

CULTURAL WALKING TOUR

Cornwall

England's Rugged Coast & Land's End



CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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

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TRAVEL + LEISURE

Quiet Coves, Cream Tea & King Arthur

When the British decide to stride out on a country walk, they're likely to head for Cornwall. Who are we to disagree? Well-established footpaths here offer some of the finest walking in the civilized world. The sea is Mediterranean blue. The headlands offer fine trails with terrific views punctuated by lighthouses. This is, after all, the neighborhood of Land's End where quiet coves once harbored infamous pirates and smugglers. You'll find history and legend around every Cornish corner. There's Tintagel, according to legend the birthplace of King Arthur. Like an offshore mirage, St. Michael's Mount rises above the bay, drawing pilgrims (and us). And everywhere, cozy villages, warm friends and—we confess—the occasional cream tea with scones and jam and clotted cream always leave us feeling very at home.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 2 lunch and 5 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

Above & Beyond Benefits

→ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

→ WINE ON US

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner, compliments of Classic Journeys.

→ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Terrain

Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths; with mini-van support.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS ITINERARIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES, HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

DAY 1 »

Mousehole

Nestled in the southwestern corner of England, Cornwall is a land that stands apart from the rest of England in many fascinating ways. Geographically separated from the mainland by the winding Tamar River, this peninsula has fostered a distinct cultural identity deeply rooted in its ancient Celtic heritage. The Cornish people have long embraced their own language, traditions, and way of life, carefully preserved and celebrated over centuries. From comically peculiar pronunciations that add delightful twists to place names like Mousehole (mow-zul), to rich culinary traditions celebrating the bounty of the sea, every aspect of Cornish life is infused with a sense of pride and individuality. With your expert local Classic Journeys guide by your side, begin to unravel the mysteries and nuances that make Cornwall enchanting and unique.

Your Cornish adventure begins in the charming town of St. Ives. From here, embark on a walking exploration of nearby Mousehole's coastal paths, cobbled alleyways and maze-like streets. Art galleries, quaint shops, cafes, and pubs line the way and colorful fishing boats bob in the quaint harbor. Mousehole is a historic fishing village, boasting a picture-perfect harbor, traditional cottages, and sandy beaches. As you walk, take in the views offshore to iconic St. Michael's Mount, a striking landmark that you'll explore later this week.

Returning to St. Ives, you'll be enchanted by its captivating coastal scenery, nestled amidst rugged cliffs, pristine beaches, and the Celtic Sea. This landscape has inspired countless artists, making St. Ives a hub for the arts in Cornwall and earning its well-deserved nickname, "the jewel of the Cornish coast."

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: ST. IVES

DAY 2 »

St Michael's Mount / Land's End

Today offers the promise of a couple of 'only with Classic Journeys' experiences as you delve into the rich history and natural wonders of Cornwall. Begin at the iconic St. Michael's Mount, a famous monastery now under the National Trust's care. At low tide, you'll embark on a remarkable journey by walking the ancient causeway to this tidal island dating back to Henry V's reign. Stroll through the castle, gardens, and church as your expert guide regales you with captivating tales, including the legend of the archangel St. Michael appearing to fishermen in 495 A.D., cementing the Mount's sanctity.

Continue to Land's End, England's westernmost point, following magnificent cliffside footpath to the picturesque Porthgwarra Headland inlet. Your views here capture the rugged coastline and turquoise waters that have inspired artists for generations, with the Isles of Scilly on the horizon, surrounded by waters rumored to hide the Lost Lands of Lyonesse.

Cap off this unforgettable day with a memorable pub dinner before making your way to the Minack Outdoor Theater. Carved into rock resembling a classical amphitheater, enjoy a performance with spectacular ocean views, a truly unique backdrop.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: ST. IVES

DAY 3 »

Zennor / St. Ives

Celtic Cornwall is the focal point of today, and you'll uncover the region's rich mining heritage and natural wonders as you join a local ecologist for a fascinating morning walk along the coast from Botallack to Zennor. This scenic area epitomizes the rugged beauty of Cornwall, with granite tors sloping down to bracken-covered cliffs and the shimmering sea. As you traverse this breathtaking landscape, you'll hear tales of Cornwall's renowned copper and tin mining past, renowned for its pioneering submarine mining

techniques in the 19th century. Keep your eyes peeled for local wildlife. Coastal birds like kestrels hover along these cliffs, fulmars and herring gulls nest on the cliffs around Zennor Head, and there's a terrific possibility of spotting grey seals and dolphins out at sea. Meanwhile, wildflowers like yellow western gorse, purple heathers, thrift, sea campion, and kidney vetch flower along the coastal paths.

Continue your journey by following in the footsteps of Cornish miners at a fascinating tin mine located on the rugged cliffs of West Cornwall. Known as "the tin coast," you'll discover the captivating story of Cornish metal mining, one of Cornwall's great industries, at this World Heritage Site. Immerse yourself in the rich history and witness the ingenuity that allowed these miners to extract precious metals from the depths of the earth.

Your afternoon winds down in the picturesque town of St. Ives, where the cottages, inns, and shops overlook the harbor. Enjoy downtime to admire the glorious views across the water to Godrevy Lighthouse, which inspired Virginia Woolf. Alternatively, join your guide for an immersive art experience at the Barbara Hepworth Gallery, the former home and garden of the famous 1930s European artist.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: ST. IVES

DAY 4 »

Port Isaac / Tintagel Castle

The rugged north coast is cinematic and filled with the region's rich history, folklore, and stunning natural landscapes. So fuel up with at breakfast, as we embark on a journey to Port Isaac, a fishing village so picturesque that it was chosen as the backdrop for the beloved British TV series 'Doc Martin'. Pause along the coastal footpath for lunch. This is a terrific opportunity to try the locals' favorites, the quintessential fish and chips.

Your afternoon takes you to the renowned Tintagel Castle, where legend has it that King Arthur was born. Explore on foot at eye level, following in the footsteps of conquering Normans who reached the westernmost land of England, as your guide regales you with tales of the ancient seat of Cornwall's kings that once stood atop this soaring promontory. Walk among the ruins that cling to the cliffs, where Earl Richard of Cornwall, younger brother of Henry III, constructed the castle in the 13th century.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: FOWEY

DAY 5 »

Bodinnick Hall Walk

Literary and culinary delights await today, as you dive into the world of Cornwall's celebrated writers whose stories are often set against the region's breathtaking landscapes and rich maritime heritage. Beginning in the coastal village of Fowey (pronounced 'Foy'), a haven for yachtsmen and the major port for exporting China clay, your morning is dedicated to exploring the life and works of renowned novelist Daphne du Maurier, whose novels were inspired by her love for Cornwall.

Midday, it's time to savor the flavors of Cornwall, so pause for a gourmet picnic lunch in this postcard-perfect setting. In your guide's picnic basket, you're likely to find something truly only available in Cornwall, a pasty. (The flaky pastry meal is pronounced like 'nasty' but tastes delicious. It's even protected by strict geographic location rules on where it can be served and called a pasty).

This afternoon, ferry across the bay to the neighboring village of Bodinnick, starting point for the famous 16th-century Hall Walk. Amble along the scenic coastline to Polruan, a tiny fishing village known for the craftsmanship of its boat makers. Along the way, the coastal path winds through beautiful woodland areas, where you're likely to spot a kaleidoscope of butterflies basking in the sun, and also fantastic coastal views and the wildlife that inhabit this area including seabirds, dolphins and seals. The path also offers stunning

views of the Fowey Estuary, with its colorful fishing boats bobbing in the harbor and the rugged cliffs adorned with wildflowers like yellow gorse and purple heather.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: FOWEY

DAY 6 »

Lost Gardens / Lanhydrock House

Victorian architecture and gardens are the theme of the day. So, you'll begin by exploring the Lost Gardens of Heligan on foot, a unique 200-acre estate that will transport you to a world of magic. Meander through gardens adorned with statues, woodland walks under verdant trees, and rolling countryside brimming with natural beauty. Your expert guide will share insights into the local flora and fauna that includes ancient rhododendrons, a kitchen garden with traditional and rare plant varieties, a "jungle" area with giant rhubarb, banana plantations, and towering bamboo, and even exotic plant species from around the world like Maori-carved tree ferns from New Zealand.

Nearby Lanhydrock House is a prime example of Victorian architecture with lavish interiors and period furnishings. Artisans are still at work restoring the exquisite 17th-century Jacobean plaster ceiling and you can learn from their about the conservation. Then, stroll through the manicured gardens, woodlands, and trails curving along the River Fowey.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: FOWEY

DAY 7 »

Restormel / Bodmin

Immerse yourself into Cornwall's rich medieval history today as you explore the impressive ruins of Restormel Castle. A leisurely walk leads to the castle, dating back to the late 13th century. As you stroll around the ruins, your guide shares stories and anecdotes of its storied past.

Back to modern day life, you'll part ways at Bodmin Parkway Station, where trains leave hourly for London. As you bid farewell to this captivating region, you'll carry with you a treasure trove of unforgettable memories, from the rugged coastlines and picturesque fishing villages to the grand estates and enchanting gardens – all experienced through the lens of Classic Journeys' insider access.

MEALS: B

Tour Hotels



[St Ives Harbour Hotel & Spa](#)

Perfectly located just steps away from Porthminster Beach, this Cornish hotel is a charming seaside retreat. Offering modern amenities, a luxurious spa and friendly hospitality, a stay at St. Ives Harbour Hotel is truly memorable.

NIGHTS: 3 nights



[Fowey Hotel](#)

This is the quintessential Cornish hotel, sitting majestically above the River Fowey estuary. Comfortable rooms offer great views. The property is known and loved for its friendly, relaxed atmosphere, and the food from its award-winning restaurant.

NIGHTS: 3 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of St. Ives Harbour Hotel**
START CITY: **St. Ives**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Bodmin Parkway Rail Station**
END CITY: **Bodmin**
END TIME: **2:00 PM**