

San Juan & Orcas Islands

Pacific Northwest Cultural Walking Adventure



Classic
JOURNEYS™

DAILY ITINERARY

Pacific Northwest: San Juan & Orcas Islands | Cultural Walking Adventure



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

— *Travel + Leisure*

Leaping Orcas to Splendid Vistas

Get ready to be inspected by a wild Orca making a “spy hop” 20 feet off the port bow. To discover huge grape- and pumpkin-colored sea stars clinging to the shaded side of a boulder at low tide. To go sea-kayaking, meet artisanal producers of wine, lavender, gin and ceramics, hike scenic mountain trails surrounded by blue water and green islands. It's all ready and waiting for you, right now, in the San Juan Islands. They're jewels—just remote enough—sprinkled across fine blue waters, accessible only by ferry, but not far from Seattle. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks, the islands are in the heart of the Pacific Northwest's “banana belt”. They're gorgeous, too, from their mountainous heart to their photogenic shorelines. With Classic Journeys, you get to do it all with no hassles and non-stop fun. The San Juan Islands are a classic off-the-grid destination, a well-kept secret of Northwesterners for decades. Now it's your turn. Come experience them in Classic Journeys style.

DAY 1

SAN JUAN ISLAND

- Enjoy a warm-up walk with views to Mt. Rainier
- Celebrate over a festive welcome dinner

Start your explorations in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island. On arrival, venture with your guide to the nearby southern side of the island. Here, enjoy a warm-up walk to the American Camp, past beautiful meadows and along a ridge with spectacular views of Mt. Rainier and the Cascade Mountain Range. This makes for a fantastic introduction to the islands, as you explore the historic settlement and see what life was like for the early settlers. Both the Americans and the British claimed the islands for a time during the 1800s and had forts here.

Return to your hotel in the late afternoon to relax before a welcome dinner, featuring many of the specialties of the islands, such as fresh oysters and acclaimed Washington State wines. After dinner, relax watching the sunset, as the islands enjoy daylight until after nine o'clock in the summertime.

Overnight: San Juan Island

Meals: D

DAY 2

SAN JUAN ISLAND

- Spot eagles and falcons on a natural history walk
- Visit a local oyster farm
- Taste award-winning apple cider and gin at an artisanal distillery

San Juan Island is noted for its excellent local art culture and amazing natural history. Today, you'll enjoy both. Fortified with a breakfast of locally made yogurt, fresh preserves spread on homemade scones and island roasted coffee, enjoy a morning walk that follows the slopes of Young Mountain. Throughout the walk, you're rewarded with incredible views of the neighboring islands, nearby Mt. Baker volcano, as well as Mt. Rainier and the Cascade Mountain Range. You'll also spot some of the over 60 species of birds (including eagles and falcons) that make their home in the islands—a haven for nature photographers.

The walk ends at a fascinating sculpture garden, with over 80 works of art on loan from local and nationally acclaimed artists. Scattered over 19 acres of gardens and lakes, the art integrates seamlessly into the surrounding hills and bays. Midday, visit the hatchery at the local oyster farms, to learn about the process of shellfish aquaculture that produces the flavorful and famous oysters here along the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

This afternoon, forget for a moment that you didn't bring your passport with you on the trip, because the landscape and climate conditions in Westcott Bay are nearly identical to those in Normandy, France. There, French farmers have been making cider brandy, called Calvados, from their orchards for centuries. Our friends welcome you and share how they're following in the Norman tradition to make a Washington state apple brandy just as good as French Calvados. And as you'll find, they're off to a good start, having won gold and bronze medals for their Apple Eau de Vie (the fresh clear distillate from the cider). Of course, as university professors, they couldn't leave well-enough alone, and so they began experimenting, creating recipes for brandies, liqueurs, bitters, and gin, which has won silver medalists in national craft distilled competitions.

Overnight: San Juan Island

Meals: B, L

DAY 3

SAN JUAN ISLAND

- Sea kayak in search of whales
- Walk through a valley of lavender

This morning, enjoy the incredible opportunity to sea kayak off the west coast of San Juan Island. This is prime Orca whale territory and if you've ever dreamed of seeing the great mammals up close, you are in for an incredible experience. You'll board very stable, easy to paddle two-man kayaks and, in the company of expert kayakers and your guide, paddle through the calm, protected waters of the Haro Strait to play with the whales as they search for salmon. (Note: Guests of a wide variety of ages and abilities have joined us sea kayaking. But if it sounds a little too adventurous for you, we can organize a boating excursion to see the whales as well.)

Totally invigorated from a morning with the whales, you can totally chill out to a different sensory overload this afternoon: lavender. Everywhere. Yesterday you could be forgiven you were in Normandy, France. Today you could be in Provence. What started as a goal to protect a scenic valley from residential development, has turned into a self-sustaining lavender farm. A

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walk around the farm provides an up close view of how its evolved into a distiller of lavender essential oils and handcrafted lavender products.

Overnight: San Juan Island

Meals: B

DAY 4

ORCAS ISLAND

- Ferry across a marine preserve to nearby Orcas Island
- Hike trails with views to the Cascades and Olympic Peninsula
- Picnic amid vineyards

The day starts with an island-hop by ferry as you set sail from San Juan Island, across the marine preserve and past Shaw Island for nearby Orcas Island. Destination this morning is Moran State Park, for the spectacular hiking trails on Mount Constitution, the highest point in the San Juan's. Climb to the top if you want (it is worth the climb), but even if you don't summit, the panoramic views of the islands, snow-covered Mount Baker, the Cascades and the Olympic Peninsula are really breathtaking.

You've no doubt noticed during the week that people come to the San Juan Islands to get away from it all and to practice artisanal crafts. You'll experience that firsthand this afternoon on a countryside walk in the shadow of Turtleback Mountain that leads to the vineyards of Orcas Island Winery, the only winery on Orcas Island. Husband and wife Wes and Tera have carefully cultivated 16 acres of vineyards from the wild landscape and turned it into a haven to wine taste, picnic and enjoy the view from their modern farmhouse tasting room.

Overnight: Orcas Island

Meals: B, L

DAY 5

ORCAS ISLAND

- Board your own private boat to spot orca, gray and humpback whales
- Skirt neighboring islands and see bald eagles

You've met locals, kayaked, hiked, spotted wildlife and feasted on artisanal food and spirits. But today will likely top them all because today you're on your own private boat spotting orca whales, gray whales, humpback whales, porpoises, seals, sea lions, otters, bald eagles and much more. Your captain knows all the secret places to find the whales and other sea life and has fantastic stories to tell. As you skirt the shores of Shaw Island its most famous residents are the seven Benedictine nuns who operate a working farm.

The afternoon is yours to explore more the tapestry of rural landscapes and the little artisan shops. This evening, a celebratory dinner offers a chance to toast the week.

Overnight: Orcas Island

Meals: B, D

DAY 6

ORCAS ISLAND

- Part company after breakfast
- Return to Seattle by seaplane or ferry

After a relaxing morning, say goodbye to the islands by seaplane back to Seattle. You might opt to spend more time in the magnificent Northwest, or return home filled with exciting memories of your week in the spectacular San Juan's.

Meals: B



Tour Hotels



Friday Harbor House

With its views of Friday Harbor and the ferry landing, this hotel offers rooms with Zen-like atmosphere, a picture window, fireplace and an oversized, jetted tub-for-two. Don't miss the continental breakfast with homemade granola and local specialties.

OVERNIGHT: Friday Harbor | **NIGHTS:** 3



Outlook Inn

The Outlook Inn boasts gorgeous views of Fishing Bay, and surrounded by charming shops, restaurants, and galleries that can be reached on foot. A farmers' market is open in the summer and fresh, local cuisine can be found year-round.

OVERNIGHT: Eastsound | **NIGHTS:** 2

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH 6 Days, 5 Nights

START Lobby of Friday Harbor House, Friday Harbor, Washington

END Lobby of Outlook Inn Orcas Island, Eastsound, Washington

TERRAIN Ranging from very easy to moderate, including walks, sea kayaking, tide pooling, whale watching, birding, and cultural visits. Always guided.

What's Included

- 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 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
- Perfect Pairings Dinners

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST
moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

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!

Franklin
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 Pacific Northwest...

- Kayaking offshore while watching for whales
- Enjoying oysters, blackberry pie and amazing local wines
- Luxuriating at your grand chateau-style hotel on Vancouver Island
- Walking amid soaring 500-year-old Sitka spruce trees
- Exploring the world-famous 50-acre Butchart Gardens

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

-Bert and Jo Ann E., Red Lodge, MT