

# CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

## Dolomites

Italy's Majestic Alpine Adventure





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

TRAVEL + LEISURE

## Alpine Wonders & Traditions

Discover a world of breathtaking contrasts in the Dolomites, where towering peaks stand sentinel over serene valleys and mountain villages. Famous for its ski resorts and the historic 1956 Winter Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo, this region also boasts hair-raising hiking trails like the Via Ferrata. Yet, Classic Journeys has drawn on the knowledge of our exceptionally well-connected local guides to curate a unique walking and hiking experience, where you can be inspired, not intimidated. Using ski lifts and gondolas—and perfectly-sited boutique hotels—we access easy to moderate trails. You traverse high alpine meadows that offer spectacular views, but without the hut-to-hut overnights or the need to clip into a cable! As you wander through this wonderland, the chalet architecture and mountain vistas might make you feel like you're in the Swiss Alps, but the farm-to-table Italian cuisine remind you of the rich culinary heritage you're savoring. All along the way, meet the fascinating locals who have carved out a life in this alpine environment—cheese makers, artists, artisans, and winemakers—each contributing to the vibrant tapestry of life in the Dolomites.

DAY 1 »

## Verona / Val Gardena vineyards

- Walk through terraced vineyards in South Tyrol, learning about the region's unique white wines from a local winemaker.
- Savor a locally-sourced lunch paired with distinctive Alpine wines, experiencing the fusion of Italian and Austrian culinary traditions.

Your Dolomites adventure begins in the enchanting city of Verona, a UNESCO World Heritage site nestled along the Adige River. This romantic city, immortalized in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, boasts a rich tapestry of Roman, medieval, and Renaissance architecture. Its well-preserved amphitheater, charming piazzas, and centuries-old palazzi stand as testaments to Verona's enduring beauty and historical significance.

From Verona, set off through the South Tyrolean landscape to Montagna. As you journey north, notice the gradual transition from Veneto's rolling hills to the dramatic peaks of the Dolomites, with vineyards and orchards dotting the landscape. While visitors to Italy often associate the country with its famous red wines, particularly those from regions like Tuscany, the vineyards of South Tyrol offer a unique opportunity to explore exceptional white wines. The terroir and climate of this region, nestled in the shadow of the Dolomites, are particularly well-suited for cultivating white grape varieties. Join your guide for an 'only with Classic Journeys' experience on a walk through the vineyard's stunning terroir. Meet up with a winemaker who shares how the distinctive white wines thrive in this Alpine environment. Your walk culminates in a tasting of their wines, perfectly paired with a locally sourced lunch.

In the mid-afternoon, continue your journey into the heart of the Dolomites, winding your way through picturesque valleys and mountain villages. Arriving at your spa hotel, you have time to unwind and soak in the breathtaking mountain views before dinner.

MEALS: L

OVERNIGHT: BRIXEN

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 2 »

## Santa Maddalena / Val di Funes

- Traverse the Santa Maddalena Panorama Trail, passing historic farmsteads and encountering farmers with horse-drawn carriages.
- Indulge in a Ladin cuisine dinner, tasting traditional dishes that showcase the Dolomites' cultural heritage.

Join your guide this morning in the Val di Funes, on a captivating walk along the Santa Maddalena Panorama Trail, a stunning showcase of the finest treasures the Dolomites have to offer. Starting in the picturesque village of Santa Maddalena, with its church dating to the late 14th century and standing on a site of ancient pagan worship, the trail leads past historic farmsteads nestled high in mountain meadows. Up close, you pass farmers in horse-drawn carriages and alpine flowers such as edelweiss, bluebells, gentians, and rhododendrons, which bloom vibrantly in the spring and summer months. And overhead the views include golden eagles and the awe-inspiring sight of the Odle and Geisler Peaks.

Return to your alpine spa hotel in the mid-afternoon. You have time to soak in the pool with views of the Dolomites, book a spa treatment for yourself, or maybe act like a local by combining the sauna with a cold plunge. This evening is a terrific example of discovering culture through cuisine as dinner offers a delicious exploration of the flavors of Ladin. Rooted in the Dolomites, this culinary tradition celebrates local produce that thrive in the higher altitudes, while showcasing a unique cultural fusion of Italian, Swiss, and Austrian influences through dishes such as Tyrolean dumplings and savory pastries filled with local ingredients.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: BRIXEN

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 3 »

## Alpe di Siusi / Val Gardena / San Cassiano

- Ascend via cable car to Col Raiser, hiking through wildflower-dotted meadows to the dramatic Seceda ridgeline.
- Join a local distiller on a foraging walk, gathering alpine herbs and berries to create and taste unique mountain spirits.

Today's adventure begins with a cable car ride to Col Raiser station and a scenic walk towards the iconic Seceda ridgeline. The trail gently ascends through alpine meadows bursting with colorful wildflowers such as edelweiss and gentians. As you gain some elevation, the panoramic views of the surrounding Dolomite peaks, including the jagged Odle Group and the imposing Sassolungo,

become increasingly dramatic. Along the way, your guide shares insights into the area's rich Ladin culture and the unique geology of the Dolomites. After lunch, begin your descent towards Raschötz, keeping an eye out for local wildlife such as the chamois, agile goat-like animals that thrive in these alpine areas and are distinguishable by their iconic horns that curve backward.

When we travel, we often wonder how we could make a living in the places we're exploring. This afternoon, meet our friend Stephan, an innovative distiller who crafts spirits using locally foraged botanicals. Join him on a countryside walk to forage for alpine herbs and berries, and then learn from him how he blends them into his gins and elixirs. You can even taste them for yourself to complete the perfect blend of outdoor adventure and local craftsmanship.

In the late afternoon, head to San Cassiano, where your elegant mountain retreat is home base for exploring the Alta Badia region.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: SAN CASSIANO

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

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## DAY 4 »

### San Cassiano walk / Refugio Lagazuoi / Passo Falzargo

- Embark on a morning walk to the Pralongià Plateau, encountering shepherds and their flocks along the way.
- Explore on foot WWI tunnels and trenches at the Lagazuoi Open-Air Museum, gaining insights into high-altitude warfare history.

Your hotel is situated on a sunny alpine meadow just below the Fanes Massif. And so it makes the perfect starting point for a morning walk. As you walk, notice how your senses come alive as you breathe in the fresh mountain air, smell the wildflowers, and listen to the sounds of birds and distant cowbells.

The path gradually takes you to the Pralongià Plateau, often referred to as the "Amphitheatre of the Dolomites" for its breathtaking views of the surrounding peaks, including the Fanes Group and the Puez Group. Along the way, we often encounter local shepherds and their flocks, providing a glimpse into the traditional pastoral life of the region. Arriving on foot to Pralongià Plateau offers the triple rewards of expansive views of the Dolomites and the mighty Mt. Marmolada glacier, as well as refreshments at the Pralongià mountain hut.

This afternoon, step back in history at nearby Passo Falzarego, to explore World War I ruins and remnants, and learn about the fierce battles between the Italian and Austro-Hungarian armies from 1915 to 1918. From here, take the Lagazuoi gondola to the mountain's summit, where a short, flat walk offers spectacular views of the Dolomites and the Lagazuoi Open-Air Museum, with its restored tunnels and trenches that provide incredible insight into the dramatic high-altitude warfare of the Great War.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: SAN CASSIANO

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

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## DAY 5 »

### Cinque Torri / Cortina d'Ampezzo

- On a morning walk, meet experienced mountain guides at Rifugio Scoiattoli, learning about climbing techniques in the iconic Cinque Torri.
- Enjoy a farm-to-table lunch of homemade pasta at a mountain refugio, prepared by your hosts using seasonal ingredients.

This morning starts with a scenic ride on the chair lift of the iconic Cinque Torri, a group of five rock towers that served as a strategic point during World War I. Nowadays, Rifugio Scoiattoli at the top of the chair lift is the base for Italian mountain climbing guides. Here, you'll meet experienced guides who share their insights into the art of mountain climbing in this famed region. The trails we walk are easy to moderate; a terrific juxtaposition to the jaw-dropping views of the surrounding mountains and valleys, and the climbers scaling the impressive rock faces.

A path leads you to Malga Giau, a charming alpine hut owned by our friend Guido. His daughter Silvia and her husband Davide invite you to a lunch of pasta, gnocchi and ravioli, all homemade with the most mouth-watering fillings crafted from the freshest farm-to-table ingredients, and selected in harmony with the seasons. In the winter, this area is a magical glade for snowshoeing. And, in the summer months, grazing cows roam the meadows. After lunch, kick up your feet and take in the panoramic views of the Dolomites on a transfer to Cortina d'Ampezzo.

Known as the "Queen of the Dolomites," Cortina gained international fame as a winter sports destination after hosting the first

Winter Olympics broadcast live in 1956, marking a significant moment in sports media history. And it will reprise its role as a host in the 2026 Winter Games. The area is also famed for its artists that carry on its rich woodcarving tradition. This afternoon, meet our friend Andrea to see how he transforms wood, bronze, and marble into elegant, elongated forms that capture the essence of the Dolomites.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: CORTINA D'AMPEZZO

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

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DAY 6 »

## Cortina d'Ampezzo / Verona

- Walk through flower-filled meadows near Cortina d'Ampezzo, learning about the cultural significance of free-roaming cattle.
- Visit a family farm, tasting a variety of artisanal cheeses and discovering traditional cheese-making methods.

The day begins in Cortina d'Ampezzo with a scenic walk to Chiamulera. As you stroll along well-maintained paths and through flower-filled fields, your guide shares with you how the tradition of free-roaming cows in these lush pastures is deeply rooted in the region's cultural heritage, as the farmers move their livestock to higher elevations to take advantage of the abundant alpine pastures. Meanwhile, the Cristallo, Pomagagnon, and Tofane mountains dominate the skyline with their dramatic limestone formations. (You can tell yourself that you're not in the Swiss Alps, but for those of a certain age or a movie buff, you'll be convinced you're in a scene from "Heidi".)

Your walk leads to a farm nestled in the picturesque Larieto area near Cortina d'Ampezzo. Here, you'll meet our friend Flavio and his family, who have been producing artisanal cheeses for generations. They'll welcome you for a visit and share with you their commitment to traditional methods and sustainable farming practices. The highlight is a tasting of their handcrafted cheeses, sampling a variety of flavors from fresh, creamy cheeses to aged, complex varieties.

After bidding farewell to Flavio and family, begin your journey back to Verona. As you travel south, you'll witness the gradual transition from the dramatic peaks of the Dolomites to the gentler landscapes of the Veneto region. You'll arrive in Verona in the late afternoon, where your Dolomites adventure concludes.

MEALS: B

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART



## Tour Hotels



### [My Arbor](#)

Nestled in the serene forests of Brixen, My Arbor offers a luxurious treehouse experience with stunning views of the Dolomites, combining modern elegance with natural tranquility for a rejuvenating retreat.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



### [Fanes Dolomiti Wellness Hotel](#)

Perched in the heart of the Dolomites, Hotel Fanes blends traditional Alpine charm with contemporary luxury, offering panoramic mountain views, a world-class spa, and exquisite local cuisine.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



### [Falaria Mountain SPA Resort](#)

Located in the picturesque town of Cortina d'Ampezzo, Falaria Resort provides a perfect blend of comfort and style, featuring elegant rooms, a relaxing spa, and easy access to both winter sports and summer hiking trails.

NIGHTS: 1 nights

# Curated Walks

**CONNECT. ON FOOT. AT EYE LEVEL.**

Join us to walk the most cinematic footpaths in a region. With thoughtfully curated walks that are about so much more than just counting miles. Yes, it's likely that your Fitbit or Apple watch will buzz when you hit your step count. But you probably won't notice because your soul will be buzzing from the connections you make with the people and place. Each day, we'll offer you one or two walks. Each walk is generally between an hour or two in duration. And our support vehicles are often nearby and add to your flexibility. Choose one or both to curate the right amount of walking for you each day. It's why Forbes magazine calls our tours their 'Luxury Walking Favorite'.

**CURATE YOUR OWN MILEAGE OPTIONS EACH DAY**

	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM	ELEVATION GAIN/LOSS
Day 1	2	3	5	~200-300 ft
Day 2	3.5	6	8	~600-800 ft
Day 3	2	6	8	~500-700 ft
Day 4	3	4.5	7.5	~1500-1900 ft
Day 5	2	5	6.5	~1300 ft
Day 6	2	3	3.5	~200-300 ft

\*No scheduled walks

**ROUTE NOTES**

The terrain on this trip includes a mix of paved streets and country lanes in villages and well-maintained countryside and mountain trails. We avoid the most elevation gain and loss with the use of gondolas and chair lifts.

**THE ART OF THE UNPLANNED:**

**CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS**

We've carefully crafted each day's walking adventures with our expert local guides. Your daily itinerary serves as a well-thought-out plan, and we empower our tour leaders to adapt to unexpected opportunities or challenges. Whether it's an impromptu local invitation or a weather-related change, we're adept at making adjustments. So, while your experience may closely follow the itinerary, it might also include some variations. In essence, we invite you to "expect the unexpected" – knowing that our promise is to provide you the most genuine and authentic walking tours in the world.

## Arrival & Departure

### → ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Hotel Accademia Verona

CITY: Verona, Italy

TIME: 9:30 AM

### → DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Verona Porta Nuova Train Station

CITY: Verona, Italy

TIME: 4:30 PM

## The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ **CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES**
  - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ **EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES**
  - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ **ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS**
  - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ **EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS**
  - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ **SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED**
  - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ **REGENERATIVE TRAVEL**
  - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

## What's Included

- Accommodations for 5 nights
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip
- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- ▶ **PERFECT PAIRINGS DINNERS**

A special dinner prepared by one of our favorite chefs with a procession of wines tailored to each course.
- ▶ **PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS**

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.
- ▶ **WINE ON US**

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner on us.
- ▶ **INVISIBLE CHECK-IN**

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately.

## Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.