across Europe, the USA, Australia or New Zealand here: <http://bit.ly/1I5yZin>

## BIKE & BARGE CYCLING CRUISES IN EUROPE

Choose from France Italy Germany Holland Belgium Austria Romania Croatia Greece Turkey

At last the work is done and we can proudly offer you our full range of Bike & Barge or Boat cycling cruises updated and priced for 2016. For a summary of all departures for next year see: <http://bit.ly/1X461Ma>



## HOLLAND & BELGIUM BIKE & BARGE

**8-days / 7-nights from Amsterdam to Bruges – weekly departures in both directions May to October**

Holidaying by Bike & Barge from Amsterdam to Bruges, or return, is one of our most popular and much sought after routes in Europe. At Outdoor Travel, we offer several barges of differing standards on several different routes between these two cities. With cycling that is mostly flat and generally easy to moderate - usually between 25 – 60km over about 5 to 6 hours a day – we are sure everyone will enjoy themselves.

Cycling in Belgium and Holland is great fun; there are lots of sealed cycle paths and the rural scenery is wonderful. Our tours are led by experienced guides to make sure you see the many interesting places along the track. However, you don't have to cycle with the group; you are welcome to plan your own cycling day, meeting the barge at the next destination.

We visit historical Flemish cities such as Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges. Make sure you add time and the start or end of the tour to explore cosmopolitan Amsterdam, it is well worth the look. Along the route we may visit a Dutch cheese farm, where cheese is still produced by traditional methods, and the iconic Dutch windmills of Kinderdijk. We cycle to fortified towns such as Willemstad, situated on the wide expanses of Zeeland, and we can spend the night in Antwerp, birthplace of Rubens (whose paintings are in the Cathedral of Our Lady). Sightseeing in the old town centre of Ghent – with its impressive bell tower – can include a visit to Saint Baafs' Cathedral to admire the famous triptych painting by Jan van Eyck.

This journey starts or finishes in Bruges, with its windmills and, gardens and picturesque town centre, possibly the most beautiful of all historical Flemish cities.

Space is limited, early bookings are essential - call Outdoor Travel in Brighton or see: <http://bit.ly/1PRUFFe>

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

## **WHAT YOU SAID:**

*“Our Bike & Barge tour from Brugge to Amsterdam was fantastic Our cabin with en-suite was fine. Two single beds, with bed lights, wardrobe and desk; was quite comfortable. We also had a window; although it couldn’t be opened it gave us a view. The air conditioning and heater worked fine. Lovely lounge, dining room and bar. Open top deck with tables and chairs.*

*Crew consisted of the Captain and his mate, two ladies and a chef, plus our guide. Meals were very nice. Good bikes and panniers. We also took our own helmets, as did many of the others on tour. We had no problems riding every day.*

*We have had friends enquiring about what we did and we had no hesitation in recommending your company”.*

*Regards Heather and Peter*



## **BIKE & BARGE IN FRANCE**

**Reims to Paris - cycling through the picturesque Champagne region of France by Caitlin O’Shea**

*“Arriving in the early afternoon at our traditional canal barge moored near Reims, only a couple of hours by train from Paris, the Captain Ivo and his first mate/waiter/everything-man Marius invited us to begin with a ride to a nearby village where we would dock for the evening. Our introduction to riding in France took us along the canal with an avenue of lime and willow trees, through typical small villages and on to our first view of vineyards with vines full of ripe grapes almost ready for harvest. It was a picturesque gentle start to what was to be a great week.*

*We watched from a nearby bridge as our barge arrived and made its way through a lock. It was quite astounding how snugly the barge fitted and to learn just how the locks work.*

*Our first full day riding through the winding valleys lined with vineyards was one of the most charming; green hills covered in endless rows of grapevines, few cars and near empty streets in the small villages along the route where the locals scurried to the bakery to buy their morning baguettes. We rode up to a vantage point for an incredible view over the surrounding vineyards.*

*After lunch our guide suggested we could ride ahead by ourselves, so bidding au revoir to our companions on the barge, we cycled on. We took a wrong turn and travelled along a dirt road through turnip and corn fields*

and more vineyards adding a few extra km's before we reached Tour sur Marne. We re-boarded the barge, joining the others enjoying a nice glass of wine in the sunshine on deck.

This was Champagne and a tour and wine tasting at one of the famous Champagne houses was high on the agenda. Moët & Chandon were closed for renovations so we cycled to Mercier. The guided winery tour was fantastic: after a brief introductory film, we descend into an 18 kilometre complex of tunnels where an underground train takes visitors through the various passageways, cellars and bottle storage areas. Then, the moment we were all waiting for, a tasting of the famous sparkling Champagne.

First rolling down the beautiful UNESCO heritage avenue with a stop for lunch we climbed a steep hill to the Abbey of Dom Pérignon – this was possibly one of the more difficult hills to cycle with a few members of our group opting to walk rather than ride the steepest parts. It was tough but the view was well worth the effort as you overlooked the valley, vineyards, and the little villages scattered throughout the hillside below. Everyone was tired when we arrived back to the barge that afternoon, but our crew had snacks and drinks ready to revive us.

As we left the region of Champagne we headed towards Paris where the landscape changed from vineyards to rolling farmland with pretty white Charolais cattle grazing on the lush green pastures and fields of vegetables.

As we cycled along the canal, we thought we saw an otter. Caught up in the excitement people simply stopped in the middle of the towpath causing mayhem for the riders at the rear. Luckily no one was injured and we all had a laugh that night about the "Great Otter Pile-Up of 2015". Later that day we had our lunch at a WWI Museum of the Great War that opened in 2011 and houses over 50,000 relics from the conflict. Everyone really enjoyed going to the museum as it was interactive and unique.

That afternoon we rode on to the barge only to find our chef was missing and the locks ahead closed. This meant we couldn't reach the expected mooring point leaving us to spend the night along the canal away from any town or village. The crew were great at organising everything and adapting our plans. Rick, the chef (who was supposed to have the night off) was found and managed to cook another wonderful meal and we entertained ourselves in the saloon watching a hilarious French film, *Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis* (Welcome to the sticks). It turned out to be one of the most entertaining nights onboard the barge.

For the trip into Paris our cycle guide devised a route through quiet streets and parks, avoiding much of the city traffic. Some stayed onboard and cruised to our mooring point in the heart of the city for a spectacular farewell dinner".

Reims to Paris Bike & Barge cycling cruises are a fantastic way to experience France with a group of active, like-minded 'leisure' cyclists and an experienced cycle tour guide. Multi-geared bikes (or if you prefer E-Bikes) are provided and a pannier for your camera, rain jacket and picnic lunch. There is always the opportunity to stay on board on some days instead of cycling if you choose.

Click-on here for the Champagne tour itinerary: <http://bit.ly/1Qvdexg>

For information on Bike & Barge holidays call **Outdoor Travel on 1800 331 582** or see: <http://bit.ly/17zy3H8>

## **BIKE & BOAT CYCLING CRUISES IN TURKEY**

**8-days / 7-nights Follow in the footsteps of Alexander the Great – see Ancient Wonders of the World**



Join us on a luxurious traditional wooden sailing ship in the Aegean Sea. Following in the footsteps of one of the world's greatest military tacticians, we are accompanied by an expert tour guide and embark on a unique opportunity, travelling by boat and bike through the history and legends of 2300 years ago.

Visit some of Alexander the Great's first conquests in the regions of Lydia and Caria: the rich and flourishing cities of Ephesus, Miletus and Halicarnassus and two of the Seven Wonders of the World. Enjoy a balanced itinerary of moderate cycling and fascinating sightseeing with the benefit of a comfortable 'home' base aboard the first-class traditional Turkish gulet.

Cruise includes: 7- nights in double/twin/single cabin with own shower/toilet (bed linen and towels provided), half board (breakfast and either lunch or dinner onboard), English speaking cycle tour guide, guided cycling tours as described in the itinerary, museum and archaeological site entry on group visits, hire of hybrid bicycle with pannier (E- bikes available at extra cost, please ask when booking).

Call Outdoor Travel on 1800 331 582 or see: <http://bit.ly/1Qmsr64>

## **INN-TO-INN CYCLE TOURS IN EUROPE**

**France Italy Spain Germany England Ireland Scotland Romania Austria Switzerland Bulgaria Hungary**

Inn-to-inn self-guided holidays in the most popular regions are the perfect way to explore some of Europe's iconic landscapes. Travelling by bike gives you the freedom to see more of the countryside, following mostly quiet roads and trails. These easy to moderate cycle tours offer a memorable active holiday experience. Being self-guided gives you the flexibility to travel at your own pace, to stop and relax or explore, secure in the knowledge that your room is waiting for you, your bags have gone ahead and the day is your own.

Daily cycling distances vary depending on the terrain; from the gently rolling landscapes and the flat river trails of the Burgundy Canals; the spectacular, undulating and rugged countryside of the Dordogne or Swiss Alpine Valleys; to longer and often flatter distances through picturesque Tuscany or on the Camino de Santiago in Spain. We provide hybrid bikes, riding is well within the capability of most reasonably fit cyclists.

For France guided tours see: <http://bit.ly/1LtvxON> or self-guided tours: <http://bit.ly/1Mvi8JV>;

For other parts of Europe click-on: <http://bit.ly/1Gu1iXv> and search by destination

Tours Include: Accommodation in twin share comfortable 2-star and 3-star hotels with an ensuite bathroom and breakfast included, multi-gear hybrid bike hire, luggage transport from hotel to hotel, a tour briefing and introduction to your bicycle, detailed route notes with stage-by-stage route descriptions, maps and travel information. There is the option to pay for half board (where breakfast and dinner are included each night).

## **OUTDOOR TRAVEL IS ON FACEBOOK:**



We also have a Facebook page where you can see our latest offers, photos, news stories and can make comments or ask questions about our many active holidays. Why not join today click and 'like' this link: <http://on.fb.me/1F0ZZ3N>

Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd has operated in Victoria as a travel agent for over 25 years. Our team includes qualified and experienced travel industry professionals.

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

For our latest airfares to Europe see: <http://bit.ly/1C7zoRA>

Call us directly if you want to discuss more detailed itinerary planning:

### **Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations**

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