

MULTISPORT

ALASKA

Northern Lights



Classic
JOURNEYS



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

— *Travel + Leisure*

Northern Lights Exploration

Nothing can prepare you for your first sighting of the Northern Lights. The way they swirl through star-studded skies. The neon colors. The majestic silence. And the same goes for Alaska's winter landscape. The Last Frontier state is a wildlife wonderland—wolf packs, grizzlies, foxes and hares roam free while eagles soar overhead—and from electric blue glaciers to cinematic fjords and bubbling hot springs, Mother Nature has truly outdone herself (no wonder Santa chose here, we wish we did too).

DAY 1

MT. ALYESKA / PORTAGE VALLEY

- Ride a tram to the top of Mt. Alyeska
- Explore Portage Valley with its icebergs

Your week begins on one of the most photogenic roads on the planet: as Alaska's Seaward Highway winds its way to Anchorage, you'll want to photograph every turn. One moment you're cruising past a lake, carved by the glaciers surrounding it, with grizzlies fishing in the shallows. The next, you're surrounded by thick snowy forest—blink and you'll miss the flashes of red as foxes dart between the trees. Moments later, you find yourself face to face with a dramatic fjord...or you're watching bald eagles circle mountain peaks...or gazing over the ocean, where a pod of beluga whales play.

After a few favorite lookout stops along the way, we reach goldmining-turned-ski-town of Girdwood. Formerly known as Glacier City, it borders the half million acres of gorgeous glacial wilderness that makes up the Chugach State Park. You'll soon be peering over the park's vast majesty from above, after a ride on Girdwood's famous tramway.

Up at the top of Mt. Alyeska, you're 2300 feet above sea level, turning in every direction for soaring sights of hanging glaciers, endless wilderness and the Turnagain Arm below. You'll immediately see what Captain Cook couldn't from the water—that the passageway to Europe doesn't exist (Cook eventually turned back, hence the name, Turnagain).

From the top of the world, you'll continue your journey to a lake so deep it could sink a skyscraper. Down in the Portage Valley, mountains give way to the vast Portage Lake, forged by surrounding glaciers so vividly white and blue they nearly glow. Once filling the entire valley, these glaciers exist in a state of constant change—which you may witness before your eyes as icebergs plunge into the lake.

Such starkness and silence surrounds you that it's hard to imagine how Alaska's wildlife exist. You'll see for yourself this afternoon, at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. Spanning 200 acres and guarded by the Chugach peaks on the shore of the Turnagain Arm, the center is dedicated to preserving, protecting and providing a home for Alaska's orphaned, injured and endangered wildlife. Watch playful bears, crafty foxes and skulking lynx, and see just how enormous wood bison grow as you explore the grounds and meet the amazing people who care for them (there are some incredibly daring rescue stories).

OVERNIGHT: ANCHORAGE
MEALS: NONE

DAY 2

MATANUSKA GLACIER

- Walk a cinematic route across a glacier
- Marvel at the vast sweep of the Milky Way as the Northern Lights paint the velvet night skies

A path sculpted by shifting snow and ice, Glenn Highway—heaving in glacial gorgeousness—is the route to today's destination. You'll see Matanuska Glacier, a mammoth 27-mile river of ice pouring from Chugach peaks, before you reach it. But you won't fully appreciate its majesty until you're right on top of it, boots crunching across the frosted surface. With your expert guide in the lead, you'll walk a

cinematic route across this ancient natural phenomenon, passing ice-formed caves, spires, crevices and curvatures of unfathomably bright white and electric blue.

All of your equipment, clothing and boots will be provided, as well as a delicious lunch at a local eatery. From salmon to venison and potatoes to wild berries, Alaska's fresh produce makes for magnificent mealtimes throughout this trip. Enjoy more of it at this evening's welcome dinner, before we turn our gaze to the Talkeetna skies...

Talkeetna's wild landscape of rivers and peaks has deliciously little development, letting the Northern Lights dance across the sky, uninterrupted. Your guide will calculate the best time and place according to the current conditions—just wrap up warm and prepare for a night show like no other.

OVERNIGHT: TALKEETNA
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 3

TALKEETNA

- Hop into a dog sled for an incredibly run ride
- Meet pro mushers who recount their experiences in the Iditarod race

You're spending today with some of the world's most impressively accomplished—and irresistibly adorable—athletes. Huskies. Dog sledding is more than a tradition in Alaska. It's part of life, celebrated annually at the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. Meet pro mushers who'll recount their experiences of the harsh landscape and extreme weather synonymous with "The Last Great Race on Earth", and enjoy plenty of time petting their four-legged teammates, from roly-poly puppies you'll want to take home with you, to championship veterans with impressive accomplishments.

Then, take to a trail, sit snug in your sled as a musher takes the reigns and your new furry friends show you their favorite pastime. The excitement of the dogs is palpable as they prepare, and once they're off, it'll only take seconds—speeding through crisp air and utterly silent, snow-white forest—to realize why Alaskans fell so in love with this sport.

You'll still be talking about the huskies this evening, as you marvel at the vast sweep of the Milky Way, and watch for more Northern Lights in the velvet Talkeetna skies.

OVERNIGHT: TALKEETNA
MEALS: B

DAY 4

DENALI NATIONAL PARK

- Gaze at America's tallest peak as you explore Denali National Park
- Join a snowshoe walk in search of Alaska's Big Five

Words and pictures don't do justice to Denali National Park in wintertime. They can't capture the sheer silence, spanning all six million acres of the park. The tremendous wildness of the tundra. Or the monolithic presence of North America's tallest peak, which Native Athabascans perfectly named "Great One". You have to be there. To feel it. And you will, today. On a snowshoe safari with your naturalist guide. Keep watch for Alaska's Big Five: grizzlies, wolves, moose, caribou and Dall sheep, as well as white hares and hundreds of different bird species.

DAILY ITINERARY
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The park's Murie Science and Learning Center is filled with fascinating facts and exhibits. Discover Denali's dinosaur past (where your snowshoes trod today, three-toed theropods stomped millions of years ago) and meet park rangers who work to protect the stunning surroundings.

Just when you thought the skies couldn't possibly get darker, enter Denali after dusk. The sheer solitude of this region, almost totally free from light pollution, provides staggeringly good stargazing and sightings of the Northern Lights.

OVERNIGHT: DENALI
MEALS: B

DAY 5

CHENA HOT SPRINGS

- Walk with reindeer through a countryside winter wonderland
- Take advantage of your prime position in the Auroral Oval to watch the iridescent glow of the aurora borealis

Today, you'll meet our friend Jane at her charming Reindeer Ranch in the Goldstream Valley. Join her on a walk-through wintry woodland straight from a fairy tale, as the resident reindeer roam and graze alongside you.

This afternoon you have a choice: fire or ice. If you choose ice, you're off to see all kinds of weird and wonderful creations carved from a thousand tons of ice from the surrounding area in the Aurora Ice Museum. World championship carvers Steve and Heather have created a

fabulous two-storey observation tower to view it from, and you'll hear about their achievements and art on a visit.

Choose fire and you'll soak in natural hot springs that have been steaming and gurgling for thousands of years. Since being discovered by goldmining brothers in 1905, people have been visiting from near and far for the healing benefits of the mineral water.

This evening, our favorite restaurant will host us for a farewell feast, as we reflect on our Alaska adventure so far. It's not over yet. Nightfall is when the real magic begins in Fairbanks, thanks to its prime position within the Auroral Oval. We've saved you Alaska's best Aurora sighting 'til last—spend the evening in astral awe as clear winter nights reveal radiant constellations and the iridescent glow of aurora borealis. A grand finale of the greatest show on earth.

OVERNIGHT: FAIRBANKS
MEALS: B, D

DAY 6

FAIRBANKS/DEPART

- Part company at your Fairbanks hotel

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

MEALS: B



Tour Hotels



Captain Cook Hotel

This luxury hotel sits in the heart of downtown Anchorage within an easy walk of restaurants, shops and museums. Rooms boast spectacular views of Cook Inlet, the Chugach Mountains and Mt. McKinley. Amenities include an indoor swimming pool and spa.

OVERNIGHT: ANCHORAGE | NIGHTS: 1



Talkeenta Alaskan Lodge

Built atop a high bluff, the lodge overlooks the Susitna River Valley and surveys the entire Alaska Range, with Denali (Mt. McKinley) right in the middle. On a clear day, the viewing deck offers a stunning panorama of river valleys and rugged peaks.

OVERNIGHT: | NIGHTS: 2



Tonglen Lake Lodge

Located just seven miles south of the entrance to Denali National Park, escape the crowds and relax in the warmth and charm of your own Alaskan-style luxury cabin. Along with tranquility, you'll find an art gallery, an artisan bakery, and a spacious lawn.

OVERNIGHT: | NIGHTS: 1



Pike's Waterfront Lodge

Experience true homegrown Alaskan charm at Pike's Waterfront Lodge situated on the Chena River. Enjoy possible small wildlife sightings, roast marshmallows at the fire pits, or just relax and appreciate the Northern Lights during the Aurora season.

OVERNIGHT: | NIGHTS: 1

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
February 21-26, 2021	\$4,295	\$4,890
March 7-12, 2021	\$4,295	\$4,890
March 21-26, 2021	\$4,295	\$4,890
April 4-9, 2021	\$4,295	\$4,890
February 20-25, 2022	\$4,395	\$4,990
March 6-11, 2022	\$4,395	\$4,990
March 20-25, 2022	\$4,395	\$4,990
April 3-8, 2022	\$4,395	\$4,990

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: 9:00 AM Lobby of Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage, Alaska

END: 9:00 AM Lobby of Hotel, Fairbanks, Alaska

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate on good trails, with mini-van support.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 5 nights
- All breakfasts, 1 lunch and 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 Alaska...

- Watching the neon colors of the Northern Lights as they swirl through star-studded skies
- Photographing wolves, grizzlies, foxes and other wildlife with expert naturalist guides
- Dog sledding along the same trails used for the famed Iditarod race
- Gaping at icebergs floating in cinematic fjords
- Following an expert guide as you hike on an electric blue glacier

"Every day was different with new things to see and explore, as well as different ways to see them (sightseeing boat, water taxi, rafting, walking, sealife center, etc). The variety was great!"

—Bonnie H., Charlotte, NC

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

You might also enjoy...



Canadian Rockies

Banff & Jasper National Parks

Multisport

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Marveling at glaciers and snow-capped peaks
- Hiking spectacular gorges with rushing waterfalls
- Sighting wildflowers and wildlife at every turn

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



Iceland

Spectacular South & Glacier Lagoon

Multisport

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Riding the famed Icelandic horses or walking along a black sand beach
- Snorkeling in glacial water, and soaking in the famed thermal baths at Blue Lagoon
- Walking - and picnicking - on a glacier

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



Montana

Glacier National Park

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Taking rustic trails past rushing waterfalls
- Cruising glacial lakes in vintage steamers
- Linger in historic log-beamed lodges

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

You might also enjoy...



Pacific Northwest

The San Juan Islands

Multisport

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Kayaking offshore while watching for whales
- Learning from artisanal producers of wine, lavender, gin and ceramics
- Combing beautiful beaches for natural treasures

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

“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.