

EXTENSION

NEPAL

Mt. Everest



Classic
JOURNEYS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

Adventure At The Top Of The World

Extend your time in Nepal with one of the most remarkable experiences anywhere in the world as you make the pilgrimage to the foot of Mt. Everest. Like generations of mountaineers and trekkers, you visit the first staging points for their ascents. But there, your expedition takes a different course when you check into the serene and scenic comfort of the world's highest hotel. With an experienced local trekking guide, you visit secluded Sherpa villages, meet the people who live there, and learn about their culture in the eras before and after Sir Edmund Hillary made the first successful climb in 1953.

DAY 1

KATHMANDU

- Return to Kathmandu where you meet your trekking guide
- Enjoy an afternoon at leisure

As your first week in Nepal draws to a close in Chitwan, you fly back to Kathmandu. There you meet your trekking guide and a representative of Hotel Everest View who will accompany you throughout the days ahead.

The balance of the day is yours to wander in the streets of Kathmandu. Browse your way through a bustling market. Step inside some of the many small temples. Or just relax and anticipate the high-altitude thrills to come.

OVERNIGHT: KATHMANDU

DAY 2

LUKLA

- Fly to the Gateway to Mt. Everest
- Acclimate to the altitude as you explore Lukla

The small town of Lukla is known to almost every climber who tackles Everest. Its mountaintop airport is the launching point for their treks and yours. The flight through into the Himalayas is awe-inspiring, to say the least.

You're at 9,383 feet of altitude here. So some very easy-going activity is ideal for acclimatization. You pay a visit to Lukla Kemgun Gumba, a humbler monastery than many you've seen during your visit. But then how could rich decoration hope to compete with the remarkable peaks that completely surround you? Next to the monastery is Thangka Painting School where you're likely to see you monks at their craft and have a chance to select one of their works for your own.

OVERNIGHT: LUKLA
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 3

SOLUKHUMBU / KHUMJUNG / KHUNDE

- Shuttle by helicopter to the Highest Placed Hotel in the world
- Walk to the villages of Khumjung and Khunde

Here in the mountains, the skies are clearest in the early morning and so your day gets off to a thrilling start with the 5-minute helicopter shuttle ride up to the Hotel Everest View. This one-of-a-kind retreat is in Sagarmatha National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At 13,000 feet above sea level, no hotel in the world is closer to the sky – and yet the peak of Mount Everest soars an additional 16,000 feet above you!

It's hard to imagine these sights as your everyday backdrop, but today's downhill trek gives you a look at the real life of the Sherpa villagers who call these slopes home. In Khumjung, low-slung houses with green roofs perch on the rare spot of terraced (almost) flat land. In the village, you visit a yak farm and stop in at a school founded by Sir Edmund Hillary. In Khunde, a narrow, frozen river seems to spill into the town. As you wander with your trekking guide, you have a chance to meet the people and learn about their lives.

Later, you return to the hotel on horseback and will be in place to watch how the valleys plunge into darkness as the sun begins to sink beyond the jagged horizon.

OVERNIGHT: SOLUKHUMBU
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 4

NAMCHE BAZAAR

- Explore the staging point for Everest expeditions
- Learn about mountaineering history in the village's museums

Long before the first successful ascent of Mt. Everest in 1953, Namche Bazaar was a busy market town. Farmers from lower elevations carried their crops up to barter for the local yak cheese and butter. (You can have a taste yourself to see why the trek up was worth it to them!)

This Sherpa hamlet is now the first acclimatization spot for mountain expeditions and treks. You may meet those who are headed deeper into the Himalayas. Local craftspeople sell their traditional wares here, and you visit a museum that celebrates Sherpa climbers as well as a classic Sherpa home dedicated to preserving the local culture.

A train of horses awaits to ascend the trail back up to the hotel. (Depending on your fitness level and comfort with the thin oxygen, you can consider the two-hour hike back.)

OVERNIGHT: SOLUKHUMBU
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 5

SOLUKHUMBU / KATHMANDU

- Marvel at the views as you shuttle by helicopter and plane back Kathmandu
- Explore the city at your leisure

After your earthbound days on the trails of the Himalayas, you return to the air this morning for the journey back to Kathmandu. As on your inbound trip, you'll shuttle aboard the hotel's helicopter to Lukla for your commercial flight to Kathmandu.

The balance of the day is yours to relax and explore. Maybe you'd like to get in a little last-minute shopping, and then treat yourself to a classic Nepali dinner in one of the city's bustling restaurants.

OVERNIGHT: KATHMANDU
MEALS: B

DAY 6

KATHMANDU / DEPARTURE

- Transfer to Kathmandu Airport
- Settle in for your onwards flight home

After breakfast, your Nepali adventure comes to its conclusion as you transfer independently to the airport for your flight home.

MEALS: B

Tour Hotels



Dwarika's Hotel

Inspired by a local man's commitment to preserve the architectural heritage of Nepal, this 5-star family-owned hotel beautifully captures the native spirit. Rooms contain traditional elements with modern amenities.

OVERNIGHT: KATHMANDU | NIGHTS: 1



Everest Summit Lodge

Renowned for its traditional Sherpa interiors, this lodge is in the heart of the small village. The rooms are warm and cozy and of course, the views are stupendous!

OVERNIGHT: LUKLA | NIGHTS: 1



Hotel Everest View

Tucked on a Himalayan ridge, this remarkable property offers a view of Mt. Everest from every room. With a style inspired by its Japanese architect, rooms are elegant simple with expansive windows.

OVERNIGHT: LUKLA | NIGHTS: 2



Dwarika's Hotel

Inspired by a local man's commitment to preserve the architectural heritage of Nepal, this 5-star family-owned hotel beautifully captures the native spirit. Rooms contain traditional elements with modern amenities.

OVERNIGHT: KATHMANDU | NIGHTS: 1

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
March 15-20, 2020	\$3,595	\$4,790
Apr 26-May 1, 2020	\$3,595	\$4,790
November 8-13, 2020	\$3,595	\$4,790
January 4-9, 2021	\$3,595	\$4,790
March 14-19, 2021	\$3,595	\$4,790
April 25-30, 2021	\$3,595	\$4,790
November 7-12, 2021	\$3,595	\$4,790

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE to learn more about private journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 6 Days, 5 Nights

START: Upon arrival in Kathmandu, Kathmandu, Nepal

END: Lobby of Dwarika's Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate with the option to make it more challenging on good trails. An average of 5 to 6 hours of walking per day.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 5 nights
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners
- Guided activities on a private basis
- Admissions to historic sites and scheduled events as detailed in the daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Privileged Access Events**

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com



TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

“Enthusiasm is Contagious”

AS TRAVEL + LEISURE NAMES CLASSIC JOURNEYS THE WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR FOR 2019, FOUNDER EDWARD PIEGZA REVEALS HOW IT FEELS. ENTHUSIASTICALLY.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Just before publication of this issue, Travel + Leisure magazine announced that its readers have voted Classic Journeys the World's Best Tour Operator for 2019. It's the second time Classic Journeys has won that recognition and the 14th consecutive year the company has been in the Top 10.

Congratulations! How did you get the news?

I received a top-secret email and phone call from the editor of *Travel + Leisure* a few weeks ago with orders not to tell ANYONE. Friends and neighbors must have wondered why my smile has been so extra big lately. Now they know.

And how does it feel to be the World's Best Tour Operator again?

Awesome. Humbling. So, so satisfying. Deeply gratifying to learn that we have achieved what we set out to do which is to handcraft trips of a lifetime for every guest who travels with us. I'm known as long-winded, so I could probably come up with 10 or 15 more ways to describe it if you want me to keep going.

Why do you think *Travel + Leisure* gave you this recognition?

Actually, it isn't the *T+L* editors who make the decision. That's the best part. Their readers cast the votes. So the people who do the traveling, the guests who explore the world with us and our competitors — they are the ones who raised their hands to tell *T+L* that Classic Journeys is the World's Best Tour Operator based on their own experiences. Let me say it right here: "To all of you who voted for us, you are the World's Best Guests!"

What do you think makes your guests the World's Best Guests?

That's easy. They are curious. They care about connecting with people of different cultures and immersing themselves in the world. They treasure experiences more than things. Like the old ad slogan went, they go for the gusto and crave the chance to have one-of-a-kind moments. They are incredibly interesting and interested people, and all of us at Classic Journeys count it as a real privilege to share in their passion for travel. And we feel that way on the

other 364 days of the year when we're not celebrating recognition like this.

I guess this is what you meant when you told me that "Enthusiasm is contagious."

Absolutely. That's not our official motto, but it could be. We love what we do. We enjoy helping guests figure out how to invest their precious time and budget. I can honestly say that all of us feel that way — the Guest Services folks who interact with you while you're planning your trip, the Tour Operations team members who plan all of the logistics, the local guides who lead each one of our trips full time. There's just a huge amount of positive energy in what we do, and I think it truly is hard to resist. We'd climb into every one of our guest's suitcases and go along with them if we could. Because we can't, we call each guest while they're on tour just to be sure they are having a trip of a lifetime.

Has anyone ever called Classic Journeys obsessive?

I hope so, because we are. Everything is in the details. For instance, we've created a special tour for the total eclipse of the sun which is going to pass over parts of South America in 2020. We've already analyzed likely traffic patterns in the most remote areas and figured out how to structure our itinerary so that our guests will be in place in the path of totality while the people who don't plan ahead will be stuck in jams on remote dirt roads. We enjoy obsessing about details like that so that our guests never have to.



How can you top this?

Oh, we never let ourselves think of it that way. We just continue to approach every single guest on each and every departure like the most important guest we've ever had. It seems to be working! Of course, we keep looking for new ways to win more converts. For 2019, we've launched a new series of Classic Journeys that are based from

"I voted for you!"

We've heard that expression so many times lately from guests who registered their votes with *Travel + Leisure*. Given the results, we know it's true ... and you know that your votes really count!

STAFF AND GUIDES

"I always feel like I'm traveling with a best friend. I prefer your local guides to the ones that other companies fly in."

ITINERARIES AND DESTINATIONS

"If it's on my bucket list, you always seem to go there. Of course, with so many options you always seem to make my list longer and longer!"

ACTIVITIES

"On your trips, I've cooked with Michelin chefs, sung songs with Quechua schoolchildren, and walked on glaciers with the descendants of Vikings. Fun doesn't begin to describe it."

ACCOMMODATIONS

"How you manage so many 5-star properties on these trips shocks me. But please, please, please keep it up!"

FOOD

"I have never eaten so well so often so happily. When you people claim that you are foodies, you aren't kidding."

OVERALL VALUE

"We have never had a better vacation at any price."

river cruise boats. On a different note, seeing how many travelers can't always find as much vacation time as they really want, we have developed a series of 6-day or shorter quick trips that go as far afield as Iceland, the Galápagos and Morocco.

Final thoughts?

It's always an honor to win recognition. But, for all of us at Classic Journeys, the biggest privilege is to share the dreams of our guests and make those dreams come true. That connection is the best feeling of all.