

CULTURE + WALKING

LOIRE & BURGUNDY

Dijon, Chenonceaux & Châteaux



Classic
JOURNEYS



The Authentic Heart of France

On our wonderful (and slightly decadent) journey to the French heartlands, you'll live the good life like never before. Burgundy is France's "breadbasket," the perfect blend of classic French villages, rolling terrain with a patchwork of forests and vineyards, and the country's most remarkable cuisine. Just when it seems like it couldn't get any better, we enter the Loire Valley and—in keeping with the region's opulent reputation—take up residence in our own château. From our gracious home base, we'll meander out for some gorgeous walks and explore the stupendous "getaway cottages" that bedeck the river's banks. If you love to take your time when you travel and soak up your surroundings, this is the perfect place to be!

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

— *Travel + Leisure*

DAILY ITINERARY

LOIRE & BURGUNDY | DIJON, CHENONCEAUX & CHÂTEAUX | CULTURE + WALKING

DAY 1

DIJON

- Meet in Dijon for a guided town walk
- Festive welcome dinner

We begin in Dijon, the historic and culinary capital of the region. Celebrated for its mustard, Dijon is also renowned for its fine medieval architecture and outstanding museums.

Throughout the Middle Ages, Burgundy was a duchy that led a separate existence from the rest of France. Its high point was the period from 1364 to 1477, during the reign of the four "Grand Dukes of the West." The most notable monument of this period is the Palais des Ducs, which is now a museum. Even after the switch to French rule, Dijon continued to flourish. This was in part due to its location on a major north - south trading route and its relative proximity to Germany and Switzerland, but also because of its numerous gastronomic specialties including snails, mustard and cassis (black current liqueur which is often mixed with white wine to make Kir).

We enjoy a walk around the town before arriving at our hotel for the next three nights with time to rest and relax before our festive welcome dinner.

OVERNIGHT: BEAUNE
MEALS: D

DAY 2

PONT D'OUCHE / BEAUNE

- Morning walk through a scenic valley
- Guided visit and wine tasting in Beaune

Our morning exploration through pastoral landscape offers the opportunity for a walk through the vineyards of Clos de Vougeot, where we'll visit the castle, once the famous wine cellar of the Cistercian monks of the Citeaux Abbey.

Mid-afternoon we visit the medieval town of Beaune, the wine capital of Burgundy, in time to enjoy a wine tasting in the cellar of a former monastery. Here we visit the famous 15th-century Hotel Dieu and rummage through the interesting shops and narrow streets.

OVERNIGHT: BEAUNE
MEALS: B

DAY 3

CHÂTEAUNEUF -EN-AUXOIS / LA BUSSIÈRE

- Your choice to sleep in and relax, OR
- Morning walk through a fortified village
- Exploration of medieval town, La Bussière

Our final full day in Burgundy, you may want to sleep-in late or linger over a book on the terrace of our inn prior to any activities. If you're feeling energetic, join our guide on a morning visit to Châteauneuf -en-Auxois, a fortified village where the wealthy merchants of the region lived for centuries. Our walk through the charming village follows the moat around the château and leads to a panoramic view to the west that overlooks three lakes that feed the Canal de Bourgogne.

Late morning, we make our way to the medieval town of La Bussière. On this return to the vineyards you'll enjoy a visit to a winemaker's estate, one which also grows truffles. Following one of the dogs, you'll get a chance to see how they work, and eventually taste a bit of this "white gold," with some fantastic Burgundy wines, of course.

OVERNIGHT: BEAUNE
MEALS: B, D

DAY 4

LOIRE VALLEY

- Departure from Burgundy to Loire and our château home
- Afternoon walk to Chambord castle, a former hunting lodge

After breakfast, we bid farewell to our hosts in Burgundy. Today is the one day of the trip that requires a fairly long drive, as we leave Burgundy and head west into the neighboring Loire Valley. Along the way, we stop in Châteauneuf sur Loire for lunch. Arriving into Loire, we first notice that it isn't simply a collection of opulent châteaux peppered along beautiful stretches of the Loire and Cher rivers. It's a unique culture, called the garden of France, because of its temperate climate and the long stretches of river that allow for transportation and irrigation of the delicious local produce.

Mid-afternoon, we stop on the riverbank at picturesque Saint Dyé sur Loire. We stretch our legs with a walk that allows us to discover Chambord castle, located in the heart of a forest, where the French sovereigns used to hunt. We arrive at our château home near Amboise in the mid-afternoon, with time to relax before dinner.

OVERNIGHT: LOIRE
MEALS: B, D

DAY 5

CHENONCEAU

- Cher River walk to Chenonceau Château

This morning we begin our château exploration with Chenonceau, which we reach by way of a beautiful walk along the banks of the Cher river. Arguably the most magnificent and romantic of all châteaux, Chenonceau spans the river and has been the home of six great ladies throughout history. Among them are its builder, Catherine Bricconnet, who built it as a home rather than a fortification; Diane de Poitiers, the mistress of Henry II, who added the bridge between the house and the banks of the river; and Catherine de Medici, Henry's wife. Madame Dupin, who owned the château during the French Revolution, was so kind to the lower classes who lived around the château that it was allowed to survive free from the destruction suffered by many other wealthy homes.

Our leisurely visit of the château ends around lunchtime and we stop in at one of the many cafes in Montrichard for refreshment. Following lunch, we stop on our way back to the hotel for a visit at Château de Cheverny, which boasts one of the most outstanding collections of original furniture spanning the period from the reign of Louis XIV to the days of the Napoleonic Empire.

OVERNIGHT: LOIRE
MEALS: B

DAILY ITINERARY

LOIRE & BURGUNDY | DIJON, CHENONCEAUX & CHÂTEAUX | CULTURE + WALKING

DAY 6

CHATEAU VILLANDRY

- Château visit
- Riverside walk to a farmhouse lunch
- Festive farewell dinner

Not far down the Loire River is Villandry. Our visit of the château includes guided walks through its spectacular geometric-shaped gardens with their zigzagging hedges, flowerbeds, vegetable plots and a swan-filled lake. Any time you like, wander into the château itself, to see its wonderful collection of paintings, lovely rooms and the magnificent gilded ceiling imported from Toledo, Spain.

Midday, we enjoy an easy walk along the riverbank from the château, and then a short drive to a small private farm. Here, a local friend and farm owner greets us and prepares a special lunch for us that might include baked apple stuffed with goat cheese (produced on the farm), fresh salad and dessert. After lunch and a visit of the farm, we enjoy a guided walking tour of Tours, then we meander through beautiful pastoral farmland, woods and market gardens, along a lovely section of the Cher river from its junction with

the Loire, and culminating back at Château Villandry. This evening, we return to Amboise to enjoy a festive final dinner.

OVERNIGHT: LOIRE
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 7

AMBOISE

- Town and market exploration of Amboise

After breakfast, we head for Amboise, a charming city where Leonardo da Vinci enjoyed the later years of his life. On a walk around the town, we pass from the banks of the Loire river along the fortifications of the châteaux of Amboise for an optional visit to Le Clos Lucé, da Vinci's manor, where there is a collection of his inventions and marvelous original drawings. We also enjoy a visit to the beautiful country markets in Amboise before heading home. Midday, we part company in Tours at the St. Pierre des Corps rail station—just a quick one hour train ride from Paris.

MEALS: B



DAILY ITINERARY

LOIRE & BURGUNDY | DIJON, CHENONCEAUX & CHÂTEAUX | CULTURE + WALKING

Tour Hotels



Le Cep

Ideally located in Beaune, this is one of the 'Small Luxury Hotels of the World'. Rooted in two 16th century mansions and courtyards with a lovely garden, this homey property features ornately decorated rooms named for the great wines of Burgundy.

OVERNIGHT: BEAUNE | NIGHTS: 3



Manoir Les Minimes

A drape of wisteria festoons the elegant façade of this one-time private residence. The Loire River and Château d'Amboise are directly outside your window. The décor is utterly French, an ambiance that immerses you in the region's grand traditions.

OVERNIGHT: AMBOISE | NIGHTS: 3

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
June 21-27, 2020	\$5,495	\$6,690
October 4-10, 2020	\$5,495	\$6,690
June 20-26, 2021	\$5,595	\$6,790
October 3-9, 2021	\$5,595	\$6,790

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about private journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 7 Days, 6 Nights

START: 2:00 PM Dijon rail station, Dijon, France

END: 12:00 PM St. Pierre des Corps rail station, Tours, France

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

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 6 nights
- All breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 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**
- **Wine on Us**
- **Perfect Pairings Dinners**

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 Loire and Burgundy...

- Sipping a Côte de Nuits burgundy in the vineyard where it's grown
- Wandering the narrow streets of medieval Beaune
- Luxuriating at your grand chateau-style hotel in the Loire Valley
- Walking along the Cher River to stately Chenonceaux
- Wandering Chateau Villandry's sculpted gardens, followed by a farmhouse lunch

"The people on the tour were very compatible and we really enjoyed each other's company. I haven't laughed so much in years."

—Ed and Madelyne R., Rumson, NH

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

You might also enjoy...



Dordogne Valley

Bordeaux & Southwestern France

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Ambling in the legendary vineyards of St. Émilion
- Marveling at castles and fortified villages
- Viewing prehistoric cave art firsthand

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



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/>.



Normandy & Brittany

Mont-St.-Michel to D-Day Beaches

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Rambling through farmland and apple orchards
- Retracing history on D-Day beaches
- Crossing a tidal estuary to an island fortress

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

You might also enjoy...



Provence

Vineyards & Villages of the Luberon

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Trailing through vineyards and olive groves
- Shopping colorful markets for pique-nique provisions
- Savoring private tastings and culinary how-to's

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

“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.