



THE HIDDEN SCOTTISH BORDERS

TREASURES, ARCHITECTURE & LANDSCAPES

The CULTURE CONCIERGE

Accessing the Inaccessible

Formerly the English Manner

SEPTEMBER 20TH - 28TH 2023

Hosted by Alexandra and Alastair, this tour will focus on the areas least visited when travelling in Scotland, the glorious borders. With rolling hills often regarded as the poor relations of the highland mountains, famous fishing rivers and burns and some spectacular coastal scenery including the Isle of Arran and the Mull of Galloway, this land is filled with history, castles and beautiful estates, as well as some glorious gardens with late summer colour abundant in September.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH - Departure from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST - Transfer to Ardgowan Estate for an exclusive private tour and overnight stay. Hosted by Ludo Shaw-Stewart, Ardgowan is a beautiful 18thC house set in 400 acres of parkland on the shores of the Firth of Clyde. It has been home to the same family for over 600 years and is noted for its position near the spectacular coastline, a rolling estate and notable treasures and antiques. Ludo's mother Lady Lucinda has long hosted specialist art and antiques guests and we are promised a very special start to our programme with our stay this evening in a house which was designed by Robert Adam's assistant Hugh Cairncross. The completed interior was furnished by Gillows of Lancaster. A light lunch will be served before an afternoon tour and chance to rest a little before an early dinner together hosted by Ludo.

(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: CLYDE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND - This morning we will say our goodbyes and depart for a private tour of the fantastically restored Borders home of King Charles III designed by Robert, John and James Adam in 1754 for the Marquess of Bute. Saved by the then Prince of Wales for the nation some years ago, he has set about an extensive and thoughtful restoration programme and we will see some of the finest collections of Chippendale and Gillow furniture surviving today as well as Mathie and Brodie and is of international significance. Not only is the house a triumph but His Majesty has created schools of forestry, needlework, textiles and design for young people to learn in the grounds of the estate and the project is heralded a resounding success in youth employment and learning



CULZEAN STAIRS

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY:	\$6690
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$1290

Airfares are available from most U.S. departure cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS:	7 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS:	Breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 7 dinners
GUIDES:	Alexandra Messervy throughout. Local guides at various sites as per the itinerary.
EVENTS:	Private tours and events as detailed in the itinerary
EXPENSES:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.

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skills. From here we will stop for lunch (under own arrangements) before we move on to the beautiful Culzean Castle, overlooking the ocean and famed for not only its Robert Adam architecture but also as Dwight Eisenhower's wartime retreat and favourite vacation home. Culzean is a real 18th Century masterpiece known as 'the castle in the air' perched high on a cliff above the Firth of Clyde. A spectacular oval staircase and circular saloon are unique features. Afterwards, we will drive to the tip of Galloway and stay at our luxurious hotel, the highly acclaimed Knockinaam Lodge, situated beside the sea. The Lodge is noted for its warm welcome and fantastic food and guests are assured of a good stay here. This evening we will gather at the hotel for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: PORT PATRICK**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD - This morning we will visit Castle Kennedy and have an opportunity to walk around the 75 acres of gardens created in the 1730s by the Earl of Stair in the Castle ruins. Rare trees face Lochinch Castle and its proximity to the Gulf Stream gives the area a mild climate. A café and gift shop here, before we drive down to the tip of the sea at the Mull of Galloway and perhaps see some of the rare sea birds nesting here including puffins, guillemots and gannets. We will then visit the very special sub tropical gardens at Logan and on to the harbour side village of Portpatrick before we head back to the hotel. Dinner is included here each evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: PORT PATRICK**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH - This morning we will depart for Melrose, a delightful town in the Borders famed for its restaurants. First though a tour of Drumlanrig Castle before we head to our hotel, The Townhouse at Melrose. The hotel is in the centre of the village and has been family owned and run for many years. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MELROSE**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH - This morning we depart for a private tour of Manderston, home of Lord Palmer famed for Huntley and Palmer biscuits but notably the house has a solid silver staircase and is truly amazing! Together with magnificent stables, a stunning marble dairy and 56 acres of immaculate gardens, this forms a unique estate and is a fabulous example of decadent Edwardian England. It was completely rebuilt between 1903 and 1905 in the manner of Adam. We will then have the opportunity to take lunch at the Allanton Inn in Duns (under own arrangements), a traditional Scottish pub, before we drive on to see Holy Island and Lindisfarne. The castle was built in 1550 to protect Holy Island harbour from attack, and was restored as a private house in 1903, now protected by the National Trust and a breathtaking sight. On our way back to Melrose we will drive through Berwick and Eyemouth and stop for a while if the weather is good. Dinner this evening at the hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MELROSE**



DRUMLANRIG CASTLE



ABBOTSFORD

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH - This morning a visit to Sir Walter Scott's home and gardens at Abbotsford before we take a pit stop at the St Boswells book shop deli and café with refreshment for those who want it. St Boswell's is noted for its antiques as well as this now world famous book shop. Abbotsford is built on the banks of the River Tweed famed for its salmon fishing rights and within the beautiful landscape of the Borders. This is truly a legacy of the poet and writer and has an exceptionally informative visitor centre and exhibition of his life and work together with lovely estate walks and trails. This afternoon we will have a private tour at the home of the Duke of Roxburghe at Floors Castle. Charlie married this year after the sad death of his father, Guy, who was a dear friend of HM The King, and we are bound to see a few changes to the estate under the new stewardship of the young Duke. Spectacular state rooms with outstanding collections of

art, tapestries and furniture, porcelain and ceramics, and the walled gardens are truly beautiful. Just outside the pretty town of Kelso, this is a rather special place. We will dine this evening at a well known restaurant in Melrose. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MELROSE**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH - Our final day today sees us drive to Lennoxlove for a private guided tour. We will then make an early afternoon visit to Thirlestaine Castle, part of the Lauder estates at 1 p.m. and enjoy a private tour before we head back to the hotel to pack and rest before a farewell dinner. Thirlestaine was the ancient seat of the Earls and Duke of Lauderdale and is still home to the Maitland family. Exquisite 17th Century plasterwork ceilings, a fine portrait collection and historic kitchens make this a fascinating visit. Tonight we gather for a farewell dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MELROSE**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH - Depart by private transfer for Glasgow or Edinburgh airports and onward travel.

For those who wish to see Edinburgh, we recommend a stay at the amazing Trinity House, lightship to the Royal Yacht Britannia and whose patron is HRH The Princess Royal who stays here whenever she is in the city. From here, tour the sights of Edinburgh and enjoy a tour of Britannia, The Palace of Holyrood House, Edinburgh Castle and St Giles Cathedral, resting place of HM Queen Elizabeth II before her journey to London in September 2022 for her burial. For those who wish, a private driver and guide is available.

*Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner