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Family Adventures From Classic Journeys Add Spark To Spring Break

Special getaways to Italy and Latin America depart in March and April

La Jolla, CA – Parents and grandparents seeking an intelligent way to arrange a spring vacation for their families are looking to boutique tour companies as a cost-effective solution. One of these companies is Classic Journeys, a California-based provider of cultural walking adventures, culinary tours and family journeys worldwide.

“We offer a dozen ways for families to discover a new destination together during spring break,” explains Edward Piegza, president and co-founder of Classic Journeys. “Whether they choose Italy, Central America or even South America, it’s an adventure of a lifetime their family members will never forget.”

On the roster of 12 Family Journeys departing in March and April of 2009, Amalfi and Tuscany top the list for those seeking a European adventure, while Costa Rica, Panama and Peru share the spotlight to the south. Each carefully crafted itinerary blends history, geography, and cultural interactions with adrenaline-pumping outdoor pursuits. In the company’s signature style, children and adults relish time together and time apart, giving grown-ups a chance to kick back and relax while kids occasionally go their own way with trusted company guides.

On the [Tuscany Family Journey](#), guests explore the famous cities of Florence and Siena, bike the wide medieval walls of Lucca, and pose for photographs with Pisa’s most off-kilter building. Countryside walks and visits to iconic hilltowns like San Gimignano appeal to all ages. While grown-ups sip Chianti Classico and soak up the splendor of a 15th-century castle, kids learn the

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basics of bocce ball, perfect the art of pizza tossing, and fashion terra cotta pots from the finest Tuscan mud.

The [Costa Rica Family Journey](#) serves up one “wow” moment after another, blending wildlife encounters with high-octane activities like snorkeling and boogie boarding, river rafting, and riding zip line cables through the treetops. With expert naturalists as their guides, guests explore tropical rainforests and mangrove swamps, witness fiery lava snaking down volcanic slopes, and mingle with Costa Rican natives – known as *ticos* – at a village school.

The undisputed star of the company’s [Peru Family Journey](#) is Machu Picchu, magical Lost City of the Incas, perched between jagged mountain peaks. Generations bond while bounding over rapids in the Urubamba River and mountain biking through the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Cultural interactions paint a vivid picture of everyday life in Peru, from a hands-on cooking instruction tailor-made for young chefs to a memorable photo op when kids first look a llama in the eye.

Youngsters and grown-ups on the company’s [Amalfi Family Journey](#) skim over sparkling waters to Ischia by hydrofoil, peer into the crater of Mt. Vesuvius, enjoy sightseeing and shopping on Capri, and wander the fabled ruins of Pompeii.

In [Panama](#), guests watch ships levitating through the famous canal and get up-close and personal with Panama’s colorful creatures, from crocodiles and coatimundis to howler monkeys and hummingbirds. Other activities include hiking the Las Cruces and Los Quetzales Trails, paddling dugout canoes to visit members of the Embera tribe, and ziplining across the treetop canopy.

Accommodations provide the same uncompromising level of luxury characteristic of all Classic Journeys. To help keep costs down, the company offers a family-friendly price break: when sharing a room with two full-paying guests, children up to age 16 receive discounts ranging from \$500 to \$1750 off the regular adult price, while kids sharing a room with one full-paying guest receive a discount of \$250.

Detailed daily itineraries and departure dates for all 12 March and April Family Journeys are available at www.classicjourneys.com/family. Travelers also may speak directly with a Classic Journeys Tour Coordinator at (800) 200-3887.

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. Tours are six to 12 days long with two to four hours of easy-going walking per day. Land-only tour prices range from \$2395 to \$6995 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.