

CULTURE + WALKING

CHARLESTON & SAVANNAH

The Antebellum South



Classic
JOURNEYS



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

— *Travel + Leisure*

Echoes of Coastal Culture

The wildly popular book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* has inspired any number of pilgrimages to the coastal South. But our journey digs deeper than the guidebook landmarks. Of course, we walk our fair share of moss-draped lanes – but instead of admiring fine restorations of prosperous homes from the outside, we go in for private tours. We go back in time and relive famed battles at Fort Pulaski and wander around one of the world’s most beautiful cemeteries. To our mind, there’s just no other region in America with such a distinctive meld of history, climate and way of life, and we’ll share it all with you in gracious style.

DAY 1

CHARLESTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

- Walking tour of Charleston's historic district
- World-class food at our welcome dinner

Charleston is alive with history. In the years before the Civil War, South Carolina's cotton crops produced an amazing concentration of wealth. Wealthy plantation owners and merchants built opulent homes and embellished them with French china, English silver and impeccably manicured gardens. We'll make the promenade along streets lined with spectacular Georgian and Greek Revival mansions.

This afternoon, we'll step inside and back in time to tour some of the finest homes with our expert guide. You'll learn about the history and you'll get an insider's view of the meticulous work that goes into restoring grand wood homes that have survived centuries of sultry southern weather.

As the sun starts to set and the sky turns orange a welcome dinner awaits you, where you can enjoy some classic southern food or go out of your comfort zone with a meal packed with so much creativity and energy you can taste it.

OVERNIGHT: CHARLESTON
MEALS: D

DAY 2

DRAYTON HALL / MIDDLETON PLACE

- Join our guide to visit Drayton Hall and Middleton Place
- Enjoy a demonstration by artisans at a working plantation

After breakfast, we take a short drive northwest of Charleston where we start a tranquil walk along the Ashley River, through palmetto groves and moss-draped live oaks, to majestic Drayton Hall. A National Historic Landmark, Drayton Hall is considered the nation's finest example of Georgian-Palladian architecture and the only plantation house along the Ashley River to survive the Civil War. Our expert National Trust guide meets us for a private tour through the completely original mansion.

Later this morning, we walk along the grasses and rushes of the nearby salt marshes that have been used to make sweet grass baskets for centuries. We also see old rice dikes that have protected the coast and provided the main food source for African slaves in the 18th century. Our destination: magnificent Middleton Place. Dating to 1741, the plantation was the home of Henry Middleton, president of the First Continental Congress, whose son, Arthur, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. On foot, we explore the nation's oldest landscaped gardens. Azaleas, camellias, magnolias and countless other flowers for all seasons surround manicured lawns and small, pretty lakes. We'll also tour the halls of the mansion's restored south wing and admire its paintings and historical documents housed. We see the stable yards and local artisans pottery and weaving that describe life on a plantation.

Our picturesque afternoon walk traces the two-mile perimeter of Middleton through the rice fields on the banks of the Ashley River. We get a chance to see bald eagles, wood storks and rare plant species that have thrived in this region for thousands of years. We're back in Charleston early enough to relax before dinner. Laze away the day or take in one of Charleston's historic museums, shop King

Street's chic boutiques or go antiquing in the Historic District.

OVERNIGHT: CHARLESTON
MEALS: B, L

DAY 3

ST. HELENA ISLAND / BEAUFORT

- Glimpse into rural lowcountry life past and present at St. Helena Island
- Explore Beaufort's landmark downtown

Leaving Charleston behind, we travel to St. Helena Island for a walk among towering loblolly pines, majestic live oaks and southern bayberry to the South's first school for freed slaves, established in 1860. Here, we learn about the fascinating Gullah culture of the Sea Islands. Gullah refers to a unique language, people and culture descended from African-American slaves brought to the islands more than 300 years ago. Gullah influences permeate the local culture from their sweet-grass basket making to their fragrant cooking.

On arrival in Beaufort, we'll take the chance to wander the streets of this town with Spanish roots all the way back to the 16th century. After lunch and a taste of a sweet tea float, we'll explore Beaufort by horse-drawn carriage before heading into Savannah.

We cross the Georgia border to Savannah, where General Oglethorpe founded the thirteenth and final colony in 1733. This is the Deep South of legend—great drapes of Spanish moss, stately mansions and mint juleps on the veranda. Savannah is a true original with a grid of broad avenues, spacious public squares, and a bustling port.

OVERNIGHT: SAVANNAH
MEALS: B, D

DAY 4

FORT. PULASKI / BONAVENTURE CEMETERY

- Relive famed battles at Fort Pulaski National Monument
- Explore one of the world's most beautiful cemeteries

This morning, we take a short drive east for a guided visit of Fort Pulaski. Named for Casimir Pulaski, a Revolutionary War hero, the massive brick fortification was built on Cockspur Island in the early 1800's. In April of 1862, Union troops fired their rifled cannon at the fort, breaching the southeast angle. After capturing the fort, Union Major General David Hunter ordered the release of area slaves. Many were recruited into the Union army comprising the First South Carolina Colored Regiment.

The old saying is, no visit to Savannah is complete without a visit to Bonaventure! Our morning will continue with a visit to a 170 year old cemetery. It is a serene and sublime experience to walk about this Victorian Era cemetery filled with beautiful statues, oak trees with Spanish moss, and to learn about the history of those who built the fair city of Savannah.

This afternoon, we return to Savannah for some free time before dinner to explore Savannah on our own. At your leisure, relax with a book or people watch in one of

DAILY ITINERARY

CHARLESTON & SAVANNAH | THE ANTEBELLUM SOUTH | CULTURE + WALKING

Savannah's famous squares, visit the Telfair Mansion and Art Museum—the oldest public art museum in the southeast—or shop along the quaint streets.

OVERNIGHT: SAVANNAH

MEALS: B,L,D

DAY 5

SAVANNAH HISTORIC DISTRICT

- Listen to interesting anecdotes and stories about famous and infamous locals of Georgia's First City

Our last morning together is reserved for a private walking tour of Savannah's National Landmark Historic District. We'll stroll past majestic mansions and oak shaded parks as our local guide shares anecdotes of Savannah's storied past: British occupation, Antebellum grace, and Garden City hospitality. Returning to the hotel, you'll make your connections home.

MEALS: B



DAILY ITINERARY

CHARLESTON & SAVANNAH | THE ANTEBELLUM SOUTH | CULTURE + WALKING

Tour Hotels



Belmond Charleston Place

Located at the very heart of downtown Charleston, in the historic district and within walking distance of all the major attractions, Belmond Charleston Place is the perfect base for a city adventure.

OVERNIGHT: CHARLESTON | NIGHTS: 2



Kehoe House

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this luxury inn is in an exquisitely restored 1892 mansion at the historic heart of Savannah. There are just 13 rooms, each of them uniquely decorated, offers a gracious view of the tree-lined streets.

OVERNIGHT: SAVANNAH | NIGHTS: 2

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
April 5-9, 2020	\$4,095	\$4,890
May 24-28, 2020	\$4,095	\$4,890
April 11-15, 2021	\$4,195	\$4,990
May 23-27, 2021	\$4,195	\$4,990

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE to learn more about private journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 5 Days, 4 Nights

START: 1:00 PM Lobby of Belmond Charleston Place, Charleston, South Carolina

END: 12:00 PM Savannah hotel lobby, Savannah, Georgia

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate on good trails.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 4 nights
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 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 Charleston and Savannah...

- Touring opulent plantation homes and gardens of the Coastal South
- Reliving famed battles at Fort Pulaski National Monument
- Visiting Drayton Hall and Middleton Place on expertly guided explorations
- Relaxing at your luxury inn, an exquisitely restored 1892 mansion in the heart of Savannah
- Exploring with local guides who show you southern hospitality

"That phone call to Classic Journeys provided me with a great vacation, new friends, good food, fantastic memories and many possibilities of future travel."

—Melinda S.

Let's Go!

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

You might also enjoy...



Bryce, Grand Canyon & Zion

America's Finest National Parks

Multisport

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Meandering among mystical, rose-colored hoodoos
- Exploring ancient ruins atop chiseled plateaus
- Strolling a river bank to a magnificent gorge

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



Napa & Sonoma

California Wine Country

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Savoring private winery tours and tastings
- Rambling redwood groves and rolling hillsides
- Exploring the classic towns of Yountville, Healdsburg and Sonoma

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



New Mexico

Santa Fe & Taos

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Retracing the steps of ancient cliff dwellers
- Viewing stunning landscapes through an artist's eyes
- Witnessing history and culture in a thriving pueblo

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

“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.