

Travelling Independently in Europe and UK

Last month we wrote about travelling around in a motorhome. This month we will look at other ways of getting around Europe. One option is to drive around in a car. Here you have the choice of straight car rental or a car lease. Car rental is suitable for shorter trips, for example: 3 separate lots of 7 day hire or rentals under 28 days or part travel in UK/Ireland and part in Europe. If you need a car for longer, or a one way between countries, or for countries where car hire is more expensive, or you are under 25 years – consider a lease – you will certainly save money. You have great freedom in a car and can go to places off the tourist track, are not dependent on bus or train timetables and don't have to worry about carrying your backpacks or suitcases. With even a small car, you can fit in your luggage and still have space for 2 fold up canvas seats, a rug and picnic set for an impromptu picnic... not to mention a plug-in coffee maker for those who are coffee addicts! For those who don't want to drive themselves, consider the train. Here you have options varying from rail passes where you don't have to book beforehand, point to point tickets and some trains where you can sleep on board. The popular Eurailpass which covers 17 countries has been revamped and you now have more choices and options. You have various fares eg. 1st or 2nd class, senior fares, saver fares (when 2 or more travel together) & Youth fares if still under 26 etc. If you have a railpass you can get bonuses like discounted Eurostar fares, 50% off the Calais/Dover Seafrance crossing etc. The last option would be to travel around in a bus. You can get bus passes around Europe but consider the flexibility or lack thereof! In some places the bus only comes every 2 days and could whizz right past that special place you wanted to stop and visit...The Flexi 7 day bus pass to be used anytime in one month or for 2 weeks unlimited travel would cost approx Euro 359 per person (Euro 718 for 2). By comparison a small car picked up in France would cost you Australian \$38 per day or approx. Euro 21 per day. Only €294 for 14 days and the price drops the longer you keep it. The cost of petrol should still be factored in when considering driving.

Of course, all these options still necessitate the need for a place to sleep. Besides Youth Hostels for youngsters and the more adventurous, consider accommodation passes. Open dated and pre-booked options are available in all major cities and cover options like, Bed & Breakfast, Inns, Hotelpass and even Mansions & Manors!

WATCH THIS SPACE.... COMING SOON..... Next months newsletter will have details of the deal we have just signed with the large Accor group which encompasses chains like Sofitel, Novotel, Mercure, Ibis, Formule and Motel 6...That's over 3700 hotels in more than 90 countries worldwide **PLUS** we will have great rates for all Eurail tickets and loads of other country rail passes.

GETTING TO EUROPE: For travellers from Australia we offer great airfares on Emirates. Multi Award winning Emirates, who is 20th in size & one of the 5 most profitable international airlines are offering Summer Holiday fares which must be booked & ticketed by 15June. After that date they still offer great deals & their Business Class airfares (Such great business class lounges and included limousine transfers!) are up to \$3500 less than other major airlines. Ask for details.

VARIOUS UK CAR SPECIALS

- 1 – From Australian \$39 per day
- 2 – Upgrade offers
- 3 – **Some with NIL excess and up to 3 Free days ...that means absolutely FULLY INCLUSIVE with NO EXTRAS.**

WE OFFER 9 UK COMPANIES & WE GUARANTEE THE BEST PRICE .. PUT US TO THE TEST!

CAR PRICES IN EUROPE

Leasing starts from \$20 per day.

Car rental prices vary from:
\$35 per day in France & Holland to
\$72 per day in Denmark and
\$114 per day in Poland

We can advise the best place to start your rental thus driving you holiday dollar further.... **We are the Experts!**

THE END IS COMING....

Our Mid Year Leasing deals end 30 June... We offer both Renault & Peugeot leasing so **We** find the best deal for **YOU** !

- * Up to 13 free days
- * Free Aircon, most models
- * Free/ Subsidised deliveris
- * Poland and Hungary now covered by Insurance with Peugeot.

We Specialise in Cars , Motorhomes, 4WD's, Canal & Riverboats Worldwide

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JUNE SPECIALS

MOTORHOMES – USA

LOWER THAN THE COST OF CAR RENTAL!

From AUD\$800 for up to 21 Nights.. That's a low \$38 Per Day !
500 miles included
Valid between Nov03-Mar04
Available: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas & Dallas

FREE VIDEO / HIRE

Would you like to see how easy it is to lease a car in Europe? We will happily give you a free video or DVD. Yours to keep.

Thinking of renting a canal boat?
We'll lend you a video...Book it now.

NEW ZEALAND

Cars from AUD\$38 per day
Travel before 17 September
Great Specials on
Motorhomes too ...

MOTORHOMES IN CANADA

FALL SPECIAL:
Earliest pick up is 24Sep03
Last drop off day is 31Oct03.
Not available in Toronto .

AUSTRALIAN CARS, 4WD AND MOTORHOMES

5% off all hires * excludes Cruising Tasmania.
Valid for all bookings made after 01June03.
See article below

SPANISH MOTORHOMES

10% discount for all rentals in Mid & Low Season!

HOLLAND MOTORHOMES

WINTER SPECIAL

2 & 3 Month Winter Rentals at

Unbelievably LOW PRICES!

Rates start from \$15 (Australian) per person per day!

Valid for any 2 or 3 month period between 01Oct03 and 15April 2004.

Book **NOW** for travel in
2004 at 2003 RATES!!

MOTORHOME SPECIALS

For UK, France, Italy, Spain, Canada, USA, Holland and Germany

CANAL BOATS

VARIOUS LAST MINUTE CANAL BOAT SPECIALS AVAILABLE

Tell us now many persons and where you want to cruise and we will check availability

UP TO 25% DISCOUNT.

SEE AUSTRALIA MOTORHOME SPECIALS

Discounted rates available to Australians
Valid from 01Apr03-31Mar04

Take a Break..
As Ernie says: "Go on. Get out there!"

Conditions apply. See article below.

To qualify a 25% deposit is required and balance is to be paid by 30 June 2003 unless otherwise specified.

IN PASSING...: With the advent of Internet and Email – the world has just become one big Global Village. For example, we in Australia, do sell products to Americans who want to pick up a car, motorhome or canal boat in Europe and vice versa. With careful shopping, travellers can save heaps by using exchange rates favourable to them. We therefore feel clients should be able to book in whichever country they want, at the prices locals pay. Unfortunately though, we are sometimes restricted by marketing/ wholesale agreements, which dictate to whom we can sell certain specials. At present we have some terrific motorhome specials available for travel in Australia & saleable only to Australians. These are the See Australia Specials advertised on 'The Great Outdoors' with Ernie Dingo. These are to encourage Australians to take a break & enjoy a domestic holiday. I felt so bad that all our non-Australian clients had to lose out, so I spoke to the Boss and asked what we could do for you. He told me to offer all Non-Australians a 5% discount on our rates plus a Drive Travel cap and to remind you folk that we do offer a Best Price Guarantee .

We would also like to advise our foreign clients that for your safety and security – we have been under the same ownership for more than 23 years, are members of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents, the American Society of Travel Agents, the Council of Australian Tour Operators and the Travel Compensation fund. You can also see the testimonial page on our website for feedback from happy travellers.

to **REGISTER A FRIEND** to receive the newsletter each month, simply email
sales@drivetravel.com