

SPECIAL EDITION

VERMONT

Stowe & Middlebury

WINNER

TRAVEL
LEISURE

WORLD'S
BEST
AWARDS
2019

Classic
JOURNEYS



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

— *Travel + Leisure*

The Heart & Soul of New England

We remember our first time in Vermont. The quiet little lane. The green hills that backed up to the barn with the grove of maples that led to the clapboard house with the big porch. The farmer with the smile and a tip of the cap. We'll never forget the stillness, the absence of rush, the ten pictures we took of one scene hoping we could somehow capture it. The true appeal of Vermont is that none of that has changed. Whether we're visiting a sugarmaker, exploring the woodlands and the valleys, strolling a village square, or watching Morgan colts frolic in a white-fenced pasture, the peace is authentic. The beauty is un-retouched. This journey ranges through terrains of town and country that you can hardly believe still exist in America. But they do. Clocks tick just as fast here, but you'll slow down. And, if you're like us, after a day outdoors and dinner by the fireplace, you'll sleep as you haven't slept for years.

DAY 1

BURLINGTON / STOWE

- Visit of Moss Glenn Falls
- Enjoy samples of beer from Hill Farmstead Brewery
- Stroll through Stowe Village

We meet in Burlington on the shores of historic Lake Champlain. Founded in 1763, this town of just under 40,000 souls has consistently been selected as one of America's most livable small cities. A walk from Church Street, with its signature 1816 Unitarian Church, takes us through a pedestrian only promenade, past boutiques, restaurants, street performers and shops to the waterfront of Lake Champlain. A short stroll along the lake provides us with wonderful views of Adirondacks to the west and the lively waterfront and recreation path along the lake.

After exploring Burlington we head to Stowe, an hour to the northeast of Burlington. At the foot of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak, Stowe has the charm of a traditional New England village and much of the town is on the National Register of Historic Places. A lovely walk takes us to Moss Glenn Falls, one of Vermont's most spectacular waterfalls, and along a secluded back road trail.

Later this afternoon, we make a visit to Hill Farmstead Brewery. With a long family history, the Hill family has perfected the art of brewing beer, and was voted "Best Brewery in the World." Now, you will get to sample some of the selections that have earned them this title.

Relax at our country manor hotel before dinner or stroll along the recreation path that winds in and around Stowe Village, offering spectacular views of the surrounding Green Mountains.

OVERNIGHT: STOWE
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 2

SMUGGLER'S NOTCH / TRAPP FAMILY LODGE

- Explore Smuggler's Notch passageway
- Walk to Bingham Falls
- Visit of Trapp Family Lodge
- Stop at a local dairy for a private tour

This morning a short drive takes us to Smuggler's Notch, a narrow pass carved by glaciers, with 1,000-foot cliffs looming on either side. Smuggler's Notch was a favorite route for smuggling goods into and out of Canada in the 1800s. It was also used by fugitive slaves as an escape route to Canada and by Vermonters in the 1920s to smuggle liquor into the country during Prohibition.

A beautiful passageway, this is a quiet, awe-inspiring place to pause and reflect on the rock formations formed 400 million years. A walk to Bingham Falls takes us through a birch and maple forest to a series of cascading waterfalls cut through a deep gorge. We then head to the Trapp Family Lodge, established in the 1940s by the Baron and Baroness Maria von Trapp of Sound of Music fame. A walk through the acres of trails surrounding the lodge allow for beautiful views of the surrounding mountains.

After lunch you will make a stop at a local creamery for a private visit to learn about the process of making cheeses and other dairy products. Farmers often juggle lots of different kinds of work, but George Woodard is the only farmer who is also an award-winning movie director/writer/actor listed on the internet movie database IMDB.

This evening is yours to relax and enjoy dinner at your leisure.

OVERNIGHT: STOWE
MEALS: B

DAY 3

MONTPELIER / MIDDLEBURY

- Visit of Montpelier
- Covered bridge walk
- Enjoy tastings at Lincoln Peak Vineyard w/ owners Chris and Sarah.

Today we travel along Vermont country roads through timeless villages and spectacular scenery to Montpelier, the smallest state capital in the country. A walk through the town takes us past the bustling Main and State streets to the Vermont State House, built from blocks of Barre granite with a gold-leaf dome and a gold-leaf statue of Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture. We walk past the state building to Hubbard Park, with its 180 acres of hills and trails. If you like, climb up the 50ft stone tower for a 360° view of the city, or take a leisurely stroll through meadows full of white pine and red oak. We return to Montpelier, home to the New England Culinary Institute. For lunch, visit their fine restaurant, and, if you like, stop for dessert at their bakery and cafe, where you may be able to watch a pastry class in action.

Continuing southward, we experience one of Vermont's finest sights—the covered bridge. Northfield has the largest cluster of covered bridges in Vermont, and our walk takes us to two bridges that can be viewed simultaneously, which is the only place in the East where this occurs.

This afternoon, you will enjoy a visit to Lincoln Peak Vineyard. Not only will you enjoy multiple tastings with a view of a creek and changing colors of the leaves, but we will meet with the owners Chris or Sarah Granstrom. They will give you an in depth look into what makes their wines so incredible.

Later, we head to our historic hotel to relax by the fire or on the porch overlooking the maple trees in the beautifully landscaped garden.

OVERNIGHT: MIDDLEBURY
MEALS: B, L

DAY 4

MIDDLEBURY

- Learn about the process in producing maple syrup
- Enjoy a walk and lunch in Otter Creek
- Hike up the Falls of Lana in the Green Mountain National Forest (the highest in the area)
- Enjoy your farewell dinner

DAILY ITINERARY
VERMONT | STOWE & MIDDLEBURY | SPECIAL EDITION

After a relaxing breakfast, we will learn the ways of a Vermont sugarmaker. With Vermont being famous for their maple syrup, it is only fitting that we stop for a visit to a sugar house to see how it is made.

After you get your sugar rush for the morning, we continue to head south and cross the footbridge at the base of Otter Creek Falls. You will enjoy a picnic lunch comprised of meats and cheeses from local cheesemakers while taking in scenic views.

On our way back to Middlebury, you will stop at the Green Mountain National Park. Here, you will walk the scenic footpaths to Falls of Lana and enjoy some of the most breathtaking views in the state.

Back in town, your guide will take you back into town for a farewell dinner at one of Middlebury's local restaurants.

OVERNIGHT: MIDDLEBURY
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 5

RETURN TO BURLINGTON

- Morning at leisure
- Return to Burlington

Enjoy the morning at leisure. At midday, we return to Burlington for your flight home. This is your last chance to stock up on authentic maple syrup!

MEALS: B



Tour Hotels



Edson Hill Manor

Warm and gracious interiors, luxurious textures, modern amenities; all paired with civilized by-gone era hospitality in a 1940s estate setting, overlooking Vermont's untouched Worcester range on 38 acres of forest and rolling countryside.

OVERNIGHT: STOWE | NIGHTS: 2



Middlebury Inn

Walk through the doors of the Middlebury Inn and feel the warmth of New England hospitality. Look out over the beautiful Middlebury town green from the front porch and experience a place that's been a part of Vermont's history since 1827.

OVERNIGHT: MIDDLEBURY | NIGHTS: 2

Tour Dates & Prices

PLEASE NOTE: We are running this trip privately for individual groups this year. If you would like to organize a private trip for you, your family or friends, please call or email us to discuss your trip details.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 5 Days, 4 Nights

START: 9:00 AM Lobby of hotel, Burlington, Vermont

END: 12:00 PM Burlington Airport (BTV), Burlington, Vermont

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate on good trails.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 4 nights
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners
- 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 Vermont...

- Crossing covered bridges on country roads
- Walking to Bingham Falls
- Visiting a cider mill, glassworks and heritage farm
- Paying a visit to Robert Frost's cabin
- Wandering forest paths and village greens

"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

You might also enjoy...



Charleston & Savannah

The Antebellum South

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Touring opulent plantation homes and gardens
- Enjoying a visit of Middleton Place
- Reliving famed battles at Fort Pulaski National Monument

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



Nova Scotia

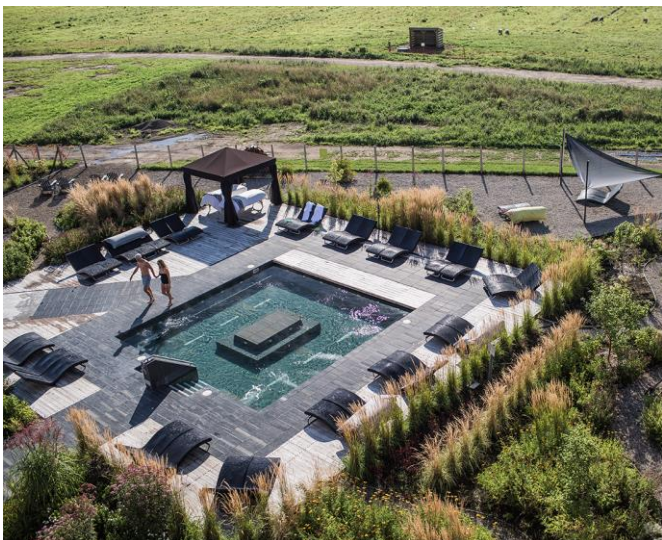
Halifax, Bay of Fundy & Lunenburg

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring historic seaports, coastal paths and fishing villages
- Enjoying unsurpassed birding and whale watching
- Sailing along Lunenburg's historic waterfront

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



Québec

Québec City to Charlevoix

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring picturesque hamlets on a pastoral island
- Rambling riverside trails with gorgeous views
- Cruising spectacular fjords with whales for company

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

“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.