



## OUTLINES TRAVEL NEWS

See our latest travel news, savings & new ideas

August 2019

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.

## WELCOME BACK SERA

After an apprenticeship with Flight Centre and several trips to Europe, the UK, Ireland, China, Russia, Mongolia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand etc, etc, Sera Paterson has returned to take a full time position at Outdoor Travel in our office in beautiful Bright in North-east Victoria.



Contact Sera or Yvette for all your travel and flight bookings or make an appointment to talk to us in Bright about your holiday plans: (03) 57 501 044

## WHAT'S NEW

**Now is the time to take advantage of late booking offers for this year and to start planning for 2020.**

Discount offer on hotel barging, Bike & Barge cycling cruises and guided walks in Europe – call us for details.

**New from Outdoor Travel, some great destinations in Europe – see these links:**

Bike & Barge in France – from Burgundy to Provence - see: <https://bit.ly/2T6uKke>

Cycling in Portugal – along the Atlantic Coast - see: <https://bit.ly/2YzfQ72>

Hiking in Greece – explore the island of Karpathos - see: <https://bit.ly/2T20J4Y>

Coming soon, cycling rail trails in Spain, Self-guided cycling in Scotland (see Macbeth's Cawdor Castle, the Moray Coast and Highland Whisky) and a new two-centre walking holiday in Transylvania, Romania

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

# DISCOVER MY BURGUNDY

Discover diverse landscapes & interesting tastes



*Hi, I'm Nadia, I'm a French girl living in Burgundy, visiting our partners at Outdoor Travel in Brighton and I want to introduce you to my region, Burgundy.*

*I will always remember the day I cycled with my mum in the late September month along the Canal du Nivernais (she convinced me after she promised that we would eat a crepe at the crêperie afterwards). As we cycled, I suddenly felt a stream of happiness going through my whole body. As autumn arrived, the trees were covered with gorgeous red-gold leaves, the river reflected the scene in an enchanting way and it seemed like it was just my mum and I in the most mesmerising heaven. I felt so calm, happy and safe at the same time.*

*As you might know, Burgundy perfectly symbolises the old France. Indeed, with its ancient villages and still farming locals, with its century old churches and traditions, it stands for great kitchen, green hills and vast vineyards. You can discover my region whether by foot, bike or boat as it has a great network of canalised rivers such as the Yonne. Want to taste some local produce? Walk or cycle around little markets and taste some French cheese, pastry or snails if you dare...*

*What I like the most about my hometown, Auxerre, is the old centre, its little backstreets and the great riverside with its boats and fountains. Ready for lunch, try one of the typical French crêperies or go to the boat restaurant called 'La Peniche' on the riverside and try some of the famous French plates.*

*Burgundy has a rich and complex history and many areas of natural beauty. It is a beautiful and fertile land where farmers, foresters, and above all wine growers have nurtured the landscape for more than a thousand years. Burgundy is the ideal place for a walking or cycling holiday or to take a cruise along the picturesque canals. The region is split between the Yonne River area to the north with its white wines and easy access by train from Paris. Or the red wine capital of Beaune with its historic buildings and fine dining.*

*Burgundy has a multifaceted landscape just waiting to be explored, and, as elsewhere in France, the best way to enjoy it is to explore by foot through its peaceful lanes and byways. Travelers will discover a fabled land of medieval chateaux, ancient monasteries and fragrant breezes where the art of living, l'art de vivre, is pursued to near perfection at a relaxed pace.*

*Beaune has a cluster of prestigious vineyards such as the Côte d'Or, Côte de Beaune and Côte de Nuits. Start with a visit to the mansion of the Dukes of Burgundy, the basilica of Notre Dame and the steep pitched patterned roofs of the Hotel Dieu, and sample wine in the village of Pommard. Join the 'Grande Randonnée' paths through oak forests to the village and chateau of La Rochepot.*

*Visit Nolay, a medieval village of narrow streets and half-timbered houses. Ascend onto the escarpment and hilltops for glorious views to the Alps. Enjoy Rully, the ancient Château of Montaigu, the produce of the Côtes Chalonnaises and many villages. The landscape is a mix of vineyards on the lower slopes, woodlands, and pastures and arable land on the plateau.*

Visit the charming town of Auxerre in the Yonne region of Northern Burgundy which has kept its historical identity with its impressive Cathedral St Etienne, its churches and its beautiful riverside. Have lunch in a typical French cr perie or a tasty boeuf bourguignon in one of the several restaurants and end with a delicious mousse au chocolat for dessert. Nearby is the town of Chablis to taste the wine and learn more about the vineyards and their history.

Vézelay is a starting point for pilgrims on the way to Santiago de Compostella. Visit the religious shrine with its impressive views over the Roman Basilica of Ste-Madeleine. Taste the delicious 'Anis de Flavigny' which are little pastilles produced in a centuries old abbey in the beautiful French village of Flavigny-sur-Ozerain. The process follows a 9<sup>th</sup> Century recipe that remains unchanged to this day.

Burgundy is all about going back in time, being transported to places you never been before and just encountering the 'Vieille France' - the old France – and its mysteries. It is about discovering places by foot or by bike with some flexibility to stop wherever you want, enter into this church or into that cellar and don't have to worry about parking a car. If you need to take a break, just sit down in the grass between the vineyards, have a picnic for lunch or just rest at a café in a village and taste some French cakes.

Burgundy is the place to discover local products as you walk or ride from village to village each with a lively market, shopping streets or or square, where you can have some free tastings of local produces.

Burgundy has a wonderful network of canals popular with cruising enthusiasts or those willing to give it a try. Cruise through many little villages, make a stop here and there to take a closer look to those interesting places. Why not try a Bike & Barge cycling cruise?

Starting in the capital of Burgundy, Dijon, you follow the Canal of Burgundy and the River Saône. The scenery changes from small villages and rolling hills to lively and attractive historical towns like Beaune and Chalon sur Saône. Surround yourself with ever changing landscapes of fields, dense forests and green hills covered in vines. Close your eyes and listen to the relaxing sound of water while cruising towards your next destination.

So, I hope I could arouse your curiosity and that you will soon visit my region! A bientôt, Nadia!

**Outdoor Travel** offer several ways to cruise and explore in Burgundy. Self-drive boating holidays on a house boat cruising through the Nivernais and Loire part of Burgundy or through the Franche-Comté. If you look for more luxury, take part in a one week luxury hotel barge cruise for 8 to 12 people. You can choose the 'La Belle Époque' or the 'L'impressionniste' barge which both cruise along the Canal de Bourgogne with different stops. The 'L'art de vivre' barge cruises the Canal du Nivernais and the 'Finesse' barge cruises both, the Canal de Bourgogne and the Canal du Centre. **See the hotel barging brochure:** <https://bit.ly/2MScKVK>

If you love walking, we can offer walks either through the north or the south of Burgundy. Likewise there are plenty of cycling routes and Bike & Barge or hotel barging. Simply choose to see Dijon, Beaune and Montbard or Auxerre, Chablis and Vézelay – or call us for our suggestions.

For our selection of walking, cycling, Bike & Barge or canal cruising in France see: <https://bit.ly/1RWFuxP>

## DID YOU WATCH THE TOUR DE FRANCE?

See Outdoor Travel's cycling options that follow some of the Tour's cycling regions at a more relaxed pace.



Want to appreciate those spectacular and dramatic scenes that the cyclists do on the Tour De France, but with coffee and pastry stops along the way and a wine or champagne to finish the day? If the answer is **YES**, you

can probably understand why most of us in the Outdoor Travel office have trialled, tested and experienced our many cycling tours in France (and the croissants too!).

Click on these links to follow in the footsteps of your favourite stages of the tour (but not the giant cols and mountain climbs) with some detours, at a slower pace – with pre-booked hotel accommodation, bike hire and luggage transfers.

**Stage 1:** Tour de France (TDF) route: Brussels loop - 194.5km

Our Tour: Bruges to Paris GUIDED 2-week cycle cruise - See: <https://bit.ly/2MnJ1b4>

**Stage 3 & 4:** TDF route: Binche > Épernay - 215km and Reims > Nancy - 213.5km

Our Tour: Champagne Region E-Bike SELF-GUIDE cycling - See: <https://bit.ly/31bZ5AH>

**Stage 5 & 6:** TDF route: St-Dié-des-Vosges > Colmar - 175.5km & Mulhouse > La Planche des Belles Filles - 160km

Our Tour: Alsace & Rhine Valley from Colmar GUIDED cycling - See: <https://bit.ly/2FqcE7Q>

**Stage 7 & 8:** TDF route: Belfort > Chalon-sur-Saône - 230 km & Mâcon > Saint-Étienne - 200km

Our Tour: Burgundy Montbard Dijon & Beaune - GUIDED cycling - See: <https://bit.ly/2GEqWlg>

**Stage 10 & 11:** TDF route: Saint-Flour > Albi - 217.5 km and Albi > Toulouse - 167km

Our Tour: Dordogne Rocamadour & Sarlat GUIDED cycling –see <https://bit.ly/2Mwrxcce>

**Stage 12:**

TDF route: Toulouse > Bagnères-de-Bigorre - 209.5km

Our Trip: Canal du Midi SELF-GUIDED cycling - See: <https://bit.ly/2TPgbQS>

**Stage 16 & 17:**

TDF route: Nîmes > Nîmes - 177 km and Pont du Gard > Gap - 200km

Our Trip: Provence & Camargue SELF-GUIDED inn-to-inn cycling - See: <https://bit.ly/2ULkAbY>

**Stage 17:**

TDF route: Pont du Gard > Gap - 200km

Our Trip: Camargue and Languedoc from Avignon GUIDED cycling - See: <https://bit.ly/2YjP0ED>

## WALKING HOLIDAY EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNTS

Save up to \$300 per person on selected trips and departure dates

We offer a wide selection of centre-based guided walking holidays in many centres across Europe – here are just a few of the current savings on offer for the remainder of 2019 – limited space available until sold, for new bookings only.



**Sorrento** – see: <https://bit.ly/2YliibM>

This is undoubtedly one of our most frequently requested walking destinations. A place where you can enjoy great coastal walking and visits to world-famous historic sights on a combined easy walking and sightseeing holiday on Italy's Sorrento Peninsula. This is an area famous for its incomparable beauty and gentle climate.

**Provence** – see: <https://bit.ly/2YeTCae>

At the heart of rural France is a beautiful part of the popular region of Provence hardly touched by tourism. This is a wildland filled with the scent of wild flowers, fields of lavender, dramatic rock escarpments and a landscape dotted with little hill towns and villages; the perfect countryside for walkers. It is here, based in the picturesque town of Gréoux-les-Bains in a four-star family-run hotel-offering outstanding cuisine sourced from local produce - that we can explore the Routes de la Lavande, an area steeped in the culture of lavender production and visit charming hill-top villages in the spectacular French ‘Grand Canyon’ the Gorges du Verdon.

**French Catalonia** – see: <https://bit.ly/32PixoA>

Catalonia is more typically associated with Spain but the region extends through to the Languedoc across the French and Spanish border. Northern Catalonia offers superb walking opportunities along the dramatic coastline dotted with secluded coves and pretty beaches, or through the wild landscapes further inland. Added to the spectacular walking there is the fascinating history of this border region, Catalan heritage and traditions, and exceptional cuisine—northern Catalonia is a true hidden gem.

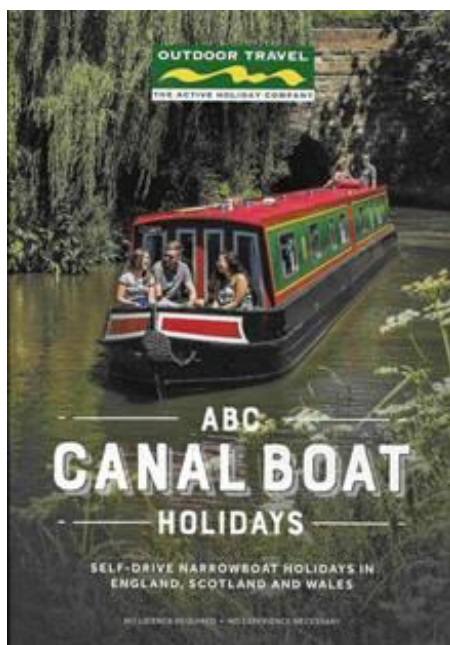
**Valencia Spain** – see: <https://bit.ly/2SznZqy>

The beautiful limestone landscapes of the Marina Alta provide lots of great walks with views over the glistening Mediterranean Sea. Walk through villages lined with citrus and almond groves, explore spectacular ridges including the historic Caballo Verde, and visit nearby dramatic gorge, the Barranco del Infierno. With only limited number of people allowed to visit the gorge each day to help with preservation and conservation, you’ll be rewarded with native flora and fauna and magnificent views.

\* Offer on new bookings with limited availability, savings may vary according to departure date – ask for details

## TAKE A CANAL NARROWBOAT THROUGH BRITAIN

Get your copy of the new brochure



“Cruising Britain’s inland waterways is all about slowing the pace right down,” says Martyn Paterson, Managing Director of inland cruising specialists Outdoor Travel based in Brighton, Victoria. As Rat is heard to utter in ‘Wind in the willow, it’s about “messaging about on boats”. Martyn has cruised the canals of Europe and the UK over many years, and rates the Brecon Canal meandering for 36 miles through the Brecon Beacons National Park in South Wales as one of the highlights.

Constructed historically to carry goods along the narrow canals during the industrial revolution, nowadays narrowboats are long houseboats fully fitted out, with well-equipped kitchens that let you self-cater (in between pub lunches and dinners). There are bathrooms with showers, separate dining areas. All linen and towels are provided as are lifejackets, which are important if you’re taking kids, who must wear them whenever they’re above deck. No licence or previous experience is necessary and tuition is provided.

**SLOW THE PACE:** If your mind is working on deadlines, canal boating isn’t going to work. Locks can take time to pass and there is much to see that is unexpected along the towpath and around every bend. This is a holiday that slows the pace right down. So slow, you can jump off for a stroll, and let the boat catch up to

you. Narrowboats are hired usually for a week and there are circuits or 'rings' to follow back to the same base. Midweek and long weekend hire is also offered.

**WHAT IS THE COST:** Boat hire starts from £700 for a couple on a week's cruise in the spring and autumn shoulder seasons, rising up to £1400 in peak season. This covers your accommodation; transport and entertainment, so it's pretty good value. If you're pushed budget wise, £1399 will get a boat that sleeps up to 12 for family or friends, by pulling down the dining table and using all the foldaways. Outdoor Travel offers regular discounts of up to 35% off the hire cost so check with them for a quote for your canal holiday

**WHERE TO GO:** The Pontcysyllte *Aqueduct on the Llangollen Canal* is the Eiffel Tower of Wales, which you can cruise across, and is a must-visit for boaters. Other popular destinations include the Roman city of Bath on the *Kennet and Avon Canal* and the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal where you book yourself in for a Shakespeare play or visit Warwick Castle. From Gailey take the Four Counties Ring to see The Potteries and the famous Wedgwood factory or cruise to industrial Birmingham which, it seems has more canals than in Venice.

Unlike many ocean cruisers, stowage isn't an issue on these canal boats, which are narrow, but very long. And hire companies know that Australians will arrive with hard-shell luggage filled with hiking boots, dinner suits or cycling gear, for a month-long trip. Be sure to pack your raincoat, this is Britain after all, but there one onboard for the boat driver, who is in the elements the entire time, as narrowboats have no wheelhouse.

**IDEAL FOR FAMILIES & FRIENDS:** Narrowboats are ideal for families with children. Wildlife abounds along the canals and hedgerows and there is much living history to discover with restored Victorian era buildings and machinery. And many of the canalside homes and factories have been turned into museums, pubs, cafes and restaurants so there is plenty to do near your overnight moorings.

Click the brochure cover to see details or these links:

For more details: <https://bit.ly/31XSv1D>

See the online brochure here: <https://bit.ly/2J5iyNO>

Outdoor Travel's first even Narrowboat Holiday brochure has just been released. Let us know if we can post a copy to you by completing this form: <https://bit.ly/30Zh0tY>

## WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT OUR HOLIDAYS



### Germany & Poland

*"Everything went well and the barge Merlijn is excellent - company also good. Destination perhaps not the best - East Germany is dour and I had difficulty finding those lovely German pastries - managed a few times though! Cycling (despite the cobble stones) and the tour guide good but weather varied greatly - see attached*

for a mid-summer's day attire. FYI Merlijn has eftpos for bar bill - and beds are high enough to accommodate normal suitcase stowage below with many thanks." – Gerry

See details on Gerry's trip: <https://bit.ly/2JKZlIx>

### **Bike & Barge Germany**

*"Just wanted to thank you very much for organising such a splendid holiday for me. The entire tour was a great success with no hiccups or hitches whatsoever, thanks to your efficiency. The barge Merlijn exceeded my expectations in every way. The Captain, crew and guides were very professional and at the same time ensured we all had a fun trip. My trip home to Wales to see my family was also a very happy event. All in all it was a holiday to remember."* Dai.

### **Germany along Moselle and Saar rivers:**

*"We loved our trip and talk about to anyone who is willing to listen. I highly recommend this particular trip, the barge although small was very comfortable and staff were excellent, nothing was too much bother. Our guide Mike organised a tour and wine tasting at a wine cellar in Bernkastel Kues for us. The food was plentiful and delicious. I don't think we could have asked for a better crew. Once again thank you to yourself and staff for everything you have done for us to have a fantastic trip."* Sheila

See: <https://bit.ly/3199OvI>



### **Bike & Boat in Croatia - Mother & daughter on an active holiday together**

*"The cycling difficulty for that Bike and Boat trip was a bit harder than level 1-2. I only cycled for a couple of days - it was wonderful to be able to walk and also enjoy the boat.*

*There were a lot of hills – however, the wonderful things was that I was able to choose not to cycle most days and it was fabulous to wander in the gorgeous Istrian towns and be on the boat as it travelled up and down the coast. It was also the best cabin we've had out of all the Bike & Barge tours we've done.*

*Nish and I both loved Croatia and hope to go back some time...*

*Thanks very much for all your help – Nish says it's one of the best holidays she's ever had". Jenni and Nish*

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



**Bike & Boat in Croatia**

*First of all, thanks very much for a super Boat and Bike holiday in Croatia. We thoroughly enjoyed it.*

*Secondly, we ended up staying at your recommendation for Trogir – and it was marvellous. Friendly owners, great location across from the old city with excellent views, and they gave us a lovely room. It was also an excellent idea to escape Split and relax in Trogir. We found the townsfolk really friendly there – lots of informal chats with waitresses about their family, life in the city etc. Gary.*

See: <https://bit.ly/2JKJH8x>

**Greece Island hopping in the Cyclades from Athens:**

*“I had a fabulous holiday. All your bookings were excellent. Two great weeks of riding and wonderful stays in both Athens and Corfu.” Steve*

See details on Steve’s trip: <https://bit.ly/2PqNnNp>



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## EXCERPTS FROM A PILGRIM'S DIARY WALKING IN SPAIN Day 17 Camino de Santiago from Hornillos del Camino to Castrojeriz.

*"I set off at 8.00am with the forecast of more rain. Today's walk continued on the Meseta through corn crops, no farmers or machinery was seen today because of the weather forecast.*

*The walk was on natural clay and stony paths, with some tarmac walking towards the end of the day. There was no shelter or shade, and very few walkers, they always seem to disappear for the Meseta, which I suppose can be very lonely but very peaceful.*

*It was a steady climb all the way to Hontanas, with a couple of descents. It was a nice comfortable walk until the rain came, twice. I met a man from Germany, neither of us spoke a language we understood, I have seen him for the last three days.*

*I continued on until I reached the cross roads to San Bol and it started to rain here, I was putting on full rain gear when a Dublin couple appeared from San Bol, they went looking for coffee, there was none. Our paths have crossed for the last three days, a nice couple. They walked on and it started to rain heavy again, so no more photos for a while. But I found myself 2 inches taller because of the mud clinging to the sole of my boots.*

*After a few 7 miles I arrived at the village of Hontanas, the only location for refreshments today. By now it had stopped raining, but everything was pretty wet. Individuals were sat in the restaurant changing their wet socks.*

*I met John from Armagh in Ireland who is living and working in this village. He is working with Emma also from Armagh, who I met last year at her premises in Hornillos, she and her Spanish partner now have a premises in this village. I went into the beautiful church of the Conception where I lit a candle and said a prayer.*

*I moved on, it was threatening rain all the time now. I met a Spanish couple of my generation walking in the opposite direction, a nice friendly couple who started in Finisterre and were returning home to Barcelona, a distance of about 760 miles. When you meet people like this you have to keep going.*

*Further along I met a man sitting in his car who was offering home-made souvenirs, bottles of water and stamp your Camino Passport for a donation. I obliged and he posed for a photo.*

*I next walked through the ruins of a 14th century convent which straddled the road, see the photos. I was now getting nearer to Castrojeriz, in the distance I could see very dark clouds and falling rain, so it was a race to get there, which I badly lost. It was a torrent, worse than yesterday. I reached the outskirts of Castrojeriz, the water was flowing deeply in the streets, and very bad where it was coming down hill at you.*

*I managed to follow directions, but was having to put my walking poles in the water in front of me where there was a torrential gush, to make sure it was safe. At one point a man invited me into his house, I stood inside his hallway to confirm directions to my hotel. I eventually arrived, feeling and looking like a drowned rat.*

*After I booked in I let my family know I had arrived. I hung my wet clothes up around the room. The boots were the problem. My daughters gave me the solution, the hair dryer. It worked and dried the inside of my boots.*

*After a shower and some sorting out and the rain had stopped for the day, I went out and had a look around in very moderate temperatures.*

*I walked back, 20 minutes, to Our Lady of the Apple Tree church for 7.00pm mass. I was surprised I had to pay 1 euro to get in because I was 10 minutes early. After mass I had a very nice meal in a restaurant near to the church. Back at the hotel my intention is to leave early as the weather forecast is good.*

*I have an Irish couple from Kerry as neighbours in a nearby room as she has been singing for the last 15 minutes, traditional Irish emigration type songs.”*

**Plan your Camino with pre-booked accommodation, meals & luggage transfers: <https://bit.ly/2E2pv0Y>**

## **YOUR OUTDOOR TRAVEL – THE ACTIVE TRAVEL COMPANY**

**Click here: [ALL OUTDOOR TRAVEL HOLIDAYS](#) for our current active holidays, destinations and ideas.**

We offer over 800 active holidays worldwide with an amazing 148 different **Bike & Barge** routes with over 60 different barges or boats in 18 different countries. 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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**Contact Outdoor Travel directly for more details and reservations**

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