

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



Dolomites

Italy's Majestic Alpine Adventure



“
*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 »

Val Gardena Vineyards / Fassa Valley / Sassolungo Range

- 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 this morning in Bolzano, gateway to the South Tyrol. Bolzano's blend of Italian, Austrian, and Ladin cultures sets the tone for your journey through this dazzling mountain region. The first thing you'll notice this morning is the scenic juxtaposition of views that include the dramatic peaks of the Dolomites and the gradual transition to Veneto's rolling hills, 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.

This afternoon, you glide above emerald meadows and treetops on the chairlift from Santa Cristina, with the Fassa Valley unfolding below and the shimmering Marmolada Glacier sparkling in the distance. As you walk, the dramatic Sassolungo range is your constant companion, while the Sella Pass and the striking backside of the Odle range—so different from tomorrow's view on the Santa Maddalena Trail—come into view. Pause for an espresso or a well-earned recovery beer at the beautifully-perched Rifugio Emilio Comici, soaking in the alpine panorama. Arrive at your alpine spa hotel later in the 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.

MEALS: L, D

OVERNIGHT: BRIXEN - VAL GARDENA

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.

From Val Gardena, set off through the South Tyrolean landscape to the Val di Funes. Here, a captivating walk along the Santa Maddalena Panorama Trail is 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.

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 thrives 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, L, D

OVERNIGHT: BRIXEN - VAL GARDENA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 3 »

Alpe Di Siusi / Alta Badia

- 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 toward the iconic Seceda ridgeline. As you meander through meadows dotted with edelweiss and gentians, your gaze sweeps across a panorama that includes the Sella Massif, the graceful sweep of Mt. Sasso Piatto, and the distant Rosengarten Group—each peak telling its own story in stone. Your expert local guide leads you to a perfectly sited natural amphitheater, where you pause for a short, fascinating master class on the creation of the Dolomites. Here, you learn how these dramatic mountains were born from ancient coral reefs in a tropical sea over 250 million years ago, then sculpted by volcanic eruptions, tectonic collisions, and the slow artistry of wind and water. The rocks beneath your feet still hold fossilized remnants of that primordial ocean, and the Dolomites' signature pale glow at sunset—the enrosadira—owes its magic to the unique mineral composition of dolomite limestone. After lunch, begin your descent toward Raschötz, keeping an eye out for chamois leaping across the slopes.

When we travel, we often wonder how we could make a living in the places we're exploring. This afternoon, meet our friends Stephan and Florian, innovative distillers who craft spirits using locally foraged botanicals. Join them on a countryside walk to forage for alpine herbs and berries, and then learn from them how they blend them into 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 your elegant mountain retreat which is home base for exploring the Alta Badia region.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: SAN CASSIANO -
CORVARA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 4 »

Amphitheatre of the Dolomites

- 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 gondola ride to 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.

Later in the afternoon, there's time to wander back in the village at your own pace. Whether you're browsing boutiques for local crafts, sampling sweet treats from a bakery, or simply soaking up the alpine ambience from a sunny café terrace, it's an ideal way to savor the unique character and mountain hospitality of this lovely corner of the Dolomites.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: SAN CASSIANO -
CORVARA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 5 »

Cinque Torri / Cortina d'Ampezzo

- On a morning walk, meet experienced mountain guides at Rifugio Sciotto, 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 chair lift ride to the iconic Cinque Torri, a dramatic cluster of five rock towers that once served as a strategic stronghold during World War I. Today, the area is an extraordinary open-air museum, where restored trenches, bunkers, and artillery emplacements wind beneath the iconic towers—silent witnesses to the fierce battles fought here between Italian and Austro-Hungarian troops. As you walk these serene and scenic trails, your guide brings history to life, sharing stories of the soldiers who endured high-altitude warfare and pointing out the panoramic views that made this site such a crucial observation post.

Nowadays, Rifugio Sciotto at the top of the chair lift is the lively base for Italian mountain climbing guides. Here, you'll meet experienced climbers who share their insights into the art and culture of alpinism in this famed region. The juxtaposition is striking: as you traverse the trails, you'll see climbers scaling the impressive rock faces, their colorful ropes tracing lines up the towers, all set against the jaw-dropping backdrop of the Dolomites and sweeping valleys below.

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 traditions like woodmaking, glass blowing, and tarkashi inlay. This afternoon, meet a local artisan for a captivating demonstration of traditional craftsmanship, where you'll see firsthand how age-old techniques are used to create stunning works that embody the spirit and artistry of the Dolomites.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: CORTINA D'AMPEZZO

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 6 »

Cortina D'Ampezzo / Venice

- 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 to Venice. 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 Venice Marco Polo Airport 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



[Faloria Mountain SPA Resort](#)

Located in the picturesque town of Cortina d'Ampezzo, Faloria 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
Day 1	3	6	8
Day 2	3.5	5	7
Day 3	2	6	8
Day 4	3	4.5	7.5
Day 5	2	5	6.5
Day 6	2	3	3.5

*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: The Parkhotel Mondschein
CITY: Bolzano, Italy
TIME: 9:00 AM

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Venice Marco Polo Airport
CITY: Venice, 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.
- ▶ **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.