

OUTDOOR TRAVEL NEWS

October 2021

Our back doorstep – Australia & New Zealand's unique offerings PLUS a taste of Europe coming back

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.

AUSTRALIAN HOLIDAYS - WHAT'S NEW

NORTHERN TERRITORY – NATIONAL PARKS GUIDED WALKING

7-days / 6-nights in Kakadu, Arnhem Land, Litchfield and Nitmiluk with motel/lodge accommodation

Starting in Darwin, spend a week discovering iconic Top End destinations including Kakadu National Park, Arnhem Land, Nitmiluk, Katherine Gorge and Litchfield National Parks on this guided walking holiday. This tour offers a unique opportunity to explore on foot spectacular gorges, take in far-reaching lookout views and relax in secluded swimming holes. Visit remote and restricted Indigenous sites with local guides including the sacred Ubirr and Nourlangie rock art sites. Take a cruise along the East Alligator River into Arnhem Land, with its sunny banks home to many, many crocodiles. End the week at Litchfield National Park, home to the curious Magnetic Termite Mounds and the cool beauty of its waterfalls and billabongs.

Departs: 27th June, 6th July, 15th July, 24th July, 2nd August 2022

For more details see: https://bit.ly/3iRwCfs









Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

NORTHERN TERRITORY - ARNHEM LAND & KAKADU SAFARI

5-days / 4-nights small group GUIDED touring with quality safari tent accommodation

Explore the remote beauty of the Top End with a touch of style on a safari experience of Australia's extraordinarily diverse habitat. Our small group guided tour offers a 'down to earth' experience with an attentive level of service; an appreciation of the finer details and most importantly a team of hosts and guides who are passionate about Australia's environment, its wildlife and culture. Enjoy unique hospitality and stay at a remote safari camp which does not purport to be a 5-star room in the bush but offers a style and experience which is utterly exclusive, rustically chic and totally in tune with the surrounding country.





Around 100km east of Darwin with access by car or charter plane, our private safari lodge and camp is located on the edge of the Mary River floodplains on a 303km² coastal pastoral property near Point Stuart in the Mary River Region on the edge of Kakadu National Park. The camp is surrounded by a variety of habitats including vast river frontage, coastal flood plains, savannah woodland and paperbark swamps and is home to prolific bird and wildlife. Morning is heralded by the call of magpie geese and at night the only sounds are the chorus of the Australian bush, the croaking of frogs, barking owls and the occasional howl of a dingo.





Departs: 1st March – 31st October 2022; 1st March – 31st March 2023

Arnhem Land Safari Experience 5 days/4 nights, cost from: \$3585 per person, twin-share

Kakadu 1 Day Private Tour during your stay, cost from: \$1800 per person with flights (minimum of 2 people)

Mid/High Season supplements apply from March to August – *early bookings essential*For more details click here: https://bit.ly/3iwuqlb





TASMANIA - FREYCINET, WINEGLASS BAY & EAST COAST CYCLING

9-days / 8-nights QUALITY, GUIDED cycling with gourmet food & wine from Launceston to Hobart

Explore the east coast of Tasmania and the iconic Freycinet National Park on this fully guided gourmet cycling tour, starting in Launceston and ending in Hobart. Discover the incredible, unspoilt beauty of this pristine region, visit wineries, oyster farms, wildlife sanctuaries and beautiful Wineglass Bay as you spend a week cycling through what Lonely Planet once named as one of the Top 10 Places to Visit.





The tour starts in the vibrant, riverside city of Launceston, home to the Tamar River and spectacular Cataract Gorge and ends in Tasmania's capital, Hobart, with its culture, art, fashionable Salamanca Markets, Mona and relaxed city lifestyle. In between, ride the off-road North East rail trail from Scottsdale to Tulendeena. Enjoy coastal views, pretty fishing ports and spectacular harbours with feasts of the freshest of crayfish, oysters and other seafood. Taste some of Tasmania's renowned cool-climate wines and indulge in the local produce with culinary experiences along the way. Explore the historic, quaint town of Richmond with Australia's oldest bridge and spend two nights in the Freycinet National Park that offers unparalleled access to the natural wonders of the park, views of Maria Island and the unmistakeable Wineglass Bay.

Departs: 4th December, 2021; 15th & 27th January, 19th February, 5th March, 2022

For full itinerary and more details, see: https://bit.ly/3xwivAa

SOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA – MUNDA BIDDI TRACK

6-days / 5-nights GUIDED cycling in the southern-most section of the track from Albany to Walpole





One of Australia's great cycle touring trails, the Munda Biddi track is over 1000 kilometres long and traverses minor roads, dirt tracks and gravel trails from Albany in the far southwest of Western Australia to Mundaring in the hills near Perth. On this 6 day guided tour, we cycle 213km of the trail between Albany and Walpole, taking in the tall timbers of the Karri and Tingle forests and the wide panoramic coastline for which this part of Western Australia is renowned.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Cost from: **\$2295** per person, twin-share Single use room supplement from \$250*

*Singles may share with another single of the same gender at no extra cost.

Departs:

7th, 14th, 21st, 24th, 28th November, 2021; 28th February, 11th, 31st March, 10th April, 3rd, 13th, 23rd October, 2nd, 11th, 19th November 2022

Full tour itinerary: https://bit.ly/3AjJOji

SOUTH AUSTRALIA – KANGAROO ISLAND WILDERNESS TRAIL

5-days/4-nights lodge and cabin-based small group GUIDED wilderness trail walk

The Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail is one of Australia's newest walking trails, redeveloped after the bushfires of 2020. Take in far reaching coastal views as you walk on beaches, trek through the dunes, follow rugged coastal cliffs and visit unusual and spectacular sculptured rock formations. The trail also takes in forest and coastal scrubland full of interesting plant species, numerous birds and other fauna. On your walk expect to see seals lounging in the sun, echidnas, wallabies and kangaroos as you explore the isolated trail where it is easy to imagine that your group are the only people on the island.





Situated on the southern coast of Kangaroo Island, this spectacular yet remote 60km trail is offered as a guided tour, completed in a series of day walks, we return to comfortable lodge or cabin accommodation nearby and relax while the guides prepare delicious, home-style meals ideally suited to walkers. Each day transfers drop you back to resume walking where you finished on the previous day, so you continue on the route. This makes a normally challenging trail much more achievable to those with a moderate level of fitness, as there is no need to carry a heavy backpack or camp out. It is the ultimate way to experience the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail.

8th, 22nd April, 24th September, 16th October 2022 Departs:

Full itinerary see: https://bit.ly/31756eF

VICTORIA & NEW SOUTH WALES – MURRAY RIVER BOAT CRUISING

5-day / 4-night river boat cruising on the Murray River border country from and back to Echuca

Discover the diverse and unique landscapes of the Murray River onboard a relaxed yet captivating river boat cruise. The Murray River is known for its essential role as the lifeblood of the south east region of Australia. It is Australia's longest river and has a rich cultural, agricultural, geographical and environmental significance. The best way to explore this diverse habitat is from the water, and this river boat cruise is your opportunity to sample a picturesque, historic part of river in the same way as you can on the small river cruise boats and barges in France. Add the rhythm and swish of paddlewheels and the romance of steam-driven travel from a bygone era and you are set for a captivating cruising holiday.

Cost per person, twin-share from: Twin or Double Cabin Single supplement on request \$2240

> Queen Cabin \$2320 Emmylou Queen Suite \$2760





Taking in over 190kms of the river from Echuca in northern Victoria, the cruise aboard PS Emmylou is powered by a 1906 steam engine fuelled with red gum logs. The majestic vessel is one of the most recognisable and iconic Paddle steamers in Australia, cruising the Murray River from Echuca. There is opportunity to chat with the skipper or engineer in the wheelhouse about the technicalities of river cruising. We visit Torrumbarry Weir to learn about the river basin and lock system and enjoy a guided walk of Perricoota Station Estate, first built in 1843 for an insight into the history of the area. Sit and gaze at the changing reflections in the water with unique natural beauty and wildlife.

To see the full itinerary: https://bit.ly/3oXatiN
3 or 6 night cruises are also available on different routes. Please ask us for more details and prices.





NEW ZEALAND HOLIDAYS – WHAT'S NEW

HAWKES BAY WINE TRAILS

5-days / 4-nights QUALITY, SELF-GUIDED cycling with gourmet food & wine

Cycle and explore the picturesque coastal district of Hawkes Bay, a world class wine region located on the eastern side of New Zealand's North Island. With a Mediterranean climate of long summers and mild winters this ideal cycling destination offers scenic views, coastal landscapes and many excellent wineries, serviced by a network of over 200km of flat, easy, off road bike trails. Great local produce and gourmet food are a feature but the Hawkes Bay region is best known for wines including Syrah, Cabernet Merlot and other grapes blended in the Bordeaux style.





Departs daily, year round (except over Christmas day)

Includes: 4 nights in comfortable quality accommodation with ensuite; 4 full breakfasts, 3 gourmet winery lunches, 3 restaurant dinners (2 x courses); all wine tastings; luggage transfers; hybrid touring bike hire with pannier, water bottle, lock and tool kit; detailed route notes and maps; emergency telephone support.

For more details, see: https://bit.ly/3zishHc



ADVENTURE CRUISING IN AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

WESTERN AUSTRALIA – WILD KIMBERLEY COAST

12-night small ship adventure cruising in the Wild Kimberly coast

With more than 2600 islands, reefs, whales and crystal-clear water, a visit to the Kimberley coastline is on many bucket lists. Explore nature, ancient rock art and pristine white beaches while perfecting the art of sunset drinks, the most relaxing way to experience the largely untouched Kimberley coastline is by luxury yacht. Sit back and enjoy as the landscape slip past, get up close in one of our Zodiacs or take a guided hike ashore. For convenience, your adventure starts and ends in Broome.

Departs: 2nd, 14th, 27th May, 8th, 21st June, 3rd, 16th, 28th July, 10th, 22nd August, 4th, 16th September 2022

10 , 22 August, 4 , 10 September 2022

More details on Kimberley Cruising: https://bit.ly/3owDstE Spaces are very **LIMITED**. Please enquire early.



NEW ZEALAND

7, 8, 9 or 10-nights small ship cruising the Bay of Islands, Milford Sound, Fiordland & Stewart Island

For full itineraries, dates and suite prices see: https://bit.ly/3uAasSV

MILFORD SOUND & FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK

9-days / 8-nights - Cruising deep within the stunning World Heritage National Park



Situated on the west coast of the South Island hours from the nearest town, the Fiordland including Milford Sound is New Zealand's wild side at its best. Carved by glaciers over 100,000 years the landscape is one where waterfalls cascade hundreds of metres into deep black fiords; where ancient rainforest clings to mountains and where shimmering lakes and granite peaks look as they did a thousand years ago.

Departs: From/to Queenstown 8th, 22nd January, 5th, 19th February, 19th March, 2nd April 2022

For more details: https://bit.ly/3uAasSV

NEW ZEALAND - DUSKY SOUND & SOUTH FIORDLAND

10-days / 9-nights - Cruising deep within the stunning World Heritage National Park

The Southern Fiords offer a selection of some of the worlds' most stunning scenery. Their history envelopes greats like Captain James Cook and his crew who have left behind remarkable landmarks for us to follow on our cruising through this diverse seascape. Venture ashore to explore places where few have ever explored, while returning afterwards to the comfort and luxury of your ship.

Departs: 15th, 29th January, 12th February, 12th, 26th March, 9th April 2022

For more details: https://bit.ly/3uAasSV

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BAY OF ISLANDS

8-days / 7-nights - Cruising amidst marlin, dolphins and legends...



Discover uninhabited sanctuary islands, watch dolphins at play, visit fascinating historic places and enjoy superb cuisine, served with endless sea views from your very own luxury yacht. You will discover perfect beaches, untouched native forests and fabulous walks.

Departs from/to Auckland: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th December 2021

For more details: https://bit.ly/3uAasSV



NEW ZEALAND – STEWART ISLAND

9-days / 8-nights - Cruising deep down South: from Queenstown to Bluff or v.v.

Visit the most remote and untouched part of the Fiordland World Heritage park, enjoying the view of the steep majestic fiords carved out by glaciers over thousands of years as we slowly make our way into them. Watch the waterfalls cascading from the mountains and into the fiords and the lively wildlife both in the air and under water. We visit Stewart Island (Rakiura), with densely forested hills, beautiful bays and golden beaches. Stewart Island is a haven for brown kiwi which outnumber the humans on the island and are active day and night. Blue penguins and the rare yellow-eyed penguins waddle among the rocks.

Departs: Queenstown/to Bluff 25th February 2022 Bluff /to Queenstown 6th March 2022

For all Adventure Cruising Itineraries in New Zealand, see our flyer: https://bit.ly/3uAasSV



NEW ZEALAND WALKING & CYCLING 2021/22

Walking throughout New Zealand is the best way to see beautiful landscapes and explore vast wilderness areas. With thousands of kilometres of tracks, Outdoor Travel have guided or self-guided options to suit all fitness levels and experience.

See our website for full list: https://bit.ly/3gRVgd1



ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK WALKING

3 or 5-day easy to moderate wilderness guided walking or kayaking with quality lodge accommodation





With a year round mild climate, enjoy a walk through native forest or sea kayak the coast. Wander the golden sand beaches or paddle in a pristine clear water estuary. Come home to one of our private beachfront lodges for a gourmet meal, fine wine and good company. Stay out late gazing at the stars, then retire to your own room, let the waves soothe you to sleep at the end of a day that can be as relaxing or adventurous as you like.

"Perfect, sunny weather greeted us when we arrived into Nelson, soon followed by a dinner of perfectly rendered confit duck and venison fillet, with great local wine, which set the scene for a sensational holiday in New Zealand."

- Sue (Reservations Manager)

Read Sue's full story here: https://bit.ly/3wA9wxN Click for itinerary: https://bit.ly/35yXpFm

Departs: 5-days / 4-nights: Tuesday, (also Friday for a minimum group of 4 people),

3-days / 2-nights: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, year round

The Great Taste Trail Coastal Route starts in Nelson and ends at Kaiteriteri. This region is renowned for stunning coastal scenery, rural landscapes, artistic communities and some of the many great tastes New Zealand has to offer. Cycling through regional townships, past sparkling coastlines, rivers and hill valleys, orchards, vineyards, breweries and cafes, along the signposted paved and gravel trail. Indulge in the incredible diversity as you sample along the trail that is well serviced with excellent cafes, award winning wineries and craft breweries. Seifried Estates and McCashins Brewery are not to be missed. Enjoy local wine, seasonal fruit and berries, fresh seafood and cheeses on the ride.

Take a day off cycling and cruise into the Abel Tasman National Park with an Open Day Pass. Enjoy a picnic lunch and use this unique opportunity to cruise, relax on a golden beach, walk, sea kayak or swim.

Departs: 15th, 30th November, 2021; 13th, 23rd January, 9th, 20th, 28th February, 15th March, 2022 See more details here: https://bit.ly/3uLWQUM



QUEEN CHARLOTTE TRACK - MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS

4 or 5-day South Island GUIDED OR SELF-GUIDED walking... in the footsteps of Captain James Cook

This is one of our most popular, scenic guided walking holidays, in the north of New Zealand's South Island. When English explorer Captain James Cook sailed into the calm waters of the Marlborough Sounds in the late 17th Century, he must have believed he was in paradise. Today you can follow in Cook's footsteps along the scenic and wild 71km of the Queen Charlotte Track. Explore the vast network of drowned river valleys, lush coastal beech and tree fern forests with its ever-changing hues accompanied by knowledgeable walking guides.

4 or 5 day GUIDED departs:

October 2021 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
November 2021 3rd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
December 2021 7th, 15th 18th, 28th
January 2022 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
February 2022 2nd, 9th, 15th, 22nd
March 2022 1s^t, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
April 2022 5th, 12th, 20th, 26th

5-days / 4-nights SELF-GUIDED Departs daily on demand year-round. Minimum 2 travellers

GUIDED see: https://bit.ly/3hytmnG

SELF-GUIDED see: https://bit.ly/2Xuytyp







HOLLYFORD VALLEY WALKING

4-day / 3-night Moderate guided wilderness walk with jet boat & scenic MILFORD SOUND flight





Step into the remote and dramatic Hollyford Valley; New Zealand's wilderness at its most primal and inspiring, spectacular and ever changing. At over 1.2 million hectares, Fiordland National Park is not only New Zealand's largest national park, but one of the biggest in the world. The Hollyford Walk experience is one of infinite views of snow-capped peaks and glaciers, of temperate rainforests, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, reefs, sand dunes and surf beaches. The diversity and wildlife in this valley is truly unparalleled.

Cost per person from: 1st December 2021 – 10th April 2021 **\$2770** Child (10-14 years) \$2375

Trip details can be found here: https://bit.ly/2YlwtZS

OTAGO RAIL TRAIL

5 days / 4 nights self-guided inn-to-inn cycling tours from Queenstown to Dunedin



The Otago Central Rail Trail is ideal for walkers and cyclists who wish to see some spectacular Central Otago scenery, at an easy pace, on flat, gravelled terrain. The immensely popular Rail Trail runs for 150kms between Clyde and Middlemarch (close to Dunedin) and is a public reserve, motorised vehicles are not permitted. Walkers and cyclists have no traffic concerns as they traverse the level surface. The heritage of the old railway line has been preserved, with the retention of viaducts and bridges, and some of the old Railway Stations to visit along the way.

Cost from: \$1110 per person twin share Single room surcharge from \$340 (limited availability)

Departs: Daily from 1st September 2021 to 31st May 2022 – starts Queenstown, ends Dunedin or v.v.

Full itinerary: https://bit.ly/3oPClph

EUROPEAN TRAVEL IN 2022

Been dreaming of sitting on the balcony of a château in the Bordeaux region of France, cycling along waterways in Germany or walking through dramatic mountains in Italy? Those visions are inching closer with the latest announcement that international travel will resume as soon as next month! We cannot be more excited to make your travel aspirations come true.

We have been frantically working to get our 2022 and 2023 programs prepared. Bookings are now open right up until the end of 2023 and there are some great earlybird savings – please get in touch for more details and keep an eye on our website for updates.

Some of our MOST POPULAR bike & barge trips are already booking up fast – click below for details:

Amsterdam to Bruges – Bike & Barge with guided cycling https://bit.ly/3DhQP4X

France - Burgundy to Provence PREMIUM PLUS GUIDED cycle cruise 2022 - https://bit.ly/3mylVgQ

Germany - Moselle and Saar Rivers **Koblenz to Saarburg** PREMIUM SELF-GUIDED cycle cruise 2022 https://bit.ly/3iBW33y

Explore the Danube - Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary GUIDED & SELF-GUIDED https://bit.ly/3Ak2izh

These cycling cruises combine easy to moderate cycling with river or canal cruising. They allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for leisure cyclists OR enthusiasts). You unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. These cruises are rapidly becoming the thing to do in Europe and appealing to the more active mature traveller. They are ideal for those trying a cycling holiday for the first time, families or a small group of friends. All barges now have COVID safe measures in place.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

LUXURY HOTEL BARGING

TEMPTATIONS FROM FRANCE - GASCONY'S GOURMET FOOD AND DRINK SCENE

Gascony has some of the most delicious gastronomic traditions in France. Our cruises introduce you to the region's food and wine in the most wonderful way.

Gascony, in the southwestern part of France, is renowned for its rich history and stunning landscapes that look like they've come straight from the brush of a French Impressionist. But there's something else for which it's famous, and this is definitely one of the reasons why it's become such a sought after destination on our barge holidays – the amazing regional food and drink.



Our cruises through Gascony introduce you to this wonderful area on the hotel barge 'Rosa', a beautiful old Dutch clipper that caters to just eight passengers. As we cruise along the Canal de Garonne on our seven-day itinerary, there will be abundant opportunities to sample the superb local produce and dishes unique to the region.

Here are a few regional delicacies to whet your appetite...

Confit de Canard - An iconic delicacy, confit de canard is a rich dish made from salt-cured duck legs cooked in their own fat. Traditionally, it was designed as a filling and sustainable dish for the winter months (it can be preserved up to six months once cured and cooked) and is often served with baked new potatoes and green vegetables, or used in a cassoulet.

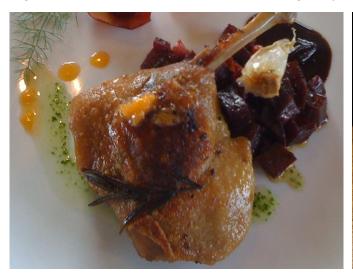
Foie Gras - While it might be the subject of some debate, there's no doubt this is one of the most sought after gastronomic pleasures of the area. The rich, silky smooth duck liver pâté can be enjoyed on its own or incorporated in mousses, terrines and soups. It's quite often served up simply sliced and quickly seared in a pan.

Cassoulet - Readily available on most menus around Gascony, cassoulet is a thick, heavy stew made from beans, sausages and the classic confit de canard. It's hearty, flavoursome and usually served up with huge chunks of crusty fresh bread

Cheese - Gascony's most famous cheese is the blue-marbled sheep's milk cheese, Roquefort, which is still produced in the limestone caves of Combalou. Aged for a minimum of three months, the nutty, buttery flavour of Roquefort goes wonderfully with fruit (figs and prunes particularly) and, mais oui, wine.

Wines and Other Tipples - The wines of Gascony have a reputation as being among the best in the country, and any wine aficionado will have plenty to make them happy here. The dry, fruity wines of the Côtes de Gasgogne are outstanding, and you'll also be able to sample some lovely Sauvignon Blancs. For lovers of red, the local barrel-aged Madiran is known for its deep brown colour and lingering flavour.

As well as the classic reds and whites of the region, there are two other tipples you should not miss the opportunity to try. Armagnac is readily available throughout the area and this drink made from fortified wine is a popular local beverage. There are quite a few variations on the theme since it's produced in numerous regional distilleries, so it's a lot of fun working out your favourite!





The sweet aperitif Floc is somewhat of an acquired taste, but those who love it, really love it. It's made from Armagnac and fortified grape juice then aged for at least 10 months. In order for it to gain its Floc de Gasgogne name, both elements must be produced from the same vineyard.

If you're ready to head to Gascony to experience the fabulous food, wine and landscape of this beautiful region, there's no better way to do it than by joining a Outdoor Travel barge cruise. You'll be able to sit back, relax and enjoy one of the most memorable holidays of your life.

Inspired? Explore the peaceful region of Gascony aboard Rosa - our intimate luxury hotel barge that navigates through southwest France's calmer canals

For all luxury hotel barging dates and prices, see: https://bit.ly/3FoBgKD

OUTDOOR TRAVEL - YOUR ACTIVE TRAVEL COMPANY

Don't quote us, as the numbers are changing all the time but we currently offer over 800 active holidays worldwide with an amazing 151 different Bike & Barge routes with over 68 different barges or boats in 18 different countries mostly in Europe. 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-skippered 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.

Click here for all tours

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Contact Outdoor Travel directly for more details and reservations

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