



May 2018

## OUTLINES TRAVEL NEWS

### BIKE & BARGE CYCLING CRUISE HOLIDAYS IN EUROPE – PLACES STILL AVAILABLE IN 2018

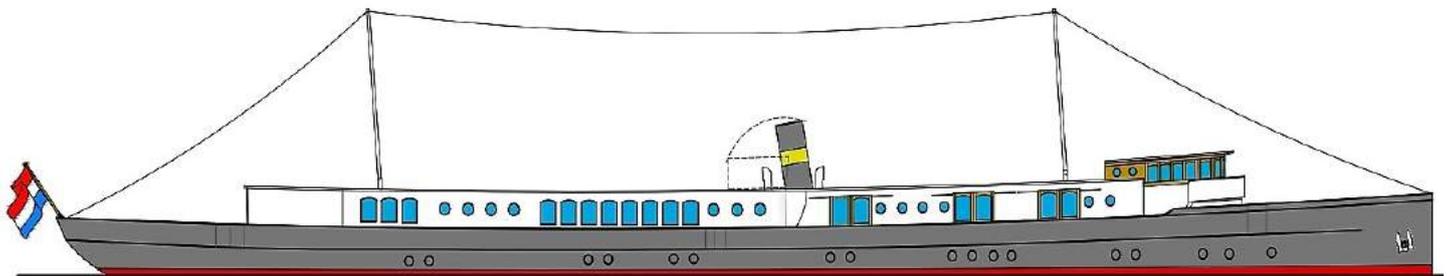
If you are receiving our e-newsletter for the first time, welcome, and if you are a regular reader, welcome back! If you are interested in past copies they are stored on our website: <http://bit.ly/1NR5eqK>. If you change your address or wish to add the name of a friend or stop receiving this material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

This newsletter focusses on our popular Bike & Barge cycling cruises by barge, boat, a ship or sailing ship combining cycling with cruising by canal, river or coastal island hopping. Tours are usually for one-week and are ideal for partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together with the ability to stay on-board instead of cycling on some days or to choose an e-bike.

E-bike are battery assisted bikes available on most tours now and they are becoming increasingly popular.

Unpack once and come home each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. Non-cycling passengers are always welcome on these departures but note that whilst there may be guided walks in the evenings there are no sightseeing provisions for non-cyclists during the day.

The world of cycling cruises is evolving with the launch of the latest addition to our fleet operating on routes in The Netherlands and between Amsterdam and the lovely UNESCO listed city of Bruges in Belgium. The new barge is purpose build for cyclists with a very high PREMIUM PLUS standard of accommodation and spacious cabins. Not surprisingly most dates are fully booked for 2018 but we can offer the last cabins on the route from Bruges to Amsterdam on 6<sup>th</sup> October and from Amsterdam to Bruges departing on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018.



### Bike & Barge last cabins available by date: September/October 2018

We have approximately 60 barges in our Bike & Barge or Boat fleet with over 185 different itineraries. Most are fully booked for this year but we do still have some places available for the popular September & October period – in our view the best time to travel in Europe after the summer holiday rush.

Over the next two pages we offer a summary of SOME of the trips with places still available in the popular months of September and October – there are also dates available on earlier months - click-on the links to see the itineraries and check with us for more details and to make a reservation.

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

## Last cabins available by date: September / October 2018

### Departing 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018

Bruges to Amsterdam:  
France - Bordeaux:

### Web link

<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2sWrfTf>

### Barge type

STANDARD PLUS  
PREMIUM PLUS

### 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Germany - Moselle – Wasserbillig to Toul:  
France - Bordeaux & Aquitaine:  
Amsterdam to Bruges:  
Italy - Amalfi Coast:

<https://bit.ly/2CmiAeb>  
<https://bit.ly/2sWrfTf>  
<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2BodXmi>

STANDARD PLUS  
PREMIUM PLUS  
STANDARD PLUS  
PREMIUM:

### 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Germany - Moselle – Toul to Wasserbillig:  
Greece - Islands of Aegean from Bodrum:  
Greece & Turkey - Rhodes & Kos:  
Italy - Amalfi Coast:

<https://bit.ly/2CmiAeb>  
<https://bit.ly/2kH5DDQ>  
<https://bit.ly/2GrZKmR>  
<https://bit.ly/2BodXmi>

STANDARD PLUS  
PREMIUM  
PREMIUM  
PREMIUM

### 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Croatia - Dalmatia from Dubrovnik:

<https://bit.ly/2k7Lcjq>

PREMIUM PLUS

### 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018

Germany - Moselle – Wasserbillig to Toul:  
Holland:  
Amsterdam to Bruges:  
Italy - Amalfi Coast:  
France - Provence Aigues Mortes to Avignon:

<https://bit.ly/2CmiAeb>  
<https://bit.ly/2zdFqF8>  
<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2BodXmi>  
<https://bit.ly/2ALkuDk>

STANDARD PLUS  
STANDARD PLUS  
PREMIUM  
PREMIUM  
PREMIUM

### 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018

France - Paris to Bruges (2 weeks):  
Germany Moselle – Toul to Wasserbillig:  
France - Bordeaux & Aquitaine:  
Bruges to Amsterdam:  
Amsterdam to Bruges:  
Amsterdam to Bruges:  
Croatia - Pearls of Southern Dalmatia:  
Croatia - National Parks of Dalmatia Plus:  
Italy - Amalfi Coast:

<https://bit.ly/2C8WOtg>  
<https://bit.ly/2CmiAeb>  
<https://bit.ly/2sWrfTf>  
<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2KBCDsv>  
<https://bit.ly/2kaMgTP>  
<https://bit.ly/2BodXmi>

STANDARD PLUS  
STANDARD PLUS  
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PREMIUM PLUS  
PREMIUM

### 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Croatia - Kvarner Bay:

<https://bit.ly/2lyvDvT>

STANDARD

### 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Germany - Moselle – Wasserbillig to Toul:  
France - Bordeaux & Aquitaine:  
Holland:  
Bruges to Amsterdam:  
Bruges to Amsterdam:  
Amsterdam to Bruges:  
Croatia - Pearls of Southern Dalmatia Plus:  
Croatia - Pearls of Southern Dalmatia:

<https://bit.ly/2CmiAeb>  
<https://bit.ly/2sWrfTf>  
<https://bit.ly/2zdFqF8>  
<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2mZ0LL8>  
<https://bit.ly/2KBCDsv>

STANDARD PLUS  
PREMIUM PLUS  
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PREMIUM PLUS  
STANDARD

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## Departing 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Germany & France - Mettlach to Cochem:  
Croatia - Dalmatia from Dubrovnik:  
Croatia - Kvarner Bay:

## Web link

<https://bit.ly/2CpeFxi>  
<https://bit.ly/2k7Lcjq>  
<https://bit.ly/2lyvDvT>

## Barge type

PREMIUM  
PREMIUM PLUS  
STANDARD

## 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Bruges to Amsterdam:

<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>

PREMIUM PLUS

## 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Germany - Moselle Toul to Wasserbillig:  
France - Bordeaux & Aquitaine:  
Bruges to Amsterdam:  
Amsterdam to Bruges:  
Amsterdam to Bruges:  
Bruges to Amsterdam:  
Greece - Islands of Aegean from Bodrum:  
Croatia - Pearls of Southern Dalmatia Plus:  
Italy - Amalfi Coast:  
France - Provence Avignon to Aigues Mortes:

<https://bit.ly/2CmiAeb>  
<https://bit.ly/2sWrfTf>  
<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2kH5DDQ>  
<https://bit.ly/2mZ0LL8>  
<https://bit.ly/2BodXmi>  
<https://bit.ly/2ALkuDk>

STANDARD PLUS  
PREMIUM PLUS  
STANDARD PLUS  
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PREMIUM PLUS  
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PREMIUM

## 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Germany & France - Cochem to Mettlach:  
Croatia - Dalmatia from Dubrovnik:  
Croatia - Kvarner Bay:

<https://bit.ly/2CpeFxi>  
<https://bit.ly/2k7Lcjq>  
<https://bit.ly/2lyvDvT>

PREMIUM  
PREMIUM PLUS  
STANDARD

## 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018

France - Bordeaux & Aquitaine:  
Bruges to Amsterdam:  
Greece & Turkey - Rhodes & Kos:  
France - Provence Aigues Mortes to Avignon:

<https://bit.ly/2sWrfTf>  
<https://bit.ly/2rL1SDE>  
<https://bit.ly/2GrZKmR>  
<https://bit.ly/2ALkuDk>

PREMIUM PLUS  
PREMIUM PLUS  
PREMIUM  
PREMIUM

## 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018

Germany & France - Mettlach to Cochem:

<https://bit.ly/2CpeFxi>

PREMIUM

## 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Greece - Islands of Aegean from Bodrum:

<https://bit.ly/2kH5DDQ>

PREMIUM

With many years of practical first-hand experience Outdoor Travel has classified the various barges and boats according to the level of accommodation, space and comfort. To help with your decisions here is an indication of the types of barge and cabins / public areas in each category:

**PREMIUM PLUS BARGES** have more spacious cabins with lower beds, some with doubles. Cabins may have extras such as hair dryers, televisions and air-conditioning. Furnishings and fixtures are up-to-date and to a high standard, and the common areas such as lounge, dining and sundeck are spacious and well-equipped. Non-cycling passengers may prefer a PREMIUM PLUS boat as there is more room to relax during the day. *Some PREMIUM PLUS barges offer Upgrade cabins or Suites for a supplement – please ask when booking.*



**PREMIUM BARGES** have comfortable twin, lower level beds in the cabins (no bunks). The barges have generally modern fitouts with simple but tasteful furnishings. The common areas inside and out are spacious and pleasant.



**STANDARD PLUS BARGE** cabins are generally furnished with split level beds (one bed is higher and may require a climb on a small ladder or step-up, but the beds are not directly above/below each other as in a bunk cabin). These barges are cheerful and comfortable, well-lit and airy. Cabins have a small shower/toilet. Some triple cabins (as pictured) with a double and single bed may be available on some barges.

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**STANDARD BARGES** are equipped with compact cabins, simply furnished, usually with bunk beds and windows or portholes allowing in light. Some Standard barges may have 2 or 3 STANDARD PLUS cabins. Common areas such as lounge, sun-deck and dining room are designed to encourage a sociable atmosphere amongst passengers.



**Outdoor Travel** offers Bike & Barge or Bike & Boat cruises to many areas of Europe including the Loire Valley & Burgundy or Provence in **France**, in **Germany** along the Rivers Saar, Moselle and Rhine, in **Italy** on the Venice Lagoon, Sicily or the Amalfi Coast, the popular River Danube in **Austria** or **Romania**, island hopping in **Greece, Turkey** or on the Dalmatian coast of **Croatia**. We also offer inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling holidays in many destinations in Europe and **Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam** and **India**.

## WHAT YOU SAID

### Two great reports from very happy cyclists touring in Italy & in France

*"I got home from my Europe trip a few days ago and just wanted to send you a quick email to let you know that my Bordeaux Bike Barge trip was fabulous in every way. I loved every minute of it- although could have asked for better weather as it rained every day but one! Having done three "Rhine / Rhone / Seine" on the bigger APT and Tauke river boats, I was unsure how I would adjust to the smaller boat and less service – but in fact the service was absolutely outstanding, we were surrounded by helpful staff, and the boat was very comfortable indeed. Having only 48 on board I think may have helped – it all felt very roomy and I am not sure how it would be with all 80 berths filled. The organisation of each day, the food, the single cabin and the actual cycling were excellent.*

*I may have been lucky in the cycling guide we had, Viktor, the best tour guide I have encountered in 10 trips to Europe, and the small guided group – only 5 on the boat chose a guided cycle, all the other 40 odd were happy to go it alone self guided and were very happy with the briefing and fabulous maps they were provided with, and most chose a GPS on their bike too. 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 also 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. That may be useful feedback for your future clients: if you want to taste wine, don't go in April.*

*I was quite lucky I think in that my bike was brand new and a small mountain bike with flat handle bars, just as I ride at home, and set up for me by the mechanic who was on board all week and worth his weight in gold each day adjusting bikes for people. Even so, in the teeming rain, there was one day that the hills looked*

as if they would defeat me (they did) and I took out an e-bike for a day: unfortunately there were none left in my size and so it was way too big and I kept falling off!! So after 22km of persevering against pouring rain and a really strong wind, I was frozen to the bone and bruised everywhere so Victor sent me packing back to the boat in a van. I found out later that almost all people other than the serious cyclists had to walk up most of the hills that day and did not enjoy that day at all – too steep and too cold. I was very impressed by the service getting me back to the boat - nothing was too hard for the staff.

The other comment I wanted to make was that my “pre tour notes” from you were the envy of the others in my group!! They had received nothing as detailed as yours, eg packing lists and an idea of the detailed day by day itinerary- so thank you for those! **Jenni - Bike & Barge Bordeaux**



*“Of all the barge and bike trips that we have done so far our latest, along the River Po from Mantova to Venice in northern Italy has been the best — from start to finish.*

*A trip on the Ave Maria is a premium holiday, but Jenny and I think it excellent value for money. Every aspect of the week — accommodation, food, guiding on the road and touring the towns and cities at which we stopped each night — was first class. We had top quality Swiss-made Flyer e-bikes. The non-electric bikes were also of excellent quality, designed by Girolibero and especially made for them in Germany. About 30% of our group of 31 had e-bikes.*

*That number of cyclists is unusually large for a barge trip and we were initially a little worried such a big group might cause confusion on the road, but, not so. Sure, a single file line was quite long, but it was all handled skillfully, without mishap and with lots of good humour.*

*With two chefs on board the quality of the food was excellent, mostly interesting Italian dishes matched where relevant to the local cuisine of where we were moored. The “cellar” of Italian wines and beers was also excellent. Similarly, the guiding handled by Hein and Marco, was top quality; more than usual fascinating and detailed information about where we were, what went on there and high points of the area’s history.*

*Outdoor Travel has arranged barge-bike tours for us from Bruges to Amsterdam and Amsterdam to Bruges, in the Camargue in France, in Bordeaux, from Paris to Epernay and now, our first in Italy, from Mantova to Venice. All have been good, but this one in Italy has topped them all.*

*Hein, our principal guide was Dutch, a man brimming with energy and knowledge. Marco, the second guide, comes from a ski village in the Dolomites and was similarly knowledgeable and good to speak with. Both went to endless trouble to inform and entertain us. Hein’s knowledge of the history of Italy, from Roman to modern times, was extensive and his evening briefings were real productions, full of good humour and depth of information.*

*This is not a holiday simply about cycling. Hein also took some of us to an ancient enoteca, the Brindisi, which opened in Ferrara in 1435 for a wine tasting and small nibbles of local ham and salami. In Mantova we were shown around one of Italy's most beautiful and historic cities by Christina who was born and still lives in the city. Unlike many tourist guides she was a most charming provider of plentiful good information.*

*Our group included 31 passengers, 2 of whom did not cycle but enjoyed the travel through the lakes, river and canal. We have always enjoyed the groups with whom we have travelled on our barge-bike holidays. It's probably because everyone has a common interest in cycling and the outdoors. Outdoor Travel's handling of bookings, paperwork and all other aspects of the preparation was, as usual, absolutely spot-on. Nothing was left to chance; everything worked perfectly. **Garry & Jenny Bike & Barge Venice***



## WHAT'S NEXT

Places still available on our walking holidays and great savings on UK walks



Look out for our next newsletter for details or see our website: <https://bit.ly/1Gu1iXv> Why not call Lucie to talk about her walking holiday in Dorset, Devon or in the Lake District. If you would like help with flights, travel insurance, accommodation and any other travel arrangements, please call Yvette, Lucie or Kristen at our Fares Desk on (03) 57 501 044 or email [fares@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:fares@outdoortravel.com.au)

On Facebook see our latest offers and recent adventures – find us here: <http://on.fb.me/1F0ZZ3N>

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

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