



WALKABOUT GOURMET ADVENTURES

What do you do if you have a severe case of wanderlust, graced with a gourmet's eye for a melting morsel or a devious drop? There's one answer as clever as ever seen - keep them all together of course, start a business that pursues these ends and pursue the success of the business.



GREAT ESCAPES

LEFT: Paradise found - the idyllic fishing village of Loutra, in Crete.

ABOVE: Gabriela and Graeme Clark.

BELOW: These feet have seen a lot of terrain, from King Island to Crete, from Wilson's Promontory to the Pyranees - Gabriela's are at left, Graeme's at right.

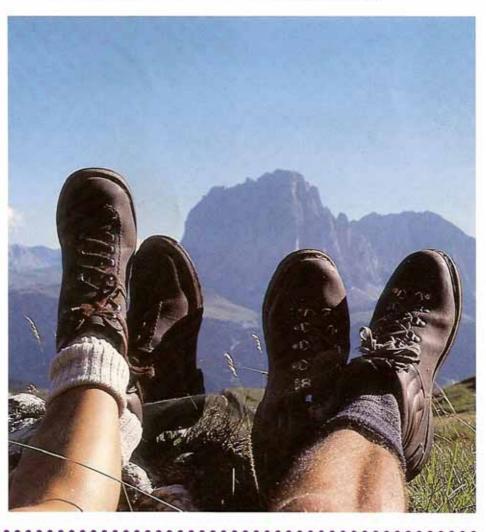
hich is exactly what Gabriela and Graeme Clarke have done and are happily still doing through their company, Walkabout Gourmet Adventures. They have devised tours for wandering gourmets which take in the better parts of southern Australia, including the coasts of Victoria and Tasmania and the mountains of those states and New South Wales.

They roam other parts of the countryside too, with tantalising tours covering the terrain of Victoria's National Parks. Once you've had some practice there, Walkabout have tours through Crete or the provinces of France, or combining the best of country France and Spain, or a triangle through France Germany and Switzerland, even a walk through the romantic paths of Bavaria, Austria and the Dolomites.

When you contemplate their backgrounds, the focus Walkabout has on good food and keeping it in country areas is quickly unrayeled.

Graeme Clarke was born and bred in country Victoria and has always had a passion for the outdoors, with a special interest in flora and fauna.

Little wonder then, that tours take in the beauty of Victoria's Great Ocean Road, staying at a dairy farm, or, for an experience



WALKABOUT
GOURMET
ADVENTURES

BELOW: Enjoying the countryside is the key for the Walkabout tours - here the cows are coming home for the milking in Austria's Tirol.

RIGHT: Near Langental in the Dolomites of Northern italy.

BELOW RIGHT: It's easy to work up an appetite admiring this kind of view - a group walking the European triangle, with the Swiss Alps in the background.



in the Grampians, use a sheep property nearby for accommodation.

Getting to know country people and enjoying their justly reputed hospitality is a key focus of the operation.

So to is the tucker and here's where Gabriela shows her colors. Originally from Europe, she is a Cordon Bleu chef and has created a wonderful range and style of fare you'd never expect to be greeted with in the wilderness.

The freshest ingredients of the season are always used, so on a coastal tour you might expect to find seafood, in the mountains it might be something a little heartier, while wandering the country you might be lunching at a winery.

Or on Walkabout's King Island tour you might try the island's fabled crayfish or beef or their dairy products - like the bries that compare with the best that France has to offer.

Of course, if it's French brie you want, Gabriela can arrange that too, while your walking your way through France and its provinces. In Europe, the emphasis is on good food and accommodation using hotels and guest houses which enhance the country atmosphere and offer the best in regional cuisine.

Anew development of Walkabout's could see the best in regional cuisine offered closer to home this winter - they are building their own Seasons Retreat lodge at Dinner Plain in the Victorian Alps with something in all seasons - for skiers when there's snow on the ground and for fishermen when there isn't, not to mention activities such as walking, cycling, rafting, fishing, rock climbing or abseiling.

For further information, write to PO Box 2179, North Brighton, 3168, or (03)598-5904 or fax (03)670-0985. ■





