

CULTURE • WALKING

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia



Classic
JOURNEYS



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

— *Travel + Leisure*

The Treasures & Culture of Indochina

Most tourists never see Halong Bay in the morning. They miss the fishing junks sliding past limestone spires that thrust from the turquoise water. They can't imagine how the scent of fresh coffee hangs in the air as eagles float overhead. It's an extravagant sensory moment possible only because we spend the night on the water...on a luxury junk. And it's just one unique event we'll share with you in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Of course we visit the great cities of Indochina. But we also stop at the simple homestead of a rice farmer...meet the enormous residents of a Laotian elephant preserve...wander the temples of Angkor with an expert guide...and stay in Indochina's finest hotels and resorts. Along the way, you'll wend your way through exotic markets, eat truly remarkable local specialties, and experience the traditional cultures you only find if you approach the region like a traveler, rather than a tourist.

DAY 1

SAIGON & MEKONG DELTA

- Cruise the Mekong River by traditional long-tail boat
- Enjoy a—very—leisurely bike ride between colorful local villages in the Mekong Delta

We meet in Saigon this morning. It's a lively, high-energy metropolis where new construction and technology constantly bump up against the traditional and the historic.

Southern Vietnam is the classic landscape you've imagined. Today will provide our first glimpse of the lush, tropical landscape, carpeted with rice fields that produce three or four crops a year. Brightly dressed workers bend to their work, forming a line of the conical straw hats we'll see throughout the trip. The all-purpose hats protect fair skin from the sun and shed rain too. Fuel yourself with what you'll soon see is a series of exceptional breakfasts. (You'll have many choices from typical western to Vietnamese specialties, but please try the traditional pho soup; it's delicious.) Then we enjoy a drive to Cai Lay, a small town on the banks of the Mekong River. At the local pier, we board a long-tail boat to weave among the many craft that rely on the river and its tributaries for transportation and commerce.

At Cam Son bridge, we disembark to start a 7km bike ride over level terrain into the heart of the Mekong Delta. (The bikes are perfect even if you're not a regular biker. The roads are flat – and our pace is easy. Of course, if you prefer, you can hop onto one of the local mini-carriages known as “xe loi.”) We follow narrow country roads that curve over tiny canals and past fruit gardens and sleepy villages. Kids will greet us with a big smile and “xin chào!” And we're likely to trade nods and smiles with a woman in the traditional ao dai as she pedals (and sings) her way to the local market. Along the way, we'll visit rice paddies and a tropical fruit orchard. Back on the river, a sampan ride lands us at a 100-year-old house, where the owner and his wife treat us to a lunch of local specialties.

Tonight we can unwind after an amazing day over dinner at one of the city's finest restaurants.

OVERNIGHT: SAIGON
MEALS: L, D

DAY 2

SAIGON & CU CHI TUNNELS

- Visit Saigon by rickshaw
- Explore the famed Cu Chi Tunnels
- This evening, relax at our luxury beachfront resort on China Beach

Fuel yourself with what you'll soon see is a series of exceptional breakfasts. (You'll have many choices from typical western to Vietnamese specialties, but please try the traditional pho soup; it's delicious.) After breakfast, we depart the hotel and drive just beyond the city limits to explore the Cu Chi Tunnels, a remarkable underground complex that served as a refuge for thousands of Viet Cong during the war. For years the American military had no idea that the enemy lived literally beneath their feet. Now we can climb down to experience some of the 125 miles of tunnels, staging camps, hospitals and bunkers.

The afternoon is full of fascinating juxtapositions, too. We lunch on impeccable Vietnamese dishes at Hoi An

restaurant. Next we board cyclos – think bike-powered rickshaws – to go exploring. It's a great way to see, hear and soak up the action, and it's an efficient way to get to key sites like City Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral and Dong Khoi Street, the city's premier shopping district for custom-made silk garments, embroidery and more.

An evening flight takes us to Danang where we transfer to the spectacular Naman Retreat, which sits on the pristine stretch of sand known as China Beach. The evening is yours to dine on your own or linger at the beach or pool.

OVERNIGHT: DANANG
MEALS: B, L

DAY 3

HOI AN / DANANG

- Wander the pedestrian streets of Hoi An
- Stroll along spectacularly scenic rice fields, meeting locals, outside Danang

After breakfast, we venture into the very heart of rural Danang for a special insight into the everyday life of a local village community. Our guide leads us along footpaths to the small settlement of Hoa Tien, nestled among endless rice fields, where we experience firsthand the very backbone of Vietnam's rural culture. Depending on the season we see the fields being ploughed by buffalo, rice planted by women, or harvested by the men. And we'll visit a mill to see how the rice is dried and husked. This unique glimpse into the rural lives of the villagers is a sight few other visitors see and will be one of the highlights of our time in Vietnam.

We then stop by Tra Que Organic Village, and walk through the market gardens where local farmers work on their fields using the traditional methods of hundreds of years ago - no electrical machinery here. Midday, we pause for lunch at a beautiful restaurant located on the Thu Bon River and decorated in traditional Hoi An style with dark woods and lush gardens.

This afternoon, we journey along the beachfront road to Hoi An. Against all odds, this extraordinary village was untouched by the war and offers a glimpse of a Vietnam that exists almost nowhere else. As we stroll through the back streets of this seaport, it's not hard to imagine it in the 18th Century, when Hoi An was one of the busiest trading ports in Asia. Along its cobbled streets, we'll see Chinese, Japanese and European architecture. At the riverfront, there's a scene of boats brimming with people and wares.

With a hand from our guide, you'll get a chance to shop the local market where the wares range from incense to flowers to betel nuts.

OVERNIGHT: DANANG
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 4

DANANG / HANOI

- See the Hindu monuments at My Son or relax at your 5-star resort
- Settle in to the famed Metropole Hotel in Hanoi

You have two options this morning. Join us for an early breakfast and a visit to My Son (“Beautiful Mountain”). This beautiful region is known for its cluster of Hindu temples,

DAILY ITINERARY

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some of which date back to the 7th Century. On your guided visit of the ruins, you'll get a haunting look into the region's rich cultural past.

If you prefer, spend a leisurely morning at the resort to catch some sun on the beach, take a yoga or tai chi class, or enjoy a massage at the spa.

Late afternoon, we take a nonstop flight to Hanoi. Vietnam's capital is an old-fashioned city with sidewalk cafes and pavement barbers. There are wide boulevards, lined with trees and filled with bicycles. Great mansions give way to crowded alleyways like Silk Street and Fried Fish Street.

After a busy day, we check in to the Metropole, the city's most elegant and historic hotel. You'll want to make time for a drink under the thatched roof of the poolside bar before we sit down to a traditional Vietnamese dinner at Wild Rice Restaurant, popular with the locals and in-the-know visitors alike.

OVERNIGHT: HANOI
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 5

HANOI + COUNTRYSIDE

- Follow a scenic footpath from a beautiful pagoda past rice fields and bamboo groves to a local village
- Explore Hanoi's colorful French Quarter
- Linger over a memorable dinner at the Press Club

After another amazing breakfast, we depart the hotel and head into the countryside. Northern Vietnam is home to the country's most colorful and revered pagodas and temples. (A Buddhist vocabulary note: a temple is a place to worship the dead; a pagoda is a place to worship the Lord Buddha.) We'll have a chance to roam through Tay Phuong Pagoda, famous for its vast display of finely carved wooden statues of 18th-century monks. From here, we start a scenic walk among rice fields and through bamboo groves to a local village. We have a standing invitation to the small local school where we'll interact with the children bedecked in their blue and white uniforms and their teacher. It's another authentic insight into daily life that has hardly changed in centuries and where foreign visitors are rare exceptions.

We return to Hanoi for lunch at Indochine restaurant, followed by a guided stroll in the city's lovely Old Quarter to get a real feel for Vietnam's colonial past. After, you'll have some time to relax back at the hotel. Later, we'll enjoy cocktails and dinner at the Press Club, a true local institution.

OVERNIGHT: HANOI
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 6

HALONG BAY

- Marvel at the incredible scenery in Halong Bay
- Enjoy the amenities and service on our luxury junk boat

Leaving Hanoi behind, we head for one of our all-time favorite travel experiences – Halong Bay (*drive time approximately three hours*). The bay is considered Vietnam's eighth wonder of the world and it's easy to see why. Three thousand spectacular chalk and limestone outcroppings, cliffs, arches, and coves form a dragon's tail

of islands across the bay. Traditional sailing junks and local fishing boats glide by, selling their latest catch.

In time for lunch, we board our luxury junk boat. Our cruise on the emerald green waters of the bay offers us the chance to visit and explore many islands and caves. But make no mistake: This isn't like cruising on a cruise ship! As we sail through the mysterious Karst Mountains, you can explore the Vung Dang area by kayak or jump into the warm bay for a swim. Evening activities on the junk range from fishing to board games to spa services.

OVERNIGHT: HALONG BAY
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 7

HALONG BAY / LAOS

- Wake to sunrise on Halong Bay
- Mingle with the locals in Yen Duc village
- Banter with shopkeepers at Luang Prabang's night market

If more mornings could be like this one. It's the most serene. The most picturesque. The most romantic. The most of just about everything we travel for. We happily recommend a quiet breakfast as you watch and listen to the world come to life. You can also hop aboard the tender with us to go ashore and explore high-ceilinged caverns on a brief walk.

Midday, we start the drive back to Hanoi. Along the way, we arrive in Yen Duc village. Admire the charming fields, small lanes and amazing tranquility in the village. Have lunch, then start walking around the village and visit Canh Huong Pagoda to learn more about Buddhism in Vietnam. Visit a typical house in the village and talk to the friendly local people. Enjoy performances by local artists or enjoy the hands on fishing and gardening activities if time permits. After, we'll continue our drive to Hanoi for an evening flight to Laos.

Serene Luang Prabang sits at the confluence of the Khan and Mekong Rivers and – a hint of events to come – it was once the capital of the "Land of the Million Elephants." We'll settle into our gracious and glamorous colonial-style hotel. Dinner is on your own, but be sure to save time to ramble with our Laotian guide through the town's night market, known especially for fine handicrafts from ethnic villagers.

OVERNIGHT: LUANG PRABANG
MEALS: B, L

DAY 8

LUANG PRABANG

- Learn about the life of a mahout (elephant trainer) on our visit to a 2,000-acre elephant sanctuary
- Enjoy a guided walk to Tadsae Waterfall.
- Interact with the locals at Ban Ansavane village

Today's adventure is a visit to a 2,000-acre elephant sanctuary in the beautiful and unspoiled Nam Khan River valley. We'll meet the mahouts that train and care for the elephants firsthand. After the demonstration, no visit would be complete without a chance to play with the elephants and walk them down to their favorite spot in the river.

After lunch, your guide will take you on a scenic walk to Tadsae Waterfall. Here, you will have the opportunity to relax or take a dip in the fall's cool natural pools.

DAILY ITINERARY

SOUTHEAST ASIA | VIETNAM, LAOS & CAMBODIA | CULTURE + WALKING

Later, you will enjoy a short boat ride to Ban Ansavane village and have an opportunity to interact with the locals and learn about rural Lao life and handicrafts. This is a great experience for those looking for a deeper insight into Lao culture. You will be welcomed to the village with the special, traditional Laotian Baci ceremony. 'Baci' plays an important role even today when welcoming or saying farewell. This ceremony brings good luck and wards off any bad spirits.

OVERNIGHT: LUANG PRABANG
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 9

SIEM REAP—ANGKOR THOM

- Join in the moving alms ritual of the Buddhist monks
- Absorb the incredible scale of the Bayon and Angkor Thom temples with your expert guide
- Experience sunset at Angkor Wat

You'll want to consider rising early today for a unique and very moving experience. In a centuries-old tradition, long lines of barefoot monks walk silently through the streets of Luang Prabang on their morning alms rounds. Before returning to the hotel for breakfast, you'll also explore the lively morning market as the locals shop for the day's provisions.

For the truly grand finale of the week, you'll fly to Siem Reap in Cambodia. First, you'll check into the Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor, one of Indochina's finest properties. You'll also meet your exceptional local guide and immediately begin to explore the awesome Angkor Temples. First comes the ancient walled city of Angkor Thom. Built in the 12th century, the "Great City" contains Bayon Temple, famous for its more

than 200 enormous mysterious faces, as well as the Elephant and Leper King Terraces.

Later, your guide performs a near miracle by showing you a way into the Angkor Wat temple complex that's unknown to the crowds. Thanks to his knowledge of the site, the remarkable temples are revealed to you slowly as you approach on quiet paths to be in place in time to witness a spectacular sunset. As this remarkable day ends, you'll settle into your luxurious hotel and enjoy a leisurely dinner.

OVERNIGHT: SIEM REAP
MEALS: B, D

DAY 10

SIEM REAP – ANGKOR WAT

- An in-depth guided visit of Angkor Wat
- Walk through the stone hallways of Ta Prohm

Sleep in if you like, but it's well worth rising before the sun for a visit to Angkor Wat at daybreak. After breakfast, we all return for an in-depth walking tour in the largest temple in the world. Erected at the command of King Suryavarman II, Angkor Wat took an estimated 30 years to build, probably as his funeral temple. Our knowledgeable guide will help you grasp the enormity of the place.

Afterwards, we visit Ta Prohm. One of the largest temples, it was dedicated in 1186, but now its labyrinth of stone hallways is overgrown with massive banyan trees, which envelop the stone like tentacles.

Late afternoon, we part company at the airport in Siem Reap.

MEALS: B



Tour Hotels



Park Hyatt Saigon

Consistently named one of Asia's top hotels, this grand 5-star property is renowned for its sophistication, elegance and incredibly gracious service. It's a truly remarkable retreat right at the heart of Ho Chi Minh City's bustle.

OVERNIGHT: HO CHI MINH CITY | NIGHTS: 1



Naman Retreat

Seamlessly blending timeless Vietnamese heritage and culture with luxurious modern charm. Impressive bamboo architecture and exquisite interiors, combined with authentic Vietnamese hospitality assures you a wonderful retreat experience.

OVERNIGHT: DANANG | NIGHTS: 2



Sofitel Metropole Hotel

Hanoi's most legendary 5-star hotel, the Metropole, is in the French Quarter. It's a study in sophisticated design and extreme comfort, with its superb service, tropical gardens and outdoor pool. It is consistently ranked one of Asia's best hotels.

OVERNIGHT: HANOI | NIGHTS: 2



Dragon Legend Cruise

Each of the 24 spacious, wood-paneled cabins have been luxuriously designed for the comfort and enjoyment of our guests. The restaurants and bars are perfect for lounging. There is a mineral seawater pool, along with fitness and spa facilities.

OVERNIGHT: HA LONG | NIGHTS: 1



Avani Luang Prabang

A handsome and architecturally respectful luxury hotel, offering contemporary elegance in a prime location, just steps from the main street. Reflecting the fascinating fusion of the Laos' cultural heritage with the current desires of a luxury traveler.

OVERNIGHT: LUANG PRABANG | NIGHTS: 2



Raffles Grand D'Angkor

Rated as one of the world's best places to stay, the Raffles Grand has been synonymous with Angkor Wat for 75 years. Guest rooms are appointed with Cambodian art and art deco furnishings. The state-of-the-art spa includes a 35-meter lap pool.

OVERNIGHT: SIEM REAP | NIGHTS: 1

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
March 8-17, 2020	\$5,395	\$6,590
May 10-19, 2020	\$5,095	\$6,290
October 18-27, 2020	\$5,395	\$6,590
Dec 28, 2020-Jan 6, 2021	\$5,895	\$7,490
January 17-26, 2021	\$5,295	\$6,490
March 7-16, 2021	\$5,495	\$6,690
May 9-18, 2021	\$5,095	\$6,290
October 17-26, 2021	\$5,495	\$6,690
Dec 28, 2021-Jan 6, 2022	\$5,995	\$7,590

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

INTERNAL AIRFARE

This trip includes internal flights, which are priced separately from the land tour. The total cost for the internal flights is approximately \$895 per person.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 10 Days, 9 Nights

START: 9:00 AM Lobby of hotel, Saigon, Vietnam Your arrival airport transfer is included in the trip price.

END: 12:30 PM Siem Reap Airport, Siem Reap, Cambodia Complimentary airport transfers provided from 2 PM to 7 PM.

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

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 9 nights
- All breakfasts, 8 lunches and 7 dinners
- Airport transfers in Park Hyatt Saigon and Siem Reap
- Full-time experienced guides who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Privileged Access Events

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com



TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia...

- Overnighting on a traditional junk in Halong Bay, one of the Seven Wonders of Nature
- Watching sunrise during a privately guided tour of the magnificent Angkor Wat temple
- Playing with an elephant in the Mekong River
- Receiving the unique privilege of meeting the descendants of King Khai Dinh
- Gaining access to special friends and authentic Vietnamese culture through your amazingly well-connected local guides

"The variety of experiences, especially the opportunities to be in many small villages, was a highlight"
—Drucilla B.

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

You might also enjoy...



Bhutan

Himalayan Villages & Monasteries

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring dramatic Himalayan monasteries
- Meeting rice-farmers and yak-herders at work in the countryside
- Witnessing the butter-lamp blessing ceremony and the skill of native masked dancers

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



China

Shanghai to Shangri-La

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Hiking the most scenic stretch of the Great Wall
- Dancing with locals in the town square of Yangshuo
- Feeling the Himalayan Breezes in a Tibetan wildflower meadow

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



India

Rajasthan & Taj Mahal

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring rustic villages
- Traversing countryside trails
- Scouting bustling bazaars with a local chef

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

You might also enjoy...



Japan

Tokyo to Kyoto

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Strolling the streets of Tokyo's old town of Asakusa
- Riding the bullet train from Hakone to Kyoto
- Sipping tea at an authentic Japanese tea ceremony

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/japan-tours/>.



Nepal

Himalayan Villages & Chitwan Safari

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Meeting Nepali farmers and villages on valley walks
- Experiencing sunrise over the Himalayas
- Spotting one-horned rhinos in Chitwan National Park

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/nepal-walking-tours/>.



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/>.

“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.