

CULTURE + WALKING

ENGLAND

• Cotswolds, Stonehenge & London



Classic
JOURNEYS



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

—*Travel + Leisure*

The Quintessential English Experience

Sometimes, Stonehenge steams at dawn. We know because we’ve stood there on Salisbury Plain among the great pillars—no crowds, no ropes to hold us back—and felt the sun touch our faces as it starts to warm the night-cooled sandstone. A private visit is an awesome moment at any time of day as you will experience for yourself on this amazing journey through Southwestern England. Along the way, we spend several days in the Cotswolds we love best. We’ll show you our favorite paths that crook through vivid cottage gardens, across sweeping meadows, and into the honeyed-stone towns, including the one that is used for Downton Abbey village scenes. We’ll dine with friends in their manor house, and time a visit to the tea-shop lady when her scones are warm and fresh. This is more than the superficially pretty England, it’s the real thing with days full of rich cultural experiences, personal introductions and remarkable access to non-public places.

DAY 1

LONDON / ROYAL MEWS

- Walking tour of London's Royal Parks
- Visit to the Royal Mews

We meet in London at our Victorian residence turned-hotel. For a unique perspective, we'll wander the greenswards of Hyde and St. James's Parks as our guide shares anecdotes about the royal family and others. We also wind our way through the ancient streets—past the classic sights in Westminster and the West End. One of our favorite places is the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace. It's where the royal carriages are kept and also one of the finest working stables still in existence. On a guided visit, we'll get a look at the Gold State Coach and other dazzling carriages used for coronations and other celebrations. Later, we return to our hotel to relax before dinner.

OVERNIGHT: LONDON

MEALS: D

DAY 2

BROUGHTON GRANGE CASTLE /
BLENHEIM ESTATE

- Private guided tour of Broughton Castle
- Afternoon tea in a splendid setting
- Walk from the grave of Winston Churchill to Blenheim Estate

After breakfast in London, we drive into the Cotswolds. Here the green rolling hills are dotted with sheep, meadows are lined with ancient walls of stone, and thatched roof cottages nestle in gardens.

We start the week at the grandest possible end of the scale with a privately guided tour of Broughton Castle. Surrounded by a moat, it dates from the 1550's. The grand interiors were featured in the BBC production of *Wolf Hall*, and the manicured gardens are some of the country's finest. What better setting to pause for an elegant afternoon tea. (Yes, there will be scones and clotted cream.)

Afterward, we're off to the nearby village of Bladon where Winston Churchill was buried. From here, a scenic walk leads to the impressive estate surrounding Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Churchill's birthplace. A chance to stroll the sweeping lawns and formal gardens is a wonderful preview of the country walks that await in the days ahead.

Later, we check in at our lovely hotel in Burford, a Cotswolds town on the banks of the River Windrush.

OVERNIGHT: BURFORD

MEALS: B, D

DAY 3

STONEHENGE / AVEBURY

- Stonehenge private visit
- Sit down to cream tea with warm scones and clotted cream

Today is Stonehenge. About 4,000 tourists troop through on a typical day, and every one of them will envy the private visit we arrange for you before or after the site is open to the public. (Time of day varies, depending on the season.) You'll be able to walk right up to the stone circle as Bronze

Age pilgrims did. It's one of those experiences that you'll be bragging about for years to come.

Awesome as Stonehenge is, there are other prehistoric places nearby that are even bigger and just as mysterious. On one bare hillside, we'll see the silhouette of a white horse cut into a chalk hillside. And then there's Avebury where most of the modern town is surrounded by a huge circular moat and bank that were dug by hand over 4 millennia ago. It's no wonder so many superstitions surround these places. When you look at a double avenue of monoliths that stretch for a mile into the countryside, you can't help but wonder about the how and why of it all. Much easier to grasp is the appeal of cream tea—warm scones, clotted cream, strawberry jam, a cuppa—and we'll pause for one in the course of the afternoon.

Tonight, dinner is at your leisure at one of the village's many restaurants or pubs.

OVERNIGHT: BURFORD

MEALS: B, L

DAY 4

"DOWNTON" VILLAGE

- Explore the village where "Downton Abbey" was filmed
- Guided visit to the home of William Morris, founder of the Arts & Crafts movement

The Cotswolds was once a land of abandoned homes and villages due to the crash that happened when the advent of cotton fabric devastated the wool trade. We have that era to thank for preserving the local sights. But on this morning's walk along the Windrush River, we see a ghostly reminder of that time—an abandoned village where the church of a martyred saint stands alone in a field.

Lady Mary and Mrs. Patmore walked the lanes of our next village, and if you're a fan of "Downton Abbey", you'll recognize Bampton as the stand-in for fictional Downton village. We'll follow in their footsteps, and even if you're not a fan of the series, you'll appreciate the quiet beauty of this place.

We're actually quite near the slow and winding waters of the upper Thames here, and one of the area's finest landmarks is Kelmscott Manor. The grand limestone affair was the country home of William Morris, founder of the Arts and Crafts Movement in the Victorian Era. Today, it has the finest examples anywhere of the intricate wallpapers and fabrics, as well as furniture that inspired the Arts & Crafts style, as we'll see on our guided visit.

OVERNIGHT: BURFORD

MEALS: B

DAY 5

JANE AUSTEN COUNTRY

- Cheese tasting at an organic farm
- Falconry demonstration
- Scenic walk along the Cotswold Way

Jane Austen based her novel *Mansfield Park* on her visits to Adlestrop. If she went for a stroll, it's easy to imagine that the views she got were the same as we see today on our country walk. We're headed for Daylesford, a town renowned for a fantastic organic farm (and its locavore

restaurant in a white-washed barn). From rarebit and cottage pie to rhubarb syllabub, this is a great place to experience the current British passion for updating traditional dishes. In addition to visiting the gardens, we'll also stop at the creamery for a cheese tasting. The Double Gloucester and Bledington Blue are made from the milk of the happy cows grazing in the farm's pastures.

Falconers still use trained birds of prey to hunt, and we'll learn how it works at the Batsford estate. You'll get an inside look at the close relationship between falconer and bird, as well as close up encounters with other birds of prey including eagles, hawks and owls. We'll also have the chance to walk around the estate, the one-time playground of the celebrated (and scandalous) Mitford sisters.

This afternoon, our footpath follows the famed Cotswold Way. Altogether the trail is 100 miles long, but we take a leisurely afternoon stroll on one scenic stretch that starts at the Broadway Tower. The quirky building is also known as the Highest Little Castle in the Cotswolds. As far as the eye can see, great meadows roll to the horizon.

The trail leads us right to Chipping Campden, the perfect village where we spend the next two nights. You may want to go for a stroll to browse the art galleries and shops before tonight's dinner in a historic 15th century pub.

OVERNIGHT: CHIPPING CAMPDEN

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 6

CHEDWORTH / CHIPPING CAMPDEN

- Explore a 3rd-century Roman Villa
- Visit with a silversmith
- Festive farewell dinner at a private manor house

After a breakfast of local yogurt, fresh fruits and preserves on warm bread, we have a wonderful day of discovering the lifestyles of the rich and celebrated. First come the Romans. A country path leads us to Chedworth Roman Villa. Seventeen hundred years ago, wealthy Roman Britons built this extravagant home at the end of a secluded valley. Best of all, Chedworth is also a very active archeological site. In 2014, workers uncovered splendid mosaic floors, and state-of-the-art walkways make it possible for us to get close to

these relics. It's a terrific chance to see how excavations are being conducted.

They don't build Cotswold towns more perfect than Chipping Campden. Walking the narrow streets is a step back in time. If you know where to look, you can find artisans like David Hart who still practice crafts as they have been for centuries. David is a silversmith who takes on private commissions, including some for the royal family. You'll visit his cluttered workshop, where his family has worked for more than 100 years, and see how their creations come to life. A pub lunch is the way to go here, and if you haven't discovered the shandy yet, this is the right time. The drink—a half-and-half blend of beer and carbonated lemonade—is a great way to partake. Maybe you'll want to accept the challenge to a game of darts or chat with the locals on the riverside terrace.

We return to the hotel to relax and change before our farewell dinner together in a private manor. As we approach on the long private lane, it immediately feels like just what you'd expect from the home of landed gentry. We're hosted by our friends Anne and John, who is a star of a BBC series about historic home preservation and the grandson of Lord Ismay, one of the planners of D-Day. He'll toast you over cocktails in the garden. Anne, our chef for the evening, will lay out a wonderful spread for us in the manor's formal dining room.

OVERNIGHT: CHIPPING CAMPDEN

MEALS: B, D

DAY 7

STRATFORD UPON AVON

- Guided visit of Stratford upon Avon

We end our week together in one of England's most historic villages. Stratford upon Avon is the birthplace of William Shakespeare and its streets, lined with half-timbered houses, are the picture of Old England. We'll take it in before we part company at Warwick Parkway Station.

MEALS: B



Tour Hotels



The Ampersand Hotel

Completely reimagined in 2012, this luxury boutique hotel is in London's world-famous South Kensington neighborhood near Hyde Park. This 19th-century property uses bold graphics to put a lively contemporary spin on Victorian concepts.

OVERNIGHT: LONDON | NIGHTS: 1



Bay Tree Hotel

Since its first guests in 1565, this perfect Cotswolds hotel has been a favorite. The details are remarkable, from the high-raftered hall to the oak-paneled rooms, tapestries and flagstone floors.

OVERNIGHT: BURFORD | NIGHTS: 3



Cotswold House Hotel

This award-winning luxury hotel, will appeal to travelers visiting the Cotswolds, looking for tranquility, sublime comfort. The contemporary style makes Cotswold House and Spa one of the most admired boutique hotels in the Cotswolds.

OVERNIGHT: CHIPPING CAMPDEN | NIGHTS: 2

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
May 3-9, 2020	\$5,095	\$5,890
June 7-13, 2020	\$5,195	\$5,990
July 5-11, 2020	\$5,195	\$5,990
September 6-12, 2020	\$5,195	\$5,990
May 9-15, 2021	\$5,195	\$5,990
June 6-12, 2021	\$5,295	\$6,090
July 4-10, 2021	\$5,295	\$6,090
September 5-11, 2021	\$5,295	\$6,090

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

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 7 Days, 6 Nights

START: 1:30 PM Lobby of the Ampersand Hotel, London, England

END: 1:00 PM Warwick Parkway Rail Station, Stratford-upon-Avon, England

TERRAIN: Easy trails through meadows and over rolling hills. At your option, 2 to 4 hours of walking per day.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 6 nights
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 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
- Wine on Us

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 for Free

Your trip is free when you organize a Classic Journeys trip with 10 or more travelers (including you)! Or you can share your savings with other group members.

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 the Cotswolds...

- Walking the famed Cotswolds Way
- Accessing Stonehenge during a private visit without the crowds
- Touring Broughton Castle on a privately guided visit
- Accessing London from your 5-star boutique hotel in the upscale South Kensington neighborhood
- Strolling through picture-perfect English villages like Bampton, where scenes from "Downton Abbey" were filmed

"The Cotswold area is BEAUTIFUL! The scenery was breathtaking. Our guide was incredible and so knowledgeable! And she was able to roll with the punches and make adjustments when needed."

—Elizabeth D., Tempe, AZ

Let's Go!

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

You might also enjoy...



England

Cornwall Coast to Land's End

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking lush green cliffs lined with coastal paths
- Crossing a causeway to an island castle
- Exploring seaside hamlets with picturesque harbors

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



Ireland

Killarney Lakes & Dingle Peninsula

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking breathtaking peninsulas and sandy shores
- Exploring centuries-old ruins on a remote island
- Socializing with locals at colorful pubs

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



Scotland

Edinburgh & the Highlands

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring the iconic ruins of Urquhart Castle
- Tasting single malt whisky at an artisanal distillery
- Gliding between highland mountains on the waters of Loch Ness

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

“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.