

MULTISPORT

ALASKA

Kenai Peninsula



Classic
JOURNEYS



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

— *Travel + Leisure*

Mountains, Fjords & Glaciers

Half the people we know have cruised to Alaska. The other half plans to. But as much as we love a cruise, it just seems a shame to float right past some of the most spectacular landscapes on earth. After all, the Kenai Peninsula offers a range of wonderful walking options that don't require 'bush' skills. There's the world's most northerly rain forest...Exit Glacier where a scenic path allows us to experience its awesome scale up-close...Resurrection Bay with its humpback whales and orcas...the wildflower meadows too far from shore to ever be spotted by a landing party. With Classic Journeys, you'll see it all—and you'll meet native Aleuts, local fishermen, gold mining experts, naturalists and other friends. Accommodations include historic lodges and hotels. Even if we don't offer a 2 a.m. dessert buffet, we think you'll take home equally happy memories of a lakeside salmon-bake followed by fresh-picked blueberries. And then you'll know you've truly touched Alaska.

DAY 1

BIRD POINT / GIRDWOOD

- Warm up with a nature walk to spot Beluga whales
- Settle in over a festive welcome dinner

We meet at the Captain Cook Hotel before departing Anchorage for famous Bird Point, the start of our first spectacular walk of the week. It's here that we often see pods of Beluga whales that make the Turnagain Arm their home. Our walk follows the Byron Glacier Trail. Through an alderwood forest carpeted with ferns, we get scenic views of the Kenai Mountains, Alyeska and the flats of Turnagain Arm. Have your camera ready; we often see a variety of Alaskan wildlife, and with a bit of luck, we may even spot moose.

Late this afternoon we arrive in the quaint resort town of Girdwood, our home for the night. After the chance to relax and take in the surroundings, we enjoy a festive welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

OVERNIGHT: GIRDWOOD
MEALS: D

DAY 2

GIRDWOOD / SEWARD

- Explore a historic gold mine
- Walk along the famed Iditarod Trail
- Ride the Mt. Alyeska tramway for spectacular views

Our morning walk begins at the site of Alaska's richest gold mine, built in 1898. Eight of the buildings have been restored and are on the Register of National Historic Places. After a short exploration of the mining camp, our guide shares with us Alaska's fascinating mining history. Even today, locals and visitors come to the mine to relive the days of the gold rush and recover some of the precious metal that has been left behind. From here, we depart on a morning walk along our favorite section of the historic Iditarod Trail through tall spruce and hemlock forests and past a series of small waterfalls. Lush ferns, devil's club, blueberry bushes and horsetail line the route, and along the way our guide points out the local fauna, including moose, bears and a variety of songbirds. A highlight of the walk is the hand-tram that carries us across the Winner Creek Gorge.

In time for lunch, we board the Mt. Alyeska tramway for the spectacular ride 2300 feet above the valley floor. Here we enjoy lunch of local specialties like King Crab Salad and reindeer sausage high atop Mt. Alyeska with panoramic views of the rugged Chugach Mountains, Turnigan Arm and Seven Glaciers. After lunch, we have time to explore one of the various trails ideal for capturing the beautiful Alaskan scenery.

Late this afternoon, a scenic drive brings us to one of Alaska's oldest towns, Seward, our home for two nights. After dinner, relax at our waterfront hotel, or set out to explore the local shops and galleries that line Seward's charming streets.

OVERNIGHT: SEWARD
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 3

SEWARD

- Walk on a glacier to see a waterfall and ice fields
- Visit a marine institute
- Cruise through the Kenai Fjords

Just a few miles outside of Seward is landlocked Exit Glacier where we follow an easy path to the face of this slow moving sea of ice. The 3-mile-long glacier, fractured and crackling, pours 2,500 feet down out of the Harding Ice field. Our walk takes us up to the face of the glacier where we are dwarfed in its enormous shadow. If you like, continue on a more rugged footpath that leads up glacier-scoured rock from the moraine to a beautiful vista of the glacier, waterfall and ice fields; a truly Alaskan view. We return to Seward looking for moose, eagles, and black bears along the way. After lunch, we've arranged a special visit to the unrivaled Alaska SeaLife Center. The world's first cold water marine institute, the SeaLife Center is dedicated to the research, rescue and rehabilitation of Alaska's marine environment.

Late afternoon, we board a local boat for a spectacular excursion into Kenai Fjords National Park for an up-close view of the marine wildlife and magnificent glaciers. In addition to the breathtaking vistas and awesome glaciers, we have the opportunity to see the wildlife that makes Alaska famous, including bald eagles, puffins and the endangered stellar sea lions. With a bit of luck, we may also see humpback whales and orcas.

OVERNIGHT: SEWARD
MEALS: B, D

DAY 4

HOMER

- Spot animals and birds at Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
- River raft on the Kenai River

This morning, we bid farewell to Seward on a spectacular route through Kenai National Wildlife Refuge watching for Alaska's big game, including moose, bear, caribou, Dall sheep and mountain goats. Our first stop is the tiny town of Cooper Landing. Here we enjoy a gentle rafting excursion down the Kenai River with the Kenai Ridge and Cecil Rhodes Peak as a breathtaking backdrop. As we float down the calm river, our rafting guide will share with us the local natural history of the area's glaciers, as well as the history of the Kenaitzi Tribe who made its life on the river's shores.

We'll make our way to Old Town Kenai in time for lunch and a visit to one of the oldest standing Russian Orthodox Churches in Alaska. The church is a designated National Historic Landmark and has been the principal representative of Russian culture in Alaska.

We arrive in Homer late this afternoon where we enjoy spectacular views of Kachemak Bay and the Kenai Mountain Range from the terraces of our lodge hotel located at the end of the Homer Spit. If you like, take an early evening walk along the Spit as the local fishing boats return from sea to unload the day's catch. Tonight, dinner is on our own, affording you the opportunity to immerse yourself into this small Alaskan community and enjoy one of several exceptional local restaurants.

OVERNIGHT: HOMER
MEALS: B, L

DAY 5

HOMER

- Hike to a glacial lake to see icebergs up close
- Picnic on locally caught Alaskan seafood
- Boat back to our beach past otters, eagles, oyster farms, and a puffin rookery

After a leisurely breakfast, we take a spectacular boat ride across the bay for an exciting day in the Kachemak Bay State Park. En route, we pass a local rookery where we often see a variety of seabirds including puffins, cormorants, kittiwakes, murres and even the rare fork-tailed storm petrel.

Our path follows the coast where commercial fishing operations can be seen seining (fishing with a large net) for salmon next to the beach and then turns inland through stands of spruce and cottonwood trees with views of Grewingk Glacier and the surrounding Alaskan wilderness. Our walk brings us to the banks of a glacier-fed lake for a chance to rest our feet and enjoy a delightful picnic of Alaskan specialties.

After lunch, our return route along a saddle trail offers spectacular views of Halibut Cove, Grewingk Glacier and lower Cook Inlet. Early in the season, we're treated to colorful wildflowers and later in the summer the wild berries are abundant along the trail.

Back in Homer in the late afternoon, there's plenty to do after our return from a very active day. The Pratt Museum has an exhibit on the 1989 Prince William oil spill – and you'll really appreciate the scale of that event now that you've seen so much of the rugged coastline. Tonight we've arranged a special farewell seafood feast at our favorite restaurant in Homer.

OVERNIGHT: HOMER

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 6

HOMER

- Visit to local artists' farmstead and art studios
- Choose an optional bush plane ride for an amazing end to your trip in Anchorage

Homer is renowned throughout Alaska as having one of the most active communities of artists in the state. The area's natural beauty is a source of inspiration for potters, painters, printmakers, jewelers, weavers, sculptors and stained-glass workers from all over the world. This morning, we'll meet Alaskan artists, Ranja and Jeff Dean and learn more about the creative Alaskan lifestyle, including a visit of their farmstead, gallery and art studios overlooking Kachemak Bay and the Kenai Mountains.

This afternoon you have two options for how to return to Anchorage. You can fly commercially (Ravn Alaska has multiple flights daily for the less than one hour flight) or privately. If you choose the private option for the flight, we have a very special experience for you: board your own privately chartered 7 passenger Beaver float plane for an amazing flightseeing excursion. Your unforgettable flight of about 90 minutes ends in Anchorage. See the following page for bush plane flight pricing.

MEALS: B



Tour Hotels



The Hotel Alyeska

Tucked amid Alaska's Chugach Mountains, this luxurious chateau-style resort is surrounded by hanging glaciers and spectacular ocean views. Amenities include an indoor saltwater pool, fitness center, and a hot tub overlooking the north face of Mt. Alyeska.

OVERNIGHT: GIRDWOOD | NIGHTS: 1



Harbor 360 Hotel

Your gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park in the scenic harbor town of Seward, Alaska. Located directly on the waterfront of the Seward Small Boat Harbor, Harbor 360 Hotel offers guests stunning 360 degree views of Resurrection Bay.

OVERNIGHT: SEWARD | NIGHTS: 2



Land's End Resort

Watch otters, seals, whales and eagles from your room's private deck on the shores of Kachemak Bay. Take in 180-degree view of the Kenai Mountain Range from the oceanfront spa and outdoor hot tub.

OVERNIGHT: HOMER | NIGHTS: 2

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
Jun 28-Jul 3, 2020	\$4,195	\$4,790
August 16-21, 2020	\$4,195	\$4,790
Jun 27-Jul 2, 2021	\$4,295	\$4,890
August 15-20, 2021	\$4,295	\$4,890

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

An optional float plane flight of 90 minutes from Homer to Anchorage on Day 6 is available for the price of \$360 per person for 5-6 passengers; \$450 per person for 4-5 passengers; \$600 per person for 3 passengers; and \$900 per person for 2 passengers.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 6 Days, 5 Nights

START: 1:00 PM Lobby of Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage, Alaska

END: 1:00 PM Homer, Homer, Alaska You can choose a scenic bush plane flight of approx. 90 minutes, or a scheduled commercial flight, from Homer to Anchorage.

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate on good trails, with mini-van support.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 5 nights
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Invisible Check-In**
- **Privileged Access Events**

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 Alaska...

- Cruising the Kenai Fjords for an up-close view of the marine wildlife and magnificent glaciers
- Picnicking on Alaskan specialties on the banks of a glacier-fed lake
- Walking along the famed Iditarod Trail
- Marveling at the spectacular mountain views from the chateau-style Hotel Alyeska
- Exploring with local guides who introduce you to their friends so you feel like you've truly touched Alaska

"Every day was different with new things to see and explore, as well as different ways to see them (sightseeing boat, water taxi, rafting, walking, sealife center, etc). The variety was great!"

—Bonnie H., Charlotte, NC

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

You might also enjoy...



Canadian Rockies

Banff & Jasper National Parks

Multisport

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Marveling at glaciers and snow-capped peaks
- Hiking spectacular gorges with rushing waterfalls
- Sighting wildflowers and wildlife at every turn

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



Iceland

Spectacular South & Glacier Lagoon

Multisport

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Riding the famed Icelandic horses or walking along a black sand beach
- Snorkeling in glacial water, and soaking in the famed thermal baths at Blue Lagoon
- Walking - and picnicking - on a glacier

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/iceland-adventure-tour/>.



Montana

Glacier National Park

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Taking rustic trails past rushing waterfalls
- Cruising glacial lakes in vintage steamers
- Linger in historic log-beamed lodges

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

You might also enjoy...



Pacific Northwest

Puget Sound & San Juan Islands

Multisport

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Kayaking offshore while watching for whales
- Traversing a rainforest of towering spruce
- Combing beautiful beaches for natural treasures

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

“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.