

Soft Adventure Travel - Walking Trips with Classic Journeys

Cultural, culinary and family walking trips deliver soft adventure travel

By [Lois Friedland](#), About.com Guide

Call it serendipity; the founders of Classic Journeys met on a walking tour of Wales. Their mutual wanderlust resulted in a new kind of adventure travel tour company, based on the premise that walking in itself is wonderful, but walking balanced with history, culture and daily opportunities to meet and mingle with local people is even better.



Riding camels in Morocco during a Classic Journeys walking trip
Classic Journeys

In its first 15 years, Classic Journeys grew from 10 trips throughout Western Europe to more than 65 trips in 31 countries on five continents. During that time, Edward Piegza, president of Classic Journeys, and his wife, Susan, scouted countless Classic Journeys itineraries by themselves and with their children in tow.

Specializing in boutique, small-group, soft-adventure travel, the company operates three types of trips: cultural walking adventures, family journeys and culinary tours. Any Classic Journeys trip can be transformed into a private journey. This natural offshoot of their regular tours, first launched in 1997, allows guests to customize published itineraries according to their own personal "wish lists."

Classic Journeys is a three-time winner in *Travel + Leisure Magazine's* "World's Best Tour Operator" category, as well as one of the "Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth," as voted by the editors of *National Geographic Adventure*.

The Boss' Pitch: Why Travel With Classic Journeys?

Edward Piegza, president of Classic Journeys, says, "From our first scouting trip to Italy in 1995, we've operated Classic Journeys the way we like to travel ourselves: on foot, with opportunities for discovery awaiting around every corner. It's absolutely the best way to connect with a country and its people, by meeting and spending time with them as they go about their daily lives. It's what makes our guests feel like travelers, not tourists.

The cultural connections we make along the way are what set Classic Journeys apart. Like sharing a glass of wine with the owner of the first winery in Croatia to resume operations after the fall of Communism. Or tagging along with a truffle-hunter in the Dordogne. And there's a lot of laughing at ourselves as we learn how to prepare local specialties in a friend's farmhouse kitchen in Tuscany.

By matching our easy-going pace to each region we visit, we're able to travel the countryside and slip into the rhythm of towns and villages without making a ripple. Credit for that goes to our amazing team of full-time local guides. Their friends and acquaintances become ours, and they welcome our guests with open arms."

Classic Journeys Popular Adventures

Among the company's nearly 40 cultural walking adventures, "Tuscany & The Cinque Terre" and the "Amalfi Coast & Capri" are consistently in high demand, departing seven to nine times per year. Within North America, "Quebec & Charlevoix" stand out as the most requested destination, departing June through September. Classic Journeys also operates more than a dozen international and domestic family adventures specifically timed to coincide with school breaks, with their Morocco Family Journey and Costa Rica Family Journey being the most popular.

To Learn More About Classic Journeys

Detailed daily itineraries, departure dates and pricing information can be found at [Classic Journeys](#) or by calling a Guest Services Coordinator at (800) 200-3887.