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Classic Journeys Offers Five Sure Bets For Traveling Smart In Fall 2008

June 5, 2008 – La Jolla, CA – Despite the dollar’s dwindling power abroad, the “dream trip” is still doable, according to Classic Journeys, provider of upscale cultural walking adventures, culinary tours and family journeys worldwide. The company’s *60 Destinations, One Currency* concept enables guests to deftly sidestep foreign currency fluctuations by pre-paying for their trips in U.S. dollars.

“Current exchange rates are daunting,” acknowledges Edward Piegza, president and founder of Classic Journeys, “but determined travelers can fight back by joining a prepaid, small-group tour that encompasses everything they want to see and do.” With value-for-money as the theme, Piegza proposes five ways to travel smarter and make a 2008 vacation memorable for all the right reasons:

- 1) Minimize logistical hassles while maximizing buying power.**
- 2) Enjoy the wonders of Europe without the Euro.**
- 3) Consider foreign destinations closer to home.**
- 4) Make sure “all-inclusive” means just that.**
- 5) Don’t overlook cultural experiences that add extra value.**

1) Minimize logistical hassles while maximizing buying power.

In unfamiliar surroundings, just getting from point A to point B can be a headache. On a small-group tour, logistics – as well as language barriers – are taken care of, leaving guests to focus on having fun. From [India](#) to the [Inca Trail](#), getting more bang for the buck is key. As an example, luxury tour operators can often book five-star accommodations at rates far below what independent travelers can obtain on their own.

Named a World’s Best Tour Operator by Travel + Leisure Magazine

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2) Enjoy the wonders of Europe without the Euro.

Lovely as it is, Western Europe can't corner the market on spectacular scenery. By doing an end run around the Eurozone and opting for destinations like Croatia's [Dalmatian Coast](#) and [Istrian Peninsula](#) – or Turkey's [Turquoise Coast & Cappadocia](#) – guests who plan to spend extra time in the region before and after their tours can avoid sticker shock.

3) Consider foreign destinations closer to home.

The adventure tour of a lifetime doesn't have to involve expensive long-haul flights. North America showcases its own European heritage in French-accented [Quebec](#) – celebrating its 400th anniversary this year – and the chiseled [Nova Scotia](#) coast. From Saguenay Fjord to the Bay of Fundy, both provinces are at their spectacular best in early autumn.

4) Make sure “all-inclusive” means just that.

Like cruise lines, some adventure tour companies offer "a la carte" activities so guests wind up paying extra. To avoid out-of-pocket expenses, check the roster of excursions carefully. Case in point: [Costa Rica](#), the ultimate adventurers' playground, where zip lining, river rafting and kayaking should be included, as well as professionally guided nature and wildlife walks.

5) Don't overlook cultural experiences that add extra value.

Group tours can get a bad rap for being “too programmed” or impersonal. Choose itineraries that not only offer unstructured time, but also build in cultural experiences like alfresco picnics, wine tastings, and mingling with locals. It's tough to put a price tag on a private cooking instruction in a [Tuscan](#) kitchen, yet those are the moments that become treasured memories.

About Classic Journeys:

Classic Journeys offers cultural walking adventures, culinary tours and family journeys in North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia and the South Pacific. Guests enjoy luxury accommodations and gourmet meals that reflect the best of each region, coupled with soft adventure activities, daily interactions with locals, and native guides who make countries and cultures come alive. A typical tour is six to eight days long with two to four hours of easy-going walking per day. Land-only tour prices range from \$2295 to \$6895 per person (with discounts for small groups and children traveling with parents). Average tour size is 10, limited to a maximum of 18 guests per departure. Full details and links to itineraries are available at www.ClassicJourneys.com/media.