

CULTURE + WALKING

SARDINIA & CORSICA

Rustic Villages & Costa Smeralda



Classic
JOURNEYS



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

— *Travel + Leisure*

Island Gems in a Sapphire Sea

When was the last time you broke bread with a shepherd? Were you sitting at a stone table in his garden, a Sardinian breeze rustling the leaves, with a corkwood plate of his homemade specialties? It's simply a remarkable event, just one of many we'll arrange for you in this amazing week. The isles of Sardinia and Corsica are eight miles and worlds apart. Corsica—part of France, but defiantly non-French—is blanketed in fragrant herbs, dotted with quaint villages. Sardinia is more rustic, mysterious, with a few thousand years of Phoenician, Spanish and Italian blood in its veins. Together, these two gorgeous islands are some of the least-touristed spots in Europe. When you leave behind the yacht-studded harbors for the mountains, pastures and vineyards of the interior, you have the rarest of privileges—to see and experience countryside and culture that seem to have stood still in time.

DAY 1

SARDINIA - ALGHERO

- Board a horse drawn carriage for a visit of the historical town
- Enjoy a cooking class before lingering over a festive welcome dinner

We meet in Alghero. It's easy to fall in love with the relaxing atmosphere of this beautiful city, where Mediterranean cultures have long mixed with beautiful results. Alghero was conquered by the Aragons from Spain in 1353, and today, almost 700 years later, people still speak Catalan as well as Sardinian. Even the architecture retains a significant Spanish influence. Street signs are in both Catalan and Italian. In Spain, Alghero is referred to as the "tiny Barcelona of Italy". In addition, one of its towers, Torre di Porta a Terra, was built in 1300 as a contribution from Jewish residents to the military efforts of King Pietro III.

The sea plays an important role in daily life in Alghero. Brightly colored coral, found plentifully in the sea here, is available in many shops. The magnificent coastal views stretch to the promontory at Capo Caccia. Another wonderful feature of Alghero is that most roads in the historical center are pedestrian only, and the residents enjoy strolling—often for ice cream—well into the evening. Streets are lined with interesting shops and there is a market along the seaside as you walk into the historical center of town.

Our welcome dinner features delicious, locally caught fish and the well-regarded local vermentino wine. Not only will you savor the meal, but you will get a first hand opportunity to prepare some of the dishes you will be enjoying. After dinner, we stroll back to our hotel along the promenade. Many shops are open until eleven in the evening and it's very common to see residents out walking past midnight.

OVERNIGHT: ALGHERO
MEALS: D

DAY 2

CORSICA - BONIFACIO

- Enjoy a guided walk and exploration of Bonifacio
- Follow a scenic path to a medieval castle
- Boat across the Strait of Bonifacio to Corsica

Following breakfast in our hotel overlooking the sea, we journey north and east along the Sardinian coast, where a light walk before lunch leads us to a medieval castle in the town of Castelsardo, perched on the summit of a promontory over a harbor of extraordinarily transparent waters. From nearby Santa Teresa di Gallura, we boat across the eight miles of the Strait of Bonifacio to Corsica, which Balzac described as "a French island basking in the Italian sun." We arrive on Corsica at the ancient fortress town of Bonifacio, dramatically situated atop a white limestone peninsula 180 feet high.

Established by Genoa in the 12th century as a stronghold against the Moors, Bonifacio remained in Genoese hands through centuries of battles and sieges. Inhabitants still speak a medieval dialect. The town also has important literary references, as it is the supposed harbor where Ulysses' fleet was bombarded by the Laestrygonians in Homer's *Odyssey*.

Bonifacio is also highly regarded for its artisans and boutiques, known for their superb local fashions, hand-made shoes and excellent selection of high quality ceramics. If you want time to yourself for shopping during the week, this is a great afternoon for that before we meet our guide for an escorted exploration of the historic town. If you'd prefer to skip some or all of the shopping, our head guide is available to take you on a sea-level walk at the base of the cliffs, where our footpath is carved from the limestone and provides us the opportunity to see the endangered Corsican sea birds.

Over dinner tonight, you'll find that meals in Corsica (and Sardinia for that matter) are often like a lesson in local cuisine, as our chefs proudly introduce us to some of the island's most authentic ingredients. On any given evening, our hosts might prepare for us dishes using ingredients like the *castagne*, or chestnut. Chestnuts have long been used in many Corsican dishes like the famed *Suppa di Castagne*, and chestnut flour is used to produce some of Corsica's most delectable breads and pastries. Corsica's mild, dry climate is also ideal for wine grapes, and we can enjoy sampling the local wine, Gentile, and pairing it with one of several delicious Corsican cheeses. *Brocciu* is ewe's or goat's milk cheese similar to ricotta. Another quintessential Corsican ingredient, it's thrown into everything from stuffed sardines and cannelloni to custards and *Fiadone*, a mouthwatering version of cheesecake.

OVERNIGHT: BONIFACIO
MEALS: B, D

DAY 3

CORSICA - SARTENE

- Visit with shopkeepers in the village of Sartene
- Walk coastal paths through a nature reserve

We wake under the vitalizing Corsican sun at our charming hotel. Take a deep breath and enjoy the scent of the *maquis*. This blanket of fragrant shrubs and flowers covering much of the island is intoxicating. Napoléon Bonaparte, who was born in nearby Ajaccio, swore he could smell the myrtle-scented *maquis* from the sea. Following breakfast, we set off this morning to the north into the true heart of rustic Corsica. As we move temporarily away from the sea, we find ourselves surrounded by forests of chestnut and pine trees, then rolling hills and olive groves. Local friends who still operate a historic press used to produce the olive oil that was of the highest demand throughout all of Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries invite us in to learn about the technique...and a chance to sample the local specialty served on crusty Corsican bread.

Nearby is the picturesque village of Sartene, sometimes referred to as the most Corsican town. With its old quarter surrounded by ramparts, the village looks as if it's been carved out of the granite mountainside. Our midday visit provides us the nice opportunity to banter with the local shopkeepers with our guide's help. Be sure to pick up some of the delicious *beignets* that the white-haired village women still make the traditional way with chestnut flour and *brocciu* cheese.

Nourished from lunch, we return to the sea, where we stop to enjoy one of our favorite walks, along the balmy, gusty Mediterranean coast toward Punta di Campomoro. This region is unique as it is a nature reserve, which Corsicans

DAILY ITINERARY

SARDINIA & CORSICA | RUSTIC VILLAGES & COSTA SMERALDA | CULTURE + WALKING

call the "Garden of the Wind". Depending on the season, you may be able to find arbutus berries, blackberries, mushrooms, walnuts, hazelnuts, wild strawberries, asparagus, sea urchins...or go for a swim in the sea. Along the way we absorb some of the island's best panoramas as we follow a footpath that leads us to a majestic watchtower, which provides us commanding views of the scenic coastline. With our clothes now smelling of an intoxicating mixture of the sea and wild herbs, we turn inland to explore one of Corsica's most notable archeological sites—Cauria—where large stone *menhirs* laid undiscovered for nearly 5,000 years until the last century. These humanlike monuments have facial features and are posed for battle, a variation on stone monoliths created in places like Stonehenge in the age. It's a fascinating place to walk around and explore, as we learn more about prehistoric Corsica from our guide. Later in the day, we return to our home in Bonifacio, where a wealth of fine restaurants offers many options for dinner.

OVERNIGHT: BONIFACIO

MEALS: B

DAY 4

SARDINIA - PORTO CERVO

- Watch the sun paint the cliffs orange
- Drive through the coastal village of Porto Cervo
- Celebrate with a festive dinner with folklore dancing

This morning, as the sun rises and paints the chalk cliffs orange, join our guide on a memorable walk overlooking the sea toward Cape Pertusato and with views back to Bonifacio.

We wave goodbye to Corsica as we ferry back to Sardinia. Arriving mid-afternoon we're welcomed by the Costa Smeralda and its warm island breezes. (Sardinian legend claims that Costa Smeralda is the birthplace of the wind.) The famed "Emerald Coast" area is known for the resort created by the Aga Khan, who discovered it in the 1960's when his yacht came ashore to weather a storm. A scenic drive leads us through the coastal village of Porto Cervo, the crown jewel of the Emerald Coast. Here, we discover the dueling charms of the fashionable boutiques tucked behind earth-toned shop fronts and the natural port where the yachts of the rich and famous anchor.

Sardinian arts and crafts are one of the most enjoyable aspects of the island and are deeply rooted in ancient history. The most prestigious products range from antique style furniture to stone sculptures and woven woolen products. We'll see many of these scattered about the property and in the guest rooms as we arrive at our beautiful country resort near Oliena.

OVERNIGHT: OLIENA

MEALS: B, D

DAY 5

SARDINIA - SCALA PRADU

- Follow countryside paths to Scala Pradu
- Enjoy lunch of traditional local specialties
- Wine tasting visit

As beautiful as the coast is and we enjoy it immensely there, this is the highlight of our time in Sardinia for us, in the heart of the island where traditions run most deep. In this true,

untouristed part of the island, shepherds tend their sheep, farmers often ride to market on donkeys, and Christian religious festivals maintain many of their original pagan roots. Sardinia is also a handicrafts heaven. Locally produced goods include bright woolen shawls and rugs, hand-carved wooden objects, gold filigree jewelry and hand-woven baskets in all shapes and sizes.

As when visiting other islands, it is often helpful to have a friend who knows the in's and outs of local life and customs. Sardinian people are often reserved at first if approached by an outsider. But when introduced through a friend, like our native friend and guide Fabrizio, they open up quickly and are very hospitable as they welcome you into their circle. With him, we embark on an uphill walk through a valley in the foothills of the Supramonte Mountains. This quiet countryside is wrapped in olive tree shrubs, endemic herbs and flowers. The path follows an ancient shepherd route and immerses us in the beauty of these magic mountains. In the distance we may see shepherds as they take their sheep to graze. Along our path we notice small stone and pebble towers that are created by locals to indicate that the road is well scouted and groomed. Fabrizio tells us about the shepherd life, plants, animals and birds of Sardinia. At Scala Pradu we have a picnic lunch which usually includes local products such as "pecorino" sheep cheeses, cold meats, tomatoes, melon and wine.

This afternoon we head back to the hotel to relax. After freshening up we'll pause for a wine tasting treat before dinner at one of our favorite restaurants in Nuoro.

OVERNIGHT: OLIENA

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 6

SARDINIA - LANAITTO VALLEY

- Meet the local artisans to taste bread at a family bakery
- Explore a 3,000 year-old Nuraghic village
- Experience lunch with a local shepherd
- Enjoy a farewell dinner

We awake in our beautiful countryside refuge, under beams of old juniper wood and tucked into our antique beds covered with handmade Sardinian fabrics. Our friend Giovanna and her family welcome us into their kitchen to show us how they make their traditional *carasau* bread. Save room from breakfast, as you'll want to taste the delicious flat bread, which is baked twice and is a favorite among shepherds who take it with them into the mountains.

Fortified from our tasting, we follow tranquil paths through a valley in the foothills of the Supramonte Mountains. Our walk ends with a visit to a 3,000-year-old Nuraghic village, one of Sardinia's most important archaeological sites, and one of 7,000 such mysterious structures on the island. The largest and most technically perfect megalithic structures still standing in Europe, these round stone towers were built before 500 B.C. by the island's early inhabitants, the Nuraghi. Exploring the village with our local guide, Fabrizio, a Sardinian native, we discuss the significance of the structures.

Midday, we continue on through the Lanaitto Valley, past acres of valleys and forests to the rustic home of our shepherd friend, Tonino. For us, he lays out a lunch spread of fresh ricotta cheese and honey, sausage and bacon, pecorino sheep's milk and caprino goat cheeses, fruit and a

DAILY ITINERARY

SARDINIA & CORSICA | RUSTIC VILLAGES & COSTA SMERALDA | CULTURE + WALKING

homemade digestive liquor. It's a true *locavore* experience as we eat in his garden from native cork plates on carved rock tables. Following lunch, Tonino talks to us discussing shepherd life in Sardinia, and we often lose ourselves in his stories about his life and the history of the area. He may even show us how he works leather and carves wood to produce his famed crafts.

If you'd like to atone for some of the calories at lunch, join us for an easy afternoon walk through the countryside where oak trees and juniper dominate the vegetation of the valley. If we're lucky, we'll even see some *mufflone*, or wild sheep.

Over dinner our guide tells us about the Sardinian tradition of winemaking, which started before the Roman domination of the island—during the Nuragic period—and has continued ever since. The Phoenicians, Romans, Byzantines, Tuscans, Genoese, Benedictine and Camaldolite monks, Spanish and Piemontese all have a place in the history. Satiated from a delicious dinner, we have time to relax on the terrace or swim in the pool under the star-filled night sky.

OVERNIGHT: OLIENA

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 7

SARDINIA - ALGHERO

- Say goodbye to our hosts at our country inn
- Explorations on a walk through Bosa
- Part company in Alghero

As if we are leaving behind a newly found family, we wave farewell to Signora Pasqua at our country inn, and make our way west to Alghero. On the way we stop and visit the town of Bosa. We'll embark on a walk through the town center viewing shops.

We part company in the early afternoon at our preferred hotel here, or we are happy to bring you to the nearby airport. From Alghero there are several fine options for short connecting flights to Rome, Milan, London and Frankfurt.

MEALS: B



DAILY ITINERARY

SARDINIA & CORSICA | RUSTIC VILLAGES & COSTA SMERALDA | CULTURE + WALKING

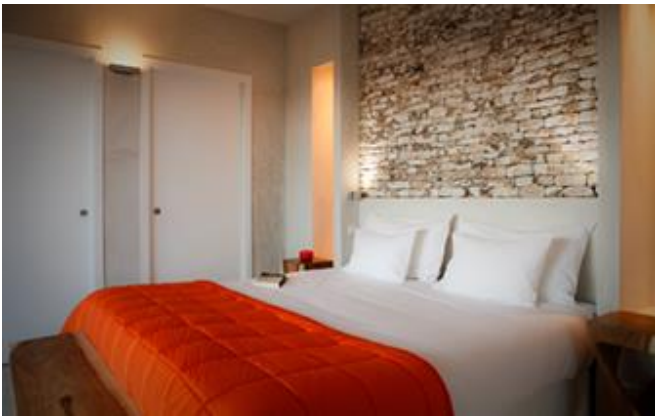
Tour Hotels



Villa Mosca

Designed and constructed in the early 20th century, Villa Mosca today represents one of the icons of the city, a stunning example of Art Nouveau architecture. The building, with its octagonal shape, plays host to elegant, intimate and refined rooms.

OVERNIGHT: ALGHERO | NIGHTS: 1



Cala Di Greco

High in the wooded hills overlooking Bonifacio, this all-suite hotel is Mediterranean modern at its best. From breakfast to sunset, the spectacular pool is the place to eat, relax and sip a glass of wine. Each of the suites includes a private patio.

OVERNIGHT: BONIFACIO | NIGHTS: 2



Su Gologone Hotel

Wrapped in ancient vineyards and olive groves, this 4-star country inn offers majestic quietness and charming history. Its guesthouses are scattered among gardens, courtyards, stone pathways and a spring water guest pool.

OVERNIGHT: OLIENA | NIGHTS: 3

DAILY ITINERARY

SARDINIA & CORSICA | RUSTIC VILLAGES & COSTA SMERALDA | CULTURE + WALKING

Tour Dates & Prices

| Tour Dates | Price per Person | Price per Person |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Double Occupancy | Single Occupancy |
| May 3-9, 2020 | \$5,095 | \$5,890 |
| June 14-20, 2020 | \$5,195 | \$5,990 |
| September 6-12, 2020 | \$5,195 | \$5,990 |
| October 4-10, 2020 | \$5,195 | \$5,990 |
| May 2-8, 2021 | \$5,195 | \$5,990 |
| June 13-19, 2021 | \$5,295 | \$6,090 |
| September 5-11, 2021 | \$5,295 | \$6,090 |
| October 3-9, 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: 2:30 PM Lobby of Villa Mosca Hotel, Alghero, Italy

END: 2:30 PM Lobby of Villa Mosca Hotel, Alghero, Italy

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. An average of 2 to 3 hours of walking per day, with a vehicle usually in support.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 6 nights
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches and 5 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**
- **Wine on Us**
- **Privileged Access Events**
- **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 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 Sardinia and Corsica...

- Walking scenic paths through chestnut forests, olive groves and amid the prehistoric stone monoliths of Cauria
- Making and tasting traditional flatbread in our friend Giovanna's kitchen
- Sharing a remote countryside lunch of local specialties with a Sardinian shepherd
- Seeing the islands through guides like Luciano, who is part impromptu musician, part professor and all-around good guy
- Perusing the shops of Bonifacio, renowned for their fine crafts and leather goods

"I never felt like a tourist. Luciano, his local friends/guides and the small group size contributed to this feeling."

—Elizabeth C.

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

You might also enjoy...



Amalfi Coast

Positano & the Isle of Capri

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Wandering the ruins of legendary Pompeii
- Enjoying incredible hotels in Positano and Capri
- Walking seaside trails past magnificent villas

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



Croatia

Dubrovnik & Dalmatian Coast

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Strolling atop massive medieval walls at sunset
- Enjoying lunchtime camaraderie at a local winery
- Skirting the coast on shepherds' paths with jaw-dropping views

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



Italian Lakes

Como, Maggiore & Orta

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Vacationing with a view each day
- Strolling lakeside and mountain paths
- Shopping for sensuous Como silk

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

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/>.



Sicily

Agrigento, Taormina & Aeolian Islands

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Enjoying a rustic lunch on the slopes of a volcano
- Walking a trail of ancient temples
- Meandering through meadows and olive groves

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



Tuscany & the Cinque Terre

Chianti, Florence & Seaside Villages

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Wine-tasting on the grounds of a castle
- Traversing the streets of towering hill towns
- Jumping to the head of the line to see Michelangelo's David

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

“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.