

CULTURE + WALKING

NEW ZEALAND

North & South Islands



Classic
JOURNEYS



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

— *Travel + Leisure*

Auckland, Mount Cook, Queensland & More

New Zealand will take your breath away. If the snow-capped peaks don't do it, then the sheer cultivated beauty of Waiheke Island will. You're as likely to gasp at the thrill of sailing on an America's Cup yacht as at the chill splendor of Tasman Glacier Lake where icebergs surround your boat. As we divide our time between New Zealand's two main islands, Classic Journeys will introduce you to a land you would not find on your own. We'll visit with a family on their vast sheep station. You'll sip wine at a renowned vineyard in a setting you could easily mistake for the Napa Valley. Our local guide also arranges for naturalists, historians and expert specialists in glacier walking and jet boating. As you sample the green lip mussels...learn about Maori folklore and culture...and walk the swing bridge across the wild Hooker River, you'll appreciate New Zealand as the most scenically diverse and unstopably fun destination anywhere.

DAY 1

AUCKLAND

- Sail the harbor in a racing yacht
- Enjoy an easy guided walk of the city

Auckland is the spectacular starting point of our time together. This morning, we'll board a sleek America's Cup yacht for an exhilarating ride. You can participate as a crewmember or sit back and enjoy the sail. Either way, you'll be amazed at the stories shared by the crew and at the spectacular views of the skyline. **Please dress comfortably. We suggest you bring an extra warm layer of clothing.**

After lunch, we'll pay a visit to the Maritime Museum. Rated one of the world's three most livable cities, Auckland's climate is mild and it embraces not one but two harbors. So it's the perfect spot for an urban walk. Back at the hotel, you'll have time to relax or do a little exploring on your own before our welcome dinner.

OVERNIGHT: AUCKLAND
MEALS: L, D

DAY 2

WAIHEKE ISLAND

- Taste the local olive oil and wine
- Picnic at a renowned winery
- Take in the views on a leisurely country walk

When you disembark from this morning's 35-minute ferry ride, you'll be forgiven if it looks like you've actually traveled thousands of miles to the Napa Valley. It's Waiheke Island, though, out in New Zealand's Hauraki Gulf, and we're here for the day. With its rolling hills and sweet microclimate, the island boasts gorgeous beaches, a laid-back and free-spirited attitude, and dozens of excellent vineyards. We'll stop for an olive oil tasting at a family estate. Then we're off to a tasting and picnic lunch at Stonyridge Vineyards, one of the country's finest. Here on Waiheke we're at the same latitude as the southern tip of Sicily, and it shows in the world-class cabernet blends. The walking is superb as well, and we'll wander along headland footpaths with great views down to the beach and across the amazingly blue waters.

Late afternoon, we dock back in Auckland. The rest of the afternoon and evening are yours to take it easy and explore the world-class culinary scene as you head out for dinner on your own.

OVERNIGHT: AUCKLAND
MEALS: B, L

DAY 3

LAKE TEKAPO / MOUNT COOK

- Photograph Lake Tekapo
- Stargaze in the country's only International Dark Sky Preserve

This morning, we shift focus to the South Island with a short flight and then a drive to Mount Cook. En route, we'll pause at Lake Tekapo, very possibly the most iconic site in New Zealand and a prized shot for photographers. With mirror smooth water, shores crowded with wildflowers, and the jagged ring of mountains that embraces it, the lake is truly dazzling.

Our home for the next two nights is in Aoraki Mount Hood National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Area. The highest mountain in New Zealand, Mount Cook is the king of the snow-capped Southern Alps, but just one of the park's 23 peaks that are more than 9,000 feet high.

Dinner tonight is in our hotel's restaurant where floor-to-ceiling mountain vistas steal the show. This region is also the country's only International Dark Sky Preserve, so you'll want to step outside afterward for some incredible stargazing.

OVERNIGHT: MOUNT COOK
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 4

MOUNT COOK

- Walk amid the Southern Alps on the Hooker Valley Track
- Weave among icebergs on a glacial lake

Mythically scaled. Mind-blowing. Stupendous. It's hard to find the adjectives that come close to describing the scene you wake up to this morning. After a hearty breakfast, we'll head out for a once-in-a-lifetime walk on a stretch of the Hooker Valley Track that begins right on the grounds of our hotel. Sharp-edged and snow-capped, the mountains give new meaning to the word awesome. The walk, though, is remarkably easy with groomed gravel trails and stretches of boardwalk that protect the bogs. Swing bridges (slender suspension-style spans) draw you across the Hooker River; the water is a pearly blue surge of fresh melt from the surrounding glaciers. Sir Edmund Hillary trained for his ascent of Mt. Everest here on Mount Cook, and along the path we see a memorial that pays tribute to the many other climbers who were lost on the challenging peaks.

This afternoon's explorations begin with a ride into the Tasman Valley for an easy alpine walk and a boat ride on a lake cluttered with icebergs. Calved by the receding Tasman glacier, the islands of aquamarine ice are unlike anything you've ever seen.

While you relax over dinner this evening, you'll likely have a whole new appreciation for the peaks that tower over your rack of New Zealand lamb or one of the other fine dishes on the menu.

OVERNIGHT: MOUNT COOK
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 5

ARROWTOWN / QUEENSTOWN

- Pan for gold in Arrowtown
- Explore the mountains on a 4x4 safari
- Enjoy a wine tasting at a renowned vineyard

From the vast solitude of the mountains, we head this morning for a town filled with centuries of human history. Arrowtown lies in a glacial basin that was a longtime hunting ground of the Maori people. Then, in 1862, one of the natives working as a sheep shearer found gold. The rush was on and as many as 15,000 prospectors crowded the valley. As the rush cooled, the local government imported Chinese workers to continue the mining. We'll take a walk in their historic settlement for a look at that chapter in the South

Island's history. Of course, we'll also head to the river to pan for gold. Nuggets still do turn up!

The best way to experience terrain this wild is on a 4x4 safari. We'll climb into iconic, luxury Land Rover Defenders with professional drivers and guides to splash through mountain streams and scale rugged slopes. It's a thrill to see the peaks from this perspective, and the drive includes visits to locations around Glenorchy and the Wakatipu Basin that appear in "The Lord of the Rings".

Late afternoon, we four-wheel it to the Peregrine Winery, where our friend Kate is waiting to offer us a tasting of their award-winning wines in their dramatic facilities. Just a mile or so down the road is the birthplace of bungy jumping on the historic suspension bridge that soars across Kawarau Gorge. If you're up for making the leap, just let your guide know and we'll help you make arrangements!

Late in the afternoon, we arrive at our hotel in downtown Queenstown.

OVERNIGHT: QUEENSTOWN
MEALS: B, D

DAY 6

QUEENSTOWN / SHEEP STATION

- Cruise by catamaran to a family sheep station
- Mountain bike in high-meadows with mountain views

Legend has it that a local gold digger named Queenstown by declaring that the area was "fit for Queen Victoria". It's hard to argue with the description of the city as it's nestled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu and surrounded by The Remarkables Mountains. This morning, the lake is the launching point for a fascinating expedition. We'll board a catamaran for a 45-minute cruise to a whole other world: the 100,000-acre Mt. Nicholas Station. About 30,000 merino sheep and 2,200 Hereford cattle graze on the family-owned meadows. With our host and rancher, Duncan, we'll get a look at traditional farming practices like sheep shearing. And he will put Belle and his other sheep dogs through paces in a very cool herding demonstration.

Leaving Mt. Nicholas, you'll mountain bike along the trail to Walter Peak High Country Farm. The mountain and lake views are unmatched and, at the end, we arrive at the farm where you can relax in the lush gardens that roll down to the lake. It's a terrific setting to treat your self to a pint of the great local beers. Our return to Queenstown is aboard a classic steamship.

Please note: E-bikes are also available on a request basis.

The city boasts a lively restaurant scene, and you'll have the opportunity to explore it at dinner on your own. And you won't want to miss the Maori performance at the top of the Skyline Gondola. It's a fun way to learn about the Maori myths and legends and to see the fierce Haka war dance complete with foot-stamping, body slapping, protruding tongues and chants.

OVERNIGHT: QUEENSTOWN
MEALS: B, L

DAY 7

DART RIVER / MT. ASPIRING

- Thrill to a jet boat ride
- Learn about Maori culture and local wildlife

The morning is yours to sleep in, do some shopping, or join your guide for a walk to Queenstown Hill for 3600 views of the area. After lunch, we're off to one of our favorite New Zealand activities: A jet boat safari on the Dart River. Piloted by experienced guides, you'll go for an adrenaline-pumping, water-skimming journey on cinematically beautiful braided rivers into the heart of Mt. Aspiring National Park. We'll step ashore for a walk through an ancient beech forest as your guides share Maori folklore, stories of early settlers, and their considerable knowledge of the local flora and fauna, while we take in the outstanding views.

After a drive back to Queenstown, enjoy the balance of the day as you please before our lively farewell dinner tonight.

OVERNIGHT: QUEENSTOWN
MEALS: B, D

DAY 8

DEPARTURE

- Begin your journey home
- Explore more of New Zealand with 1, 2, 3 or 4 day extension options

We part company mid-morning. We'll be happy to arrange for you to join any of four trip extensions we offer: Milford Sound Cruise, Doubtful Sound Cruise, or one more days of hiking on either the Milford Track or the Routeburn Track.

OVERNIGHT: NONE
MEALS: B



Tour Hotels



Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour

Situated at the edge of Waitemata Harbour amid the city's liveliest new neighborhoods, this glamorous property is quietly sophisticated. Decorated in contemporary style, the rooms feature by floor-to-ceiling windows, and a 20-meter heated indoor pool.

OVERNIGHT: AUCKLAND | NIGHTS: 2



The Hermitage Hotel

Originally built in 1884, the Hermitage is located deep within Aoraki Mount Hood National Park. Expansive windows bring the outside into the contemporary style rooms. And you're only steps from some of the most magnificent scenery on earth.

OVERNIGHT: MOUNT COOK NATIONAL PARK | NIGHTS: 2



St. Moritz Queenstown

Built in the style of an elegant alpine residence, this luxurious property offers wonderful views of Lake Wakatipu and The Remarkables Mountains. Guest rooms are decorated with understated elegance. The hotel also offers a gym, sauna and hot tub garden.

OVERNIGHT: QUEENSTOWN | NIGHTS: 3

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
Feb 23-Mar 1, 2020	\$5,495	\$6,390
March 22-29, 2020	\$5,495	\$6,390
Dec 30, 2020-Jan 6, 2021	\$5,895	\$7,190
February 21-28, 2021	\$5,595	\$6,490
March 14-21, 2021	\$5,495	\$6,390
Dec 30, 2021-Jan 6, 2022	\$5,995	\$7,290

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

INTERNAL AIRFARE

This trip includes an internal flight, which is priced separately from the land tour at an approximate cost of \$225 per person.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 8 Days, 7 Nights

START: 10:00 AM Lobby of Sofitel Auckland Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand

END: 9:00 AM Lobby of St. Moritz Queenstown Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 7 nights
- All breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip, handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to 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 New Zealand...

- Sailing an authentic America's Cup Yacht
- Walking among the vineyards and olive groves of Waiheke Island
- Jet boating into the Dart River Valley through world-renowned Mt. Aspiring National Park
- Cruising across Lake Wakatipu to Mt. Nicholas farm with BBQ lunch
- Joining along a guided walk on scenic passageways of Mount Cook

"Classic Journeys excels in providing exceptional guides familiar with the local area."

—Bert and Jo Ann E.

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

You might also enjoy...



Thailand

Phuket, Chiang Mai & Chiang Rai

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Cruising through Phang Nga Bay on a traditional junk boat
- Mingling with members of colorful hill tribes
- Communing elephants along forest and jungle paths

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



Southeast Asia

Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Rambling past rice fields to friendly villages untouched by tourism
- Playing with an elephant in the Mekong River
- Absorbing Angkor Wat at sunrise

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

“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.