

MULTISPORT

TAHITI

South Seas Escape



Classic
JOURNEYS



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

— *Travel + Leisure*

Embraced by Mana

Tahiti. The name alone conjures images of South Seas islands with jagged volcanic peaks covered in lush vegetation, incredibly blue lagoons, white sands beaches sprinkled with coconut palms, and all of it surrounded by tiny motus (islets). If you've ever seen the Rogers and Hammerstone musical "South Pacific", you likely have the soundtrack in your head. The most famous of the islands of French Polynesia are Moorea and Bora Bora. And there the conundrum starts for any visitor. Do you follow James Michener, who wrote, "...but nothing on Tahiti is so majestic as what faces it across the bay, for there lies the island of Moorea. To describe it is impossible. It is a monument to the prodigal beauty of nature." Or do you follow the artists who have given their lives trying to capture the beauty of Bora Bora, with its water every shade of sapphire, topaz and aquamarine, and tropical fish with names that begin with clown, parrot, butterfly, and peacock? The good news is that on this trip, you don't have to decide, because with Classic Journeys you get a carefully curated week long itinerary designed to give you the best of both.

DAY 1

MOOREA

'Choose your adventure'

Explore the island by horseback or on guided hike through tropical jungle

Moorea and its fellow Tahitian islands are a geographical marvel. Folklore and science believe they formed from a series of underwater volcanic eruptions that took place millions of years ago. Begin to get a feel for the scale, colors, scents, sights and sounds of Moorea right away as you 'choose your adventure'. Opt for horseback to discover the Opunohu valley and its plantations in the saddle. Or lace up your hiking shoes to join a guided hike along a forest trail into Moorea's lush interior along the foot of the ancient caldera.

Either way, you'll pass through pineapple fields where you can smell the ripe fruit, to the site of an ancient archaeological site and even through a forest of Tahitian chestnuts. While the exploration itself is worth every step, the culmination is even better, as you arrive at the Pass of The Three Pines with magnificent views of Cook's Bay. Later in the day, start a tradition for the week of some exploring and some relaxing poolside or along the beach.

OVERNIGHT: MOOREA

DAY 2

MOOREA

- Join a renowned marine biologist
- Swim with whales and dolphins

Sixteen species of whales and dolphins frequent the waters of French Polynesia, which became a Marine Mammal Sanctuary in 2002. Bath-warm and clear as can be, the lagoon and ocean surrounding Moorea is one of the world's best places to witness these wondrous creatures in the wild. Today, Dr. Mike—our friend and accomplished marine biologist—will introduce you to his research team and lead you on an unforgettable encounter with these creatures in their natural habitat.

OVERNIGHT: MOOREA

DAY 3

MOOREA

- Sail on a catamaran
- Swim with some of the 800 colorful fish that inhabit Tahiti's tropical waters
- Join a local friend to learn about Tahitian culture and mythology

If you fancy yourself a modern-day Captain Cook, you'll love spending today sailing the waters around Moorea on a catamaran. Relax as the crew steer a course around the calm lagoon waters and even venture outside the barrier reef of Moorea. Whenever you want to hop out to swim with the stingrays, reef sharks or brightly colored fish, you can—your captain has all the gear you need including mask, snorkel and fins.

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calm lagoon waters and even venture outside the barrier reef. Whenever you want to hop out to swim with the stingrays, reef sharks or brightly colored fish, you can—your captain has all the gear you need including mask, snorkel and fins.

Tahitians' ancient Polynesian ancestors endowed them with a rich and vibrant culture that includes weaving, woodcarving, and tattooing. The mythology in each of their sacred traditions tells the stories of their life and relationship with nature. You'll get first-hand exposure to that today, when you visit with a local friend.

OVERNIGHT: RAIATEA

DAY 4

BORA BORA

- Make a quick hop over to Moorea's sister island, Bora Bora
- Go in search of prized black pearls

Alain Gerbault was the first Frenchman to sail his yacht around the world and visited Bora Bora in 1926. Like him and so many others, you may be tempted to return to live in Polynesia after you visit Bora Bora. Half island, half atoll, it is widely considered to have the most extraordinary lagoon in the world, with water every shade of sapphire, topaz, and aquamarine, and Mount Otemanu as a backdrop to every view.

And if the views are not enough to woo you back, perhaps the pearls will be. Today, join your guide in search of the prized black pearl. The warm lagoons are ideal for its cultivation and it's also here that you'll find the only oyster in the world able to produce the rich hues they're known for, from light silver to the darkest grey, and from pink to green. And if the views are not enough to woo you back, perhaps the pearls will be. Today, join your guide in search of the prized black pearl. The warm lagoons are ideal for its cultivation and it's also here that you'll find the only oyster in the world able to produce the rich hues they're known for, from light silver to the dark of grey, and from pink to green.

OVERNIGHT: RAIATEA

DAY 5

BORA BORA

- Paddle transparent kayaks for maximum fun and visibility of sea life
- Opt to join scientists caring for sea turtles for the day

Explore Bora Bora's water and sea life when you join your guide in kayaks to explore the lagoons. But this is unlike any kayaking you've done. Because if you are going to go in search of 'Nemo' and some of his fellow clownfish, parrotfish, napoleon fish, coral gardens, sea turtles or other sea life, you'll want maximum visibility. So your Classic Journeys guide has arranged for you to paddle in transparent kayaks! Single and double kayaks are available, and our kayaking guides make everyone feel safe with every paddle.

Another 'choose your adventure' moment; If you really want to go all-in on the wildlife of Bora Bora, you can even join a turtle rescue center's scientists for the day, participating in the care of the sea turtles.

OVERNIGHT: BORA BORA

DAY 6

BORA BORA

- Relax by the resort
- Or join your guide for a guided birding hike
- Watch sunset with a glass of champagne on a private motu

It's your choice today to relax by the resort or join your guide for a scenic walk to spot some of the over one hundred bird species that make their homes among the islands. Keep your eyes peeled for boobies, tropicbirds, Pacific herons, the rare Marquesas kingfisher, and even the colorful ultramarine lorikeet.

Later in the day, accept an invitation to journey by canoe to a private motu to watch sunset with a glass of champagne. As the stars fill the Tahitian night sky, relax on the beach as your guide shares stories and legends of how Polynesians were expert navigators and used the stars to help them with their travels.

OVERNIGHT: BORA BORA

DAY 7

DEPART

- Wave goodbye to your Tahitian friends
- Promise yourself to return like early sailors and explorers

Paul Gauguin didn't officially settle in Tahiti the first time he visited. So you are under no obligation to make this your home... yet. But just like the sailors, artists and explorers who visited and returned, you'll probably begin thinking about your return even before your plane touches back down at home. It's ok. It happens to us every time too. That's why we continue to return. And you will too. Count on us to be here for you when it's time to return.



Tour Hotels



Manava Resort & Spa

Designed in a modern Polynesian style, the Manava Resort & Spa Moorea's rooms and bungalows are scattered throughout its garden, along the beach and overwater. The resort's spa draws on the traditions and philosophy of Tahitian care and hospitality.

OVERNIGHT: | NIGHTS: 3



Le Meridien Bora Bora

Overlooking a turquoise lagoon, and sitting at the base of Mount Otemanu, you're placed in the middle of paradise. Overwater bungalows feature glass-bottom floors with incredible lagoon views and private terraces, pools and beachside hammocks.

OVERNIGHT: BORA BORA | NIGHTS: 3

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: 7 Days, 6 Nights

START: Hotel Lobby, Moorea, Tahiti

END: Hotel Lobby or Airport, Bora Bora, Tahiti

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate forest, beach and jungle walking paths.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 6 nights
- Breakfasts & 2 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to 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 Tahiti...

- Ride horseback to discover the Opunohu valley and its plantations
- Hike along a forest trail into Moorea's lush interior along the foot of the ancient caldera
- Explore Bora Bora's water and sea life when you join your guide in kayaks to explore the lagoons
- Swim with the stingrays, reef sharks and brightly colored tropical fish
- Accept an invitation by canoe to a private motu to watch sunset with a glass of champagne

"Classic Journeys has turned out to be a fantastic company to travel with - one I highly recommend. I truly feel as if I have been on vacation this past week."

—Marcia B.

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS](https://www.classicjourneys.com/reservations)

You might also enjoy...



Belize

Temples of Coral and Stone

Multisport

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Snorkeling with sea turtles and schools of angel fish
- Exploring the 1,500-year-old ruins of Xunantunich
- Spotting emerald toucans, nurse sharks and spider monkeys in the company of expert naturalists

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/belize-luxury-tour/>.



Belize & Guatemala

Coral Reefs & Mayan Pyramids

Multisport

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Snorkeling with sea turtles and schools of angel fish
- Exploring the awesome Mayan ruins at Tikal
- Spotting emerald toucans, nurse sharks and spider monkeys in the company of expert naturalists

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



Costa Rica

Arenal & Manuel Antonio Park

Multisport

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Standing in a cloud of butterflies or hummingbirds
- Exploring the forest canopy on hanging bridges or by zipline
- Seeing scarlet macaws, crocodiles and howler monkeys

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

You might also enjoy...



Hawaii

The Big Island

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking through other-worldly volcanic landscapes
- Meeting farmers, coffee growers, artists and cultural preservationists
- Soaking in the sunset at our oceanfront resort

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/hawaii-big-island/>.



Saint Lucia

The land, the people, the light

Multisport

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Kayaking Marigot Bay to your private pop up beach bar and rum tasting
- Snorkeling from the deck of your private catamaran
- Zip-lining and jeep tour or massage

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/st-lucia-adventure-tour/>.

“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.