

THE WALKING PARTY

Represented in New Zealand by:
Eurolynx Travel, Ph: 09 361 3661 info@eurolynx.co.nz

With walks in:

- France (South West France): Dordogne Quercy, Haut Quercy, Basque Pyrenees
- Italy: A Taste of Umbria, A Taste of Tuscany
- England : A Taste of Suffolk , A Taste of Suffolk Coast
- Spain: A Taste of Catalunya
- plus Cooking Parties and Family Parties in France.

“The beauty of walking in clear aired wonderful landscape with fantastic food and picnics and delicious wines lends itself to a week of excellent conversation and laughs. ‘Plein air’ walking opens up conversation in a way that no other social gathering can.”

YOUR HOST



James Tamlyn

THE WALKING PARTY DIFFERENCE

- The walks are run by owner James Tamlyn. A ‘private house party’ atmosphere.
- Price all inclusive (except airfare). Nothing therefore to think of ... just follow the flow.
- Excellent food much of which is home cooked with fresh local ingredients. We are seriously interested in food as well as art, history, nature and general culture.
- Unlimited chosen and highly varied drinks included in the price.
- Charming and comfortable places to stay, private houses and chateaux, not just hotels.
- Back up pack animals and local muleteers accompany most walks carrying day time kit in France and Italy (drink, home-made biscuits, anything to be carried) enabling clients to walk freely.
- Remote country walking trails are sought and selected so that other tourists are seldom seen.
- Unthreatening walking and distances. **We are very accommodating to non-walkers.**
- Surprises en route not included in the brochure. (i.e. Champagne hidden down wells)
- The guarantee of good value for money.
- Guaranteed return custom – most clients come back to do every walk on offer.

THE GRADE OF WALKING

The walks are designed for mixed abilities with pack animals (mules, donkeys and horses) with support vehicle back up for those who find a 20km day too long. We have many people who have never been on a walking holiday before who often need reassurance. In this respect pack animals play an important part as they travel at the back of the group at the speed of the slowest walker. **The nervous walker can be safely assured that they will not hold the group up and similarly hearty walkers get a number of opportunities to do longer sections at their own pace.** We normally walk as a complete group stopping for rest breaks and to look at birds and wild flowers that are fabulous in France and Italy from May to June. Most botanists like to come about mid May to France when some twenty different species of orchids are in flower. In Italy it is early June that the flowers are resplendent.

AGE & NON WALKERS

We have no upper age limit however we insist that eighty year olds and older come accompanied by a partner to keep an eye on them. Our walks are very good for those people who may think themselves overweight. **Whatever the reason for somebody who cannot manage the walking they would be transported by the support vehicle and join the group at lunch or spend the afternoon in their lovely hotel.**

These walks are not suitable for children unless it is a **private family group**. These **Family Parties** are becoming very popular. Parents, their children and grand children. This is a separate venture where we take a beautiful chateau and do some outdoor activities like cycling and walking and canoeing as well as cooking and wine tasting. We make them unforgettable and unique.

HOW MANY IN A GROUP

The maximum amount of people would be sixteen in a group.
Singles pay a supplement



Célé Valley, Haut Quercy, France

ACCOMMODATION

- We choose lovely places to stay. These can be manor houses, private chateaux or charming *auberges* with a tendency to a small number of bedrooms (seven or eight preferably). This keeps the house party atmosphere we are after.
- There are always great chefs and excellent wine lists. Food and wine is a major concern of ours: a personal passion.
- We choose all the wine and 95% of the menus have been chosen by us. We choose very well and work on contrasts of flavour throughout the week to make walkers feel they have tried everything.
- We stay in only three hotels in the week. This means they can put their toothbrush in a glass, relax and unpack! Each hotel is very different to the next: the one being in the middle of the country, the next in the middle of a village; the last: a normally flamboyant exit in a *relais chateau* or four star hotel.
- The places to stay that we have chosen are very beautiful and an afternoon off in any one of them is a joy. **Therefore nobody feels like they are dropping out if they do not want to walk in the afternoon.**



Bearn, three night stay, Basque Pyrenees

PRICE INCLUDES

- All accommodation
- All meals.
- All aperitifs and still wines that are chosen by us are free. The odd surprise is also free, however all bar drinkers and champagne drinkers are on their own!!

Excluded in price are airfares or train fares, travel insurance.

FEEDBACK

“I don’t usually write thank-you letters after paid-for holidays but you both have the ability, and it must be a natural talent as well as something you work at, to make your guests feel utterly at home. Like spending a holiday with close friends.... It so happened it was the first time I have ventured to holiday on my own, without knowing anyone in the group. I wasn’t worried because I expected to be amongst kindred spirits, but the whole group, and you in particular, were even friendlier than I had expected.... Thank you both for making it such a special week and I hope we shall meet again.” H.B.

“Having done a walk with James in May through the Dordogne and Quercy I would thoroughly recommend the experience to anyone looking for a great holiday in a superb area of France. This is a 5 star holiday with wonderful hosts, Australians wanting to enjoy France should consider this as their next holiday destination. You’ll struggle to find a better holiday.” G.L.

“... especially as you gave us the best week ever. It was absolutely fantastic and so incredibly well-organised. It really was and at every turn something more enjoyable and interesting for us all. It was the most beautiful area. I can see why you have fallen in love with it You put so much thought and effort into it all and how you found such amazing walks and friendly farmers and horsemen is just amazing..... Well, it really was a walking party, every minute enjoyable and thought out by you both.” R.M.

“Many thanks for sending us the photographs. It all serves to remind us of one of the best holidays we have had for a very long time. Since the honeymoon perhaps?!!!” A.E.

“Thank you for your excellent and knowledgeable leadership and making allowance for my ageing bones. The memories of those flower-packed hillsides in the Sibellini mountains will stay with me for a long time. And it was so liberating being able to walk free of our rucksacks I look forward to seeing you again in the future on another holiday.” P.C.

“Dear James and Diana – Thanks for a splendid holiday filled with fun, food, wine and your kind attention. Life is full of memories – some good, others not so. This is one experience I will always cherish. Keep up the fine work – your keen attention to detail is greatly appreciated by all who tour with you. Have fun and enjoy life – it goes by all too quickly. With great admiration, John” J.M.

Hi every one,

Thanks again for your company and allowing us to join the Kenyan trip. We have been fortunate to do many trips OS and the Kenyan one is in our top four and well and truly exceeded our expectations ... Love from P and E

Hello you two wonderful people,

Our walking adventure was just as you described in the newsletter, except we were on the receiving end of your thoughtfulness and leave-no -Catalunya- stone -untuned - itinerary. Thank you for every minute, even power point presentation, which reappears in a dream sequence Gaudi would appreciate. I have passed on your website and info to an academic couple who frequently travel to the old world.

I am copying the email I sent to you last August. James was not sure he received it and I do want you to know how much your letter meant to Blake and to me. Hope the patrons are lining up for your gite, your loft in Scotland and walking parties, we will be back soon to lend support Lots of love S

Hi James and Diana

Well I have been home a month and back into the swing of things. Just finished sorting my 3000 pics and realised how much I had seen and learnt. Thank you both so much for an entertaining week. You both put so much effort into making the walks so interesting and I really got a feeling for the history as well as local cuisine. Loved the variety of terrain in the walks. Will do my best to make sure I join you again and tell all I meet of your amazing talents. Once again thanks and best wishes to all the family. Cheers, J.

Dear James and Diana

That was such a lovely week. You had planned a fantastic programme and I so enjoyed it all, from stumbling over the rocks to the gloriousness of Gaudi, Dali, fantastic views and wonderful food.

Thank you so much.

Hope the recce goes well in Marseille and the Camargue. I think it could be a goody.

Meanwhile any thoughts for October 2016 for 4-5 days to wet the appetite!

Hope you've got over COLD

Lots of love R