

CULTURE + WALKING

NEPAL

Himalayan Villages & Chitwan Safari



→ *Classic*
JOURNEYS



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

— *Travel + Leisure*

Explore the Top of the World

Nepal doesn't have to be a trek. Of course, you'll go to see the Himalayas, their snow-capped peaks painted with sun. But best of all, Nepal offers you truly unique cultural and nature experiences, with levels of comfort that exceed your expectations. On this stunning trip, you'll explore Kathmandu and Bhaktapur, the country's regal and religious capitals. But you'll also walk amid terraced rice paddies, chat with farmers, and explore tiny villages overlooked by splendid temples. For an unforgettable wildlife adventure, you'll strike out on a safari in search of the one-horned rhinoceros in the riverside jungle of Chitwan National Park. Your expert fulltime local guide makes the introductions, explains the history and cultural traditions, and helps you understand what life is like in the shadow of those awe-inspiring peaks. Nepal is spiritual and spirited, a lively and serene land that's even more than you have imagined.

DAY 1

KATHMANDU

- Walk in Asan Bazaar and Durbar Square
- Pay respects to the Living Goddess
- Enjoy a cooking instruction with a local chef

The greatest of the Himalayan cities, Kathmandu reveals the past and present of Nepal. On walks with your local guide, you'll explore Asan Bazaar where centuries-old shops sell everything from rock salt and copper pots to conch shells and clothing. You'll also wander Durbar Square, the UNESCO World Heritage site that is the ceremonial heart of the city, known for its rich concentration of traditional architecture. Nepalis in the Newar community continue to worship the Living Goddesses (Kumari), young girls who are revered for their connections to the divine world. You'll visit a temple at the hours when Kathmandu's Kumari may appear to bestow blessings. For views across Kathmandu, you'll head for the hilltop site of Swayambhunath Stupa, also known as the Monkey Temple for the hundreds of namesake animals that peaceably occupy the grounds.

OVERNIGHT: KATHMANDU

MEALS: L, D

DAY 2

TELKOT / NEPALI COUNTRYSIDE

- Meet the locals as you walk through terraced countryside
- Get big views of the Himalayas

Today, the focus shifts from the city to the wide-open, mountain-ringed Nepali countryside. Heading out into the Eastern Valley, you'll see Changu Narayan Temple, an intricately carved pagoda-style Hindu temple that's more than 1,500 years old.

From this remarkable starting point, you'll start a walk on country trails that reveal small villages and terraced fields that cascade down the hillsides en route to Telkot. Along the way, your guide will encourage interaction with the farmers and other locals who are going about their lives. It's a remarkable look at ways of life that have changed little over the centuries. You'll pause for lunch in the village of Nagarkot. This is the spot for the biggest views of the snow-capped Himalayas. On the clearest of days, it's even possible to see Mt. Everest in the far distance.

This afternoon, we return to Kathmandu for a restful evening.

OVERNIGHT: KATHMANDU

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 3

BHAKTAPUR

- Explore the royal city of Bhaktapur
- Take the short flight to Pokhara

Of three royal cities, Bhaktapur is today the best preserved as you'll discover on today's visit. The richness of detail is remarkable. Terracotta monuments are guarded by carved wood columns. Palaces and temples have gilded roofs. The 55-Window Palace is known not just for the carvings on its window frames, but for the Golden Gate – the shimmering portal that's regarded as one of Nepal's most important

works of art. You'll also visit Pottery Square where authentic kilns still operate. The pavement is covered with countless pots drying in the open air. You'll even have a chance to sit at a pottery wheel to create your own piece.

After lunch in Bhaktapur, you'll return to Kathmandu airport for the brief flight to Pokhara. On arrival, you'll have the rest of the day to do a little exploring of the lakeside city on your own.

OVERNIGHT: POKHARA

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 4

POKHARA / HIMALAYAN VALLEY WALK

- Marvel at the Himalayas on a walk through villages and farms
- Visit a small village school and meet the students

Today, you'll learn one of Nepal's best travel secrets: You don't need to subject yourself to a trek in order to experience the wonder of the world's tallest mountains. An easy morning drive will take you to Dhampus Village, a starting point of a gorgeous country walk in the shadow of Machapuchare or "Fish Tail Mountain".

The trail wanders through small, scattered villages, and you'll see farmers at work in their steeply terraced rice paddies. The grandeur..the stillness..the freshness of the air – they all meld to make for a day of peacefulness like no other. Along the way, the villagers will say "Namaste". You may have to yield right of way to a dzo. You'll also be welcomed into a small village school to meet and chat with the students and their teachers. In the midst of this epic day, you'll take a break for a picnic lunch and some time to contemplate the serene enormity of it all.

On the late afternoon return to your hotel, you're invited to have dinner on your own at one of Pokhara's traditional restaurants.

OVERNIGHT: POKHARA

MEALS: B, L

DAY 5

POKHARA / PHEWA LAKE

- Witness sunrise at Sarangkot Hill
- Go for a forest walk to Phewa Lake

Chances are you've seen the alpenglow, maybe in the Rockies or the Alps. But you can be sure that nothing compares to sunrise in the Himalayas. You get the proof today with a sunrise pilgrimage to Sarangkot Hill. As the first rays touch peaks like Dhaulagiri and Annapurna II, their caps of snow morph from violet to gold, even while the valleys are still in darkness. Back in Pokhara, you'll have time to rest up from the early-morning start.

Back together for an afternoon walk, you'll start on a hilltop where the World Peace Pagoda shimmers white against the sky. The trail leads down through a lush Queen's Forest to Phewa Lake, the second largest body of water in Nepal. You'll board a boat for a ride on the tranquil waters that are hugged closely by the surrounding slopes. Along the way, you'll visit Barahi Temple, a two-story pagoda dedicated to the Goddess Durga and sitting on a small island.

Afterward, you'll return to Pokhara for dinner.

OVERNIGHT: POKHARA

MEALS: B, D

DAILY ITINERARY

NEPAL | HIMALAYAN VILLAGES & CHITWAN SAFARI | CULTURE + WALKING

DAY 6

CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK

- Bathe with the elephants
- Spot wildlife during a canoe ride on the Rapti river

A morning flight takes you to Chitwan National Park. This 932-square-kilometer reserve is justly renowned as one of the finest places for wildlife-viewing in Asia. Once a hunting ground for the Nepalese royals, it's now a protected area most famous for its success in saving the endangered greater one-horned rhinoceros. Your home for the next two nights is at a lodge that's inside the park, an ideal starting point for a variety of safari experiences.

The late morning includes an elephant safari through the distinctive riverside forest, and you'll have a chance to learn about elephant behavior and, if you like, bathe with them in the river. Out on the river in a canoe, you may spot mugger crocodiles and gharials, otters, turtles, storks and kingfishers. From your unique vantage point on the river, you'll watch the sun set over the Himalayan foothills.

Your hosts at the lodge welcome you tonight with a lamplit dinner of grilled Nepali specialties and a dance performance by the indigenous Tharu people.

OVERNIGHT: CHITWAN
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 7

CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK / RHINO SAFARI

- Spot rhinos on a safari

- Visit a forest village of the Tharu people

By latest count, about 600 one-horned rhinos now thrive in Chitwan. This morning, you'll get a good start in the prime time of day to spot them. With expert naturalists, your safari will wander through the jungle and grassy open areas that are optimal viewing territory. In addition to the rhinos, you may see barking deer, birds such as peacocks and painted storks, and fresh footprints left by tigers. Breakfast will be a sumptuous spread set up on the bonnet (hood) of your safari vehicle.

Your afternoon features a visit to a native village in the forest. The Tharu people, whose origins are surrounded by myth, have called this region home for centuries. Colorful handprint marks cover their homes of bamboo and mud, and each home houses cattle, pigeons, and pigs as well as the family. Your visit, with a naturalist and local guide known to the residents, offers a chance to see a distinctive way of life.

Back at the lodge, you'll have time to relax before your farewell dinner: a delicious Nepali barbecue.

OVERNIGHT: CHITWAN
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 8

CHITWAN / DEPARTURE

- Depart for home

After breakfast, you'll transfer to the airport for your onward travel with fun memories and shared experiences of your time in Nepal.

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: 2



Temple Tree Resort

Named for the frangipani tree, this boutique hotel nestles in the foothills of the Annapurna mountains. Rooms are in 2-story lodges and each has a private balcony. You're just a short stroll from shops and restaurants of Pokhara.

OVERNIGHT: POKHARA | NIGHTS: 3



Meghali Serai Hotel

Right in the heart of Chitwan National Park, this 30-room lodge is on the banks of the Rapti river. Decorated in classic local style, the rooms offer views of the jungle. A deck over the river is an incredible spot for dining and wildlife watching.

OVERNIGHT: MEGHAULI | NIGHTS: 2

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
March 8-15, 2020	\$4,995	\$5,690
April 19-26, 2020	\$5,395	\$6,090
November 1-8, 2020	\$5,395	\$6,090
Dec 28, 2020-Jan 4, 2021	\$5,595	\$6,290
March 7-14, 2021	\$5,395	\$6,090
April 18-25, 2021	\$5,495	\$6,190
Oct 31-Nov 7, 2021	\$5,495	\$6,190
Dec 28, 2021-Jan 4, 2022	\$5,695	\$6,390

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about private journeys.

INTERNAL AIRFARE

This trip includes internal flights, which are priced separately from the land tour at an approximate cost of \$395 per person.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 8 Days, 7 Nights

START: 9:00 AM Lobby of Dwarika's Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal

END: Tribhuvan International Airport (KAT), Kathmandu, Nepal

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 7 nights
- All breakfasts, 6 lunches and 5 dinners including 1 cooking class
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Invisible Check-In**
- **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.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Nepal...

- Exploring Durbar Square in the heart of Kathmandu
- Chatting with farmers in the terraced rice fields
- Watching the alpenglow touch the Himalayas at sunrise
- Overnighting in your luxurious lodge in Chitwan National Park
- Spotting endangered one-horned rhinos on a safari

"I have never been disappointed with the Classic Journeys guides. I continue to be impressed."

—Susan L., Mystic, CT

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

Extend your time...

Mt. Everest

NEPAL | POST TOUR



Extension Prices

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: From \$3,595.00 per person

SINGLE OCCUPANCY: From \$4,790.00 per person

Extension Essentials

EXTENSION LENGTH: 6 Days & 5 Nights

EXTENSION BEGINS: Upon arrival in Kathmandu

EXTENSION ENDS: Hotel in Kathmandu

For more information about how to extend your Classic Journeys vacation, call us at 833-387-1210 or email moreinfo@classicjourneys.com.

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Arriving at the world's highest hotel by helicopter
- Walking trails near the base camp of Mt. Everest
- Visiting Sherpa villages to meet the local people

You might also enjoy...



Bhutan

Himalayan Villages & Monasteries

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring dramatic Himalayan monasteries
- Meeting rice-farmers and yak-herders at work in the countryside
- Witnessing the butter-lamp blessing ceremony and the skill of native masked dancers

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/bhutan/>.



China

Shanghai to Shangri-La

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Hiking the most scenic stretch of the Great Wall
- Dancing with locals in the town square of Yangshuo
- Feeling the Himalayan Breezes in a Tibetan wildflower meadow

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/china/>.



India

Rajasthan & Taj Mahal

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring rustic villages
- Traversing countryside trails
- Scouting bustling bazaars with a local chef

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/india/>.

You might also enjoy...



Japan

Tokyo to Kyoto

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Strolling the streets of Tokyo's old town of Asakusa
- Riding the bullet train from Hakone to Kyoto
- Sipping tea at an authentic Japanese tea ceremony

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/japan-tours/>.



Myanmar

Mandalay to the Temples of Bagan

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Shopping in local village markets
- Meeting the fisherman, farmers and cigar makers
- Hot-air ballooning over the temples of Bagan

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/myanmar/>.



Thailand

Phuket, Chiang Mai & Chiang Rai

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Cruising through Phang Nga Bay on a traditional junk boat
- Mingling with members of colorful hill tribes
- Communing elephants along forest and jungle paths

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/thailand/>.

You might also enjoy...



Southeast Asia

Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Rambling past rice fields to friendly villages untouched by tourism
- Playing with an elephant in the Mekong River
- Absorbing Angkor Wat at sunrise

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/vietnam/>.

“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.