

# Making Travel Easy with

hikebike  
tours

I'm told I'm a lucky person being paid to tell people where to go! I'm looking forward to helping you.

## November 2013

This is a special cycling and walking edition as I am noticing that people are booking much earlier for travelling in next year's northern hemisphere summer. Especially for walking and cycling holidays!

I have included some easy ones, some hard ones and some family ones. However the fitter you are the more you will enjoy your holiday and of course the more you will enjoy the food and wine.

This newsletter is four pages long so sit down, pour yourself a wee dram and start planning.



House on Lake Baikal

## Walking in Hong Kong

There are some great walks in Hong Kong away from all the neon lights. I just did a couple of small ones on the islands of the Lamma and Cheung Chau. The HKTB puts out some good brochures which can be obtained by mail from the [Sydney office](#).

## Trans-Siberian Train

And for those not into active holidays try a train! The rates I receive from my operators are in Euros or US Dollars which makes the train trip great value when converted to Aussie dollars. For more general information [click here](#).

## Cycling in Cuba 8 days with a group

Cuba is an increasingly popular holiday destination and it's easy to see why. The music, beaches, old cars, striking architecture and revolutionary history all combine to make the perfect cultural destination with warm hospitality and a lively atmosphere.

Our relaxed cycle route allows us to visit all the 'must see' places that Cuba is famous for: the crumbling colonial buildings of Havana, the music of Trinidad and the revolutionary history of Santiago. Away from the coastal resorts, visitors are very much in the minority, allowing us to observe the genuine warmth and hospitality displayed by the Cubans.

## Walk in Alsace 7 days self-guided

This walk can be also called "the Balcony of the medieval Alsace", a balcony on which we are the spectators of the landscapes and its beautiful views. There is plenty of time to taste some world famous Riesling in between visiting 12th century buildings.



Walking or cycling in Alsace

Please like me on my [Facebook page](#).

## Cycling in Tibet 2014 24 days with a group

I have a few places left on my Tibet cycle trip from Lhasa to Kathmandu starting 22 September and ending 15 October. So if you have the time, the money and a sense of adventure contact me for more details and to [make a booking](#).

Price is US\$3290 per person and US\$3000 for non-riders. This is based upon a group of 7 to 10 people. Airfares to and from Kathmandu are not included and would be about \$1500 including tax.



West Highland Way

## Do you need any photos?

I have a number of excellent photos which you can buy from me if you need to illustrate anything. Most are travel related and I have a few with some humorous signs or situations (see below).



Cycling from Leh to Manali

### **Cycling in South Africa 12 days with a group**

Widely recognised as one of the most beautiful places in the world, Cape Town and its surrounding countryside and beaches provide a stunning backdrop for this tour. Our unique circular route allows us to take in many of the fantastic sights that the Cape Peninsula has to offer. In addition to Table Mountain and the chance to sample the produce of the world famous wine estates of Stellenbosch, the wild coastline and rugged interior provide some classic riding on peaceful roads with very little traffic.



**Cycling on the KKH in China**

### **Trekking in Nepal Annapurna Circuit**

This was my first trek ever in Nepal and one of my best experiences in the mountains. It is still regarded by many as one of the world's best walks. From drive to the village of Beshishahar where you start walking north up the Marsyangdi River. The peaks of Manaslu, Lamjung Himal and Himalchuli soar above while you trek through lush forests and as you climb the terrain becomes more arid.

At the Buddhist village of Manang you will have time to acclimatise before the ascent to the Thorung la. Once over the watershed you descend to the village of Mukhtinath and on to Pokhara through the steepest gorge in the world, the Kali Kandaki Gorge which separates the Annapurna Himal from the massif of Dhaulagiri.

This trek can be done as part of a group or on your own as it is an easy route to follow. Allow 3 weeks.

### **West Highland Way Walk 9 days self-guided**

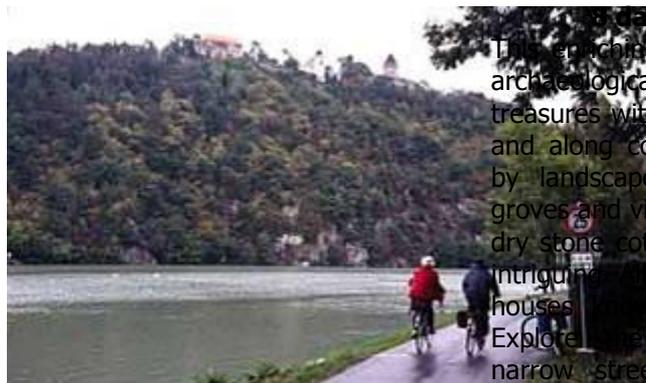
Scotland is a country steeped in history and tradition. The scenery is magnificent and the people are amongst the friendliest on earth. This walk starts in Glasgow and finishes in Fort William and takes in some of the best walking Scotland. If the weather behaves itself you will have your best holiday ever! This is Colin's very own turf and he has walked along the West Highland Way a number of times.



**Easy cycling in Sri Lanka**

### **Passau to Vienna by Bike 8 days self-guided**

This is one of the classic bicycle trips. You start in Passau and cycle all the way along the Danube to Vienna. It is a very popular and rewarding trip which takes you through quiet and peaceful rural countryside as well as through urban environments. It is all well signposted and it's easy to find your way to each night stop. There is no rush and it is relatively flat so just relax and enjoy the scenery and the people.



**Passau to Vienna**

Please like me on my [Facebook page](#).

### **Family walking on the Inca Trail**

Travel to South America and visit Peru on a family adventure through Lima, Ollantaytambo and Cuzco. Touring Peru, follow the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

Travel to Peru on this family adventure and uncover the terraced ruins of Peru's mystical ancient city. Explore some of South America's most beautiful architecture in Lima before flying to Cuzco, and journeying on to the cultural highlights of the Sacred Valley. Acclimatise in Chinchero and enjoy a local homestay, then warm up for the Inca Trail trek with a mountain bike adventure in the Andean countryside. Rest up and recharge in the ancient town of Ollantaytambo before embarking on the iconic Inca Trail to the ruined Inca city of Machu Picchu. This 14-day tour encapsulates Peruvian culture and lets you in on the secrets of their ancient civilisation.



**Walking the WHW**

### **Walking in Puglia 8 days self-guided**

This enriching walking trip combines archaeological and architectural treasures with hiking through valleys and along coastal paths surrounded by landscapes of red earth, olive groves and vineyards. See the unique dry stone cottages known as trulli in intriguing Alberobello and the cave houses known as Sassi in Matera. Explore the enchanting maze of narrow streets in the 'white city' Ostuni, the seaside village of Otranto facing the Adriatic and visit the elegant Baroque city of Lecce.

### **Bernese Oberland for Families 7 days group guided**

A walk through the stunning Bernese Oberland region in Switzerland in the company of families. Introducing younger family members to the delights of alpine walking in a landscape dominated by high peaks, many over 4000m is a truly rewarding experience.

There are numerous highlights as you walk with views from a variety of vantage points of vast glaciers that tumble from some of the highest peaks in Switzerland including the Eiger (3970m) and Jungfrau (4158m).

The quality of overnight mountain huts is exceptional as is the nightly cuisine, ensuring you experience traditional Swiss alpine hospitality at its best.



**On the Lares Trek in Peru**

### **Prague to Dresden by bike 7 days self-guided/guided**

On this riverside bicycle tour, connecting the Czech Republic and Germany, you cycle between two European centres of cultural importance, following the Vltava and Elbe Rivers. Marked cycling paths and paved backroads make this route easy.

The most impressive part of the tour is the region called Czech and Saxon Switzerland, where you bike along a steep-sided river valley with fantastic sandstone formations towering above.

### **Salzburg to Prague 8 days self-guided/guided**

Start your bicycle tour in Salzburg with the panorama of the Alps at your back, cycling through the spectacular Salzkammergut, to the great European city of Linz. Then up into the hills to medieval Cesky Krumlov. From there it's on to Prague, city of a thousand spires.



**Near Dali in China**

On this trip you will bike through country that epitomizes what most people think of when they hear the word "Europe": small towns watched over by ancient castles, deep green forests and rolling hills, little villages with church steeples dotting the countryside.

### **Walking in Iceland 5 days guided**

Iceland's volcanic landscape offers the perfect backdrop for day walks in the company of an expert guide. The extensive lava fields, huge moss-filled volcanic craters, serene fjords and trails that lead into the heart of the renowned Skaftafell National Park are part of this carefully devised itinerary.

Each day will reveal new scenery and activities will include a glacier walk, visits to historical sights and even an opportunity to bathe in steaming hot springs.

### **Turkey walk and Cruise 8 days guided**

Cruising from Marmaris, around the Gocek Islands and on to Fethiye, this unique program offers the opportunity to see the best of the Turkish Lycian coast from sea and on foot. Walk along tracks still used by shepherds today, most of which are so remote they can only be accessed from the sea. There's plenty of time to relax and enjoy all that cruising along this stunning coastline offers.

In the evening stay on board a traditional Turkish Gulet which will cruise from bay to bay as you walk along the coast. If you feel like relaxing and not walking, then just stay on board and enjoy the view! The Captain and crew take excellent care of you ensuring you have great food and the best of Turkish hospitality.

### **Cycle the Vineyards of California 13 days guided**

The ultimate US road trip, by bike! From San Francisco to Los Angeles, our journey covers the very best of California. This truly iconic ride takes you through the rolling hills of world renowned wine estates in Napa Valley, alongside towering Redwood trees and across the Golden Gate Bridge to mark our arrival into glittering San Francisco.



**Off road in Nepal**

Out of the saddle there are opportunities to explore the many incredible state parks, isolated beaches and prestigious wineries that the region is so highly regarded for, as well as re-fuelling on fine Californian cuisine.

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### **Holland Family barge and bike 8 days guided**

The flat cycle ways and pretty canals of Holland offer some of the most enchanting and safe cycling opportunities in Europe. Aboard your hotel barge and in the company of other families, visit castles as you cycle through the Dutch riverlands. During the day there is plenty of opportunity to visit interesting towns such as the famous cheese town of Gouda, take advantage of local family friendly attractions such as Dutch golf and view the 19 windmills of Kinderdijk. Specially designed for kids from 7 to 11 years old, the pace is relaxed ensuring that all members of the family are able to fully participate in the days cycle.



Look at the size of the cucumber!

### **Trek the Polish High Tatras 9 days guided**

The Polish High Tatras is one of the most rugged and spectacular ranges in Europe. The dramatic scenery, combined with a sophisticated network of footpaths, makes it a popular walking destination. Starting from the town of Zakopane, we trek through valleys, past lakes and over ridges before the final test, a tough ascent of Rysy (2499m), the highest mountain in Poland.

The walking is hard but rewarding, the terrain tough but beautiful, and the mountain huts basic but friendly, clean and hospitable.

Finally we visit Krakow, to relax and enjoy the delights of Poland's most fascinating city.

### **A walk on the Kings paths 8 days self-guided**

From the prestigious Loire River and its Royal châteaux, hiking via the green Sologne forest, to the famous Touraine Vineyards. You will enjoy the richness of the Loire Valley area: a rich artistic and historical heritage combined to incomparable flavours!



Toilet near Kunming

### **A taste of Brittany: bike tour from Rennes to Saint Malo 7 days self-guided**

The ideal trip for the ones who want to enjoy the peaceful and magnificent scenery: Start with an original view of the countryside by bike on the cycling path at the rhythm of the Ille et Rance Canal from Rennes to Saint Malo ! Then take time to enjoy the "pirates town" of Saint Malo, its beaches along the charming Emerald coast and the beautiful fishing ports and villages all around.



What's happened to Colin!

### **Scotland**

I know the place well. Come and have a chat and we can swap money for information!! Or if money is in short supply then some good malt whisky will suffice. Your choice!

### **A hotel in Glencoe**

The Kingshouse Hotel is at the eastern end of the glen and is a tremendous place to spend a night. It is one of the oldest inns in Scotland and probably one of the remotest. There is a great view of Buachaille Etive Mor from the huge picture window in the lounge.

### **Another hotel in Glencoe**

Nestling in the very heart of Glencoe, amongst the spectacular and majestic mountains of the Scottish Highlands, Clachaig Inn has been a source of accommodation and hospitality for travellers for over three hundred years. The hotel has 23 fully modernised bedrooms with en suite facilities with many enjoying magnificent views of the Glencoe mountains



Ready for a bush walk in Victoria!

### **A hotel in Skye**

It would be hard to find a more dramatic and inspiring setting in the whole of Scotland, than the one enjoyed by The Sligachan Hotel. With the Black Cuillin towering at its back and the sparkling waters of Loch Sligachan at its foot, the hotel has served mountaineers, walkers and lovers of the wild Highland scenery for nearly 180 years. Sligachan's fascinating history is described in the unique climbing and mountaineering museum within the hotel.

### **And in the end...**

Thanks again for all your support. If you do not wish to receive my newsletters please write the words "Please take me off your newsletter list" in the subject line of an email.

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