

CULTURE + WALKING

ARGENTINA

Patagonia & Mendoza Wine Region



Classic
JOURNEYS



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

— *Travel + Leisure*

Andes, Glaciers & 'Route of the Wines'

Patagonia is a glorious paradise. Great escarpments of glacial ice slice into super-chilled mountain lakes. One day, you're walking in a high forest carpeted with yellow and orange wildflowers. The next, you're in a sun-drenched vineyard up against a deep blue backdrop of Andes. Condors soar overhead. Ears up, guanacos graze near your paths. And you'll realize again how big the outdoors really can feel—whether you're picnicking on a volcanic slope, lacing on crampons for a glacier walk, or gliding past icebergs to a stunningly remote sheep ranch. Every step of the way, you'll be in the company of local guides as well as naturalists and other experts. And we love to show you every wonder in special Classic Journeys fashion—with unique events like a personal welcome at a premiere vineyard, traditional Argentine barbecues, and truly distinctive lodgings. We know of no better place to absorb the grand sweep of nature.

DAY 1

MENDOZA

- Journey to Argentina's famed wine producing region, Mendoza

We meet in Mendoza, a temperate and fertile region of Argentina. The climate is arid, but the land blooms thanks to the web of irrigation canals we'll see on our walk of the tree-lined city. Our country-style inn is at the meeting point for many of the wine routes in the area. Its swimming pool and gardens take full advantage of the mild microclimate that contrasts dramatically with nearby peaks capped with snow. In addition to wine, the region is known for its fine cuisine, and you'll have a wonderful taste of it tonight when we stroll to a restaurant in town.

OVERNIGHT: MENDOZA
MEALS: D

DAY 2

MENDOZA WINE VALLEYS

- Wander from vineyard to vineyard with a wine expert
- Join in the preparation and then dine on a traditional Argentine barbecue

Even if you're not a confirmed wine-lover, you've probably encountered wonderful Argentinean wines over the years. Today, we get a close-up look at art and science of wine-making. Our guide is an agronomist who'll take us from vineyard to vineyard, down local country roads. We'll be welcomed by a vintner who explains the winemaking process, and we'll learn about cultivation of the region's pre-eminent grape varieties.

Few wineries in the world are more beautifully situated with their neat green ranks of vines pointing to the jagged Andes. And all that scenery and fresh air do good things to your appetite. It's a good thing, too, because we're in for an exceptional barbecue today. We'll participate and learn the art of preparing asado – then enjoy the results as we lunch under the poplars and taste some fine Cabernet and Malbec wines. By late afternoon, we return to our inn with time to relax before dinner.

OVERNIGHT: MENDOZA
MEALS: B, L

DAY 3

MT. ACONCAGUA

- Walk in the Andes foothills with views of one of the seven summits to a scenic picnic lunch

As close as they've appeared for the last few days, the Andes are actually a 1½ hour drive away. We'll make that scenic journey this morning past a major dam on the Mendoza River at Potrerillos, to the base of Mount Aconcagua. At 22,944 feet, it's the highest mountain in all of South America, one of the famed "Seven Summits", and a mecca for devoted mountain climbers. For us, it simply marks the spectacular backdrop to an extraordinarily scenic walk in its foothills that includes a delicious picnic lunch with views of the mountain.

After a beautiful day following our walk around Aconcagua's base, we return to Mendoza through the Upsala Valley. Along the way, we'll enjoy views of Mt. Penitentes and the famous bridge of the Incas, a fascinating

geological and historic site where Incans stopped to soak in the curative hot spring waters.

OVERNIGHT: MENDOZA
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 4

MENDOZA - PATAGONIA

- Journey south to spectacular Patagonia

After breakfast, our scenery changes with a flight south to El Calafate, situated on the southern shore of impressive, icy blue Lake Argentina. Located in the heart of Patagonia, this is the gateway to some of the world's most spectacular glaciers. Our lovely boutique hotel overlooks the lake and is an easy walk from all the town has to offer.

We'll stroll together to see the sights including Laguna Nimes, a natural preserve for birds. Dinner this evening is at a small nearby restaurant.

OVERNIGHT: EL CALAFATE
MEALS: B, D

DAY 5

UPSALA GLACIER

- Sail to Upsala Glacier for amazing views up close
- Explore and lunch at a working estancia

After breakfast, we'll board a boat for an exciting day of glacier viewing and explorations. As we cruise Lake Argentina, we have striking views of Upsala Glacier, the largest glacier in Los Glaciares National Park. After weaving our way around enormous icebergs in the lake, we come to shore at Estancia Cristina in one of the most fascinating and remote valleys in Patagonia.

It's a good thing our traditional Patagonian lunch is so amazing because it has to compete with spectacular views of the Andes and the glaciers. Estancia means farm or landed estate, but the word doesn't begin to capture the colorful history of this remote site, founded in 1914 by an Englishman. Using nothing but a small rescue boat, the family gradually transported every stick of its belongings and every head of livestock across the lake. At 22,000 hectares, the ranch has pastured as many as 27,000 sheep at once. As we wander, we'll learn more about its colorful past and the sturdy pioneer souls who just barely civilized this amazing place. At the end of this full and invigorating day, we cruise back to our hotel.

OVERNIGHT: EL CALAFATE
MEALS: B, L

DAY 6

PERITO MORENO GLACIER

- Boat ride across Lake Argentina
- Follow expert local guides on foot across Perito Moreno Glacier

Today is dedicated to the exploration of the impressive Perito Moreno Glacier, located within National Park Los Glaciares, a UNESCO World Heritage Site spanning nearly 1.5 million acres. The road from our hotel winds through the steppe and birch tree forests to the curva de los suspiros (bend of whispers), where we have our first breathtaking view of the glacier. We leave our vehicle behind on the shores of Lake Argentina and approach the glacier by boat.

DAILY ITINERARY

ARGENTINA | PATAGONIA & MENDOZA WINE REGION | CULTURE + WALKING

Arriving on the opposite shore, our guide shares with us the process through which the glaciers have sculpted the lakes and valleys in the region. The sheer size of the glacier is amazing, spanning nearly 15,000 feet and soaring 200 feet above the channel. Unlike many other glaciers that are receding, the Perito Moreno Glacier continues to advance towards the peninsula, creating tremendous pressure and resulting in random explosions as pieces of the glacier breaks off and crashes into the water below.

In the company of our local guide, we continue to approach the glacier on foot. Our path leads us through a quiet beech forest, whose woodland floor is dominated by vibrant yellow and orange wildflowers. If we're lucky, we are serenaded by the music of the world's most southerly parrot, the cotorra or austral parakeet. Our walk culminates at the foot of the glacier, where we have the unforgettable opportunity to explore the glacier up-close on foot. Donning crampons with the assistance of our expert guide, we follow a path past ice caves and seraks (ice towers), marveling at the distinctive blue color of the glacial ice, which we learn is a direct result of the oxygen trapped in the snow. At a nearby shelter, we pause for a picnic lunch with views overlooking the glacier. Our route back to the hotel takes us along catwalks that afford us with an even more spectacular view of its massive face. We may startle at the heavy cracking sounds as gigantic blocks of ice splinter off the face of the glacier to crash into the water below.

OVERNIGHT: EL CALAFATE

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 7

DEPARTURE

• Part company with options to extend your time in South America or return home

Our time together comes to an end after breakfast. Relax this morning at the hotel, then make your way to the airport at your leisure. If your time is limited, you can head straight back to Buenos Aires for connecting flights home. And if you have some additional time to explore, we have a number of fine options to entice you to linger longer in South America. These include: Ushuaia in southern Patagonia with Tierra del Fuego National Park and penguin rookery, spectacular Iguazu Falls in northern Argentina, bordering Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil. You can even extend your time in the Galapagos on our island-based exploration.

MEALS: B



DAILY ITINERARY

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Tour Hotels



Lares De Chacras

The village called Chacras de Cor is a crossroads of the wine routes and the setting of this country-style hotel. The decor blends Andean stone with desert wood, bringing for a natural, modern look. Its swimming pool is surrounded by a garden.

OVERNIGHT: MENDOZA | NIGHTS: 3



Imago Hotel & Spa

Located near Perito Moreno Glacier, this elegant stone and wood hotel perfectly captures the spirit of Argentina. All rooms are decorated in warm contemporary style and have fine views of Lake Argentina and the rolling hills beyond.

OVERNIGHT: EL CALAFATE | 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.

INTERNAL AIRFARE

This trip includes several internal flights, which are priced separately from the land tour. The total cost for the internal flights is approximately \$895 per person.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 7 Days, 6 Nights

START: 1:00 PM Lobby of Lares De Chacras, Mendoza, Argentina

END: 9:00 AM Imago Hotel and Spa, El Calafate, Argentina

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. At your option, up to 2 to 4 hours of walking per day, with a mini-van in support.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 6 nights
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners

Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Privileged Access Events**
- **Invisible Check-In**

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 Argentina...

- Discovering glacial caves and ice towers
- Tasting wine in the shadow of the Andes
- Savoring lamb barbecue, an Argentinean specialty
- Journey to spectacular Patagonia
- Boat ride across Lake Argentina

"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

You might also enjoy...



Chile

Lake District & Patagonia

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Spying on a joint colony of Humboldt and Magellanic penguins
- Walking at the foot of the snow-capped Andes
- Eating with the gauchos at a barbecue on a remote sheep ranch

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



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/>.



New Zealand

North & South Islands

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Cruising in an America's Cup yacht
- Tasting wine at a Waiheke Island vineyard
- Walking scenic trails surrounded by snow-capped mountains

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/new-zealand-north-south-island-tours/>.

You might also enjoy...



Peru

Machu Picchu, Sacred Valley & Cusco

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Witnessing ancient examples of architectural genius
- Sampling native delicacies at a mountain hacienda
- Mingling with craftsmen, shopkeepers and shepherds

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

“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.