

LAND OF LIGHT & LIFE

Discover the Gardens, Castles &
Landscapes of Northumberland staying
at the **Matfen Hall Hotel Golf and Spa**

9th to 14th June 2019

NOBLE CALEDONIA

Belsay Hall



Here is a wonderful early summer break to Northumberland. From our central base near the market town of Hexham, once the haunt of marauding Vikings 1300 years ago, we will explore some of the region's finest and most beautiful gardens and castles, some close to the sea, providing the most dramatic of backdrops to the botanical wonders and buildings.

Northumberland, often described as 'Gods Own Country' is the birthplace of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and William Turner, the naturalist, hailed as the 'Father of English Botany'. Northumberland has an impressive legacy of gardening greats and with its unique climate and geology combined with inspirational design, they have produced sensational gardens across the county which will appeal equally to gardening enthusiasts and those who simply wish to dream away an hour or two in delightful surroundings. Wander too through majestic castles set in the vast Northumbrian landscapes.

Amongst the highlights of our itinerary are Wallington Hall, much loved home to generations of the unconventional Trevelyan family. Gifted to the nation by Sir Charles Philips Trevelyan, Socialist MP and 'illogical Englishman', the 13,000-acre estate has something for everyone. We also visit historic Whalton Manor, altered by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1908 and surrounded by three acres of magnificent walled gardens, a hidden gem, designed by Lutyens with the help of Gertrude Jekyll and developed by the Norton family since the 1920s.

No visit to the far north would be complete without exploring Alnwick Castle and the famous gardens. In the words of the Duchess of Northumberland "The Alnwick Garden is an inspiring landscape with beautiful gardens, unique features - including a tree house and the Poison Garden - and magnificent architecture, all brought to life with water." Our last day comprises the magnificent gardens at Howick Hall, rated by the BBC Gardener's World Magazine as one of the top five coastal gardens in the country. We lunch here in The Earl Grey Tearoom and we hope Lady Howick will be available to show us around her private garden. We continue to Capheaton Hall and Gardens for the last visit of our tour, this historic, Jacobite, Grade I Listed house was designed and built, in 1668, by Robert Trollope for Sir John Swinburne, 1st Baronet.





Lion bridge, Alnwick



Howick Gardens



London Festival Opera

LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA

We are delighted that London Festival Opera will be joining us for our stay and presenting two entertaining programmes of opera and operetta including the celebrated works of Mozart, Verdi, Bizet, Puccini and the lighter repertoire of Gilbert & Sullivan. We have long been associated with London Festival Opera and each year our music themed tours grow in popularity. London Festival Opera has achieved a considerable reputation for presenting opera in the UK and overseas and has performed for Presidents, Prime Ministers and senior members of the British and European Royal Families. Recent appearances have been in London, Rome, Paris, Hamburg, Brussels, Monte Carlo, Moscow, Marrakech, Mumbai, Barbados and Hong Kong. The company has performed at 10 Downing Street, the British Embassy in Paris, the President's Palace in Malta and as a guest company in one of Italy's greatest opera houses, La Fenice in Venice. Bringing together artists from the major British opera companies including the Royal Opera, English National Opera and Glyndebourne.

GUEST SPEAKER



David Mitchell

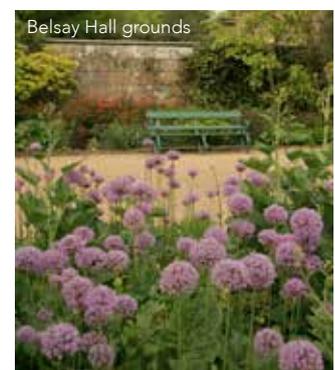
David Mitchell was previously a Curator at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and is now an Honorary Research Associate. He is Director and Curator at Muddy Feet Consultants, an environmental education company specialising in landscape assessment, project development, horticulture, interpretation and exhibitions. He has spent thirty years in private and public consultancy with organisations including The National Archives of Scotland, The National Galleries of Scotland, The Royal Collections Trust, The National Trust for Scotland and the Royal Zoological Society for Scotland. He has extensive broadcasting experience in television and radio with the BBC, STV and Channel Four; augmented by global involvement as an Expedition Lecturer for Noble Caledonia, the National Trust for Scotland and the American Ivy League Universities of Harvard, Dartmouth and Brown. He is currently Chairman of Scotland's Gardens, a Trustee of the Pitlochry Festival Theatre, the Hidden Garden Glasgow and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture and the Royal Geographical Society.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Northumberland, UK. Afternoon check in at Matfen Hall Hotel Golf and Spa. A transfer will be provided at a specific time from Newcastle Station. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at our hotel this evening.

Day 2 Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens & Chesters Roman Fort and Museum. On our first morning we will visit Belsay Hall, a notable Regency style 1807 country house which is regarded as the first British country house to be built entirely in new, Greek revival style. It is a Grade I listed building and the vast and varied grounds provide a magnificent setting for the castle and hall. Marvel at the views from the massive 14th century defensive 'pele tower' at the top of the ruined Medieval castle. We will wander through beautiful formal terraces and beds packed with an impressive array of shrubs and flowers which change with the seasons. The high point is the unique Quarry Garden, a truly unique fantasy of ravines and pinnacles filled with winter flowering rhododendrons, ferns and rare plants. In the afternoon, drive to Chesters Roman Fort on the line of Hadrian's Wall nestled in the valley of Chollerford next to the North Tyne River. Chesters Roman

Fort is the most complete Roman cavalry fort in Britain with unusually well preserved baths and steam room, and the officers' quarters. Discover an amazing collection of Roman objects and inscriptions in the museum; these were found at the fort and along Hadrian's Wall. Dinner will be at the hotel this evening.

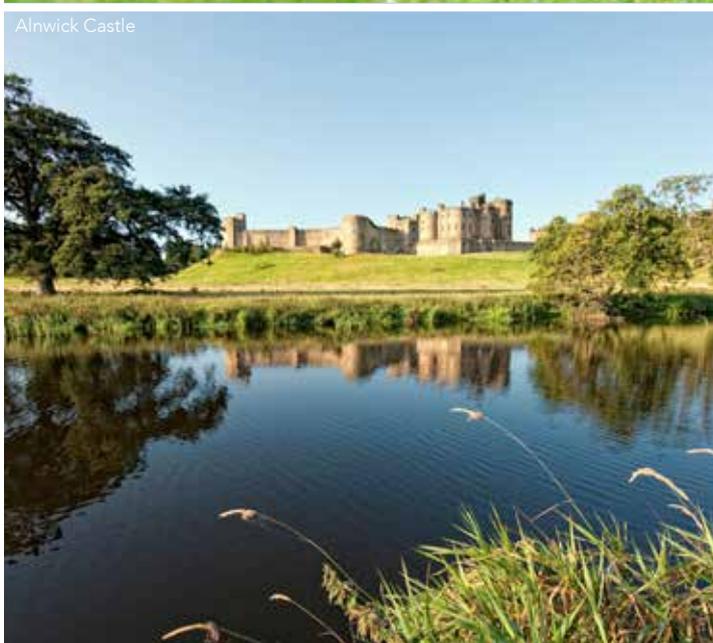


Belsay Hall grounds

Day 3 Wallington Hall & Gardens & Whalton Manor Garden. This morning, a short drive brings us to Wallington Hall, the impressive home of Sir Charles Trevelyan. We will explore the history of Northumberland in the huge pre-Raphaelite paintings around the Central Hall and see the beautiful furniture, treasured collections and



Mandarin duck, Alnwick Castle



Alnwick Castle



Hadrians Wall

quirky curiosities in each room. The house is surrounded by an informal landscape of lawns, lakes, woodland and parkland and we will visit the hidden walled garden nestled in the woods. It was beloved by Lady Mary Trevelyan and remains a beautiful haven whatever the season. Later in the afternoon, enjoy a private visit and afternoon tea at Whalton Manor, an attractive 17th-century manor with three acres of walled gardens laid out in the early 20th century for Mrs Eustace Smith by Sir Edward Lutyens with inspiration from Gertrude Jekyll. Between them, Lutyens and Jekyll designed a small gem, a garden of constant inspiration, punctuated by features such as a game larder, pergolas, a stone-paved courtyard and an Italianate summerhouse. The house which dates to the 17th century was significantly remodelled by architect Edwin Lutyens from 1908. He sensitively recreated the manor interiors, preserving its beautiful plastered ceilings and Georgian panelled rooms. In the early evening London Festival Opera will perform at Matfen Hall Hotel in the Great Hall. The performance will be followed by dinner.

Day 4 Alnwick Castle & Gardens.

Enjoy a morning visit to the famous Alnwick Castle, the second largest inhabited castle in the country; home to the Duke of Northumberland's family, the Percys, for over 700 years. Combining magnificent Medieval architecture with sumptuous Italianate State Rooms, Alnwick Castle is one of this country's most significant heritage destinations. Later, we head to the gardens, one of the world's most ambitious new gardens. The Duchess of Northumberland's vision for a forgotten plot is now a truly 21st century experience full of imagination, inspiration and fun. Designed by Jacques and Peter Wirtz, the garden is a wonderful combination of spaces, themes, quirkiness and play. We return to our hotel for some free time before dinner.

Day 5 Howick Gardens & Capheaton Hall and Gardens.

Today we take a beautiful drive north to Howick Hall, which was the home of the Grey family from 1319, Charles 2nd Earl Grey is the most distinguished family member. As leader of the Whig party he was Prime Minister from 1830 to 1834. Howick is also the home of Earl

Grey tea, which was specially blended by a Chinese mandarin for Charles 2nd Earl Grey, to suit the water from the well at Howick, using bergamot in particular to offset the taste of the lime. We will visit the fascinating garden and break for lunch in the Earl Grey Tea House, before setting off in the afternoon for a private visit to Capheaton Hall and Gardens. This historic, Jacobite, Grade 1 Listed house was designed and built in 1668, by Robert Trollope for Sir John Swinburne, 1st Baronet. Though enlarged around 1800, it still retains its charming Restoration Baroque features and the extensive

gardens enjoy wonderful views over the 18th century park and fully maintained kitchen garden and greenhouses. The Swinburne family (now Browne-Swinburne) live in Capheaton Hall and run the estate, as they have done for 700 years. We will enjoy summer drinks in the garden followed by a performance by London Festival Opera. Farewell Dinner at Matfen Hall Hotel this evening.

Day 6 Northumberland. After a leisurely breakfast check out from Matfen Hall Hotel Golf and Spa. A coach transfer will be provided at a specific time to Newcastle Station.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Category	Brochure Price
Classic Room	£1795
Deluxe Room	£1995
Premier Room	£2195
Principal Room	£2395
Classic Room for sole use	£2695

PRICE INCLUDES: Five nights hotel accommodation at Matfen Hall Hotel Golf and Spa on a bed, breakfast and dinner basis
 • Wine with dinner • Lunch on Day 4 & Day 5 • Entrance fees • Tour Leader • Guest Speaker • Transfers.
Not Included: Travel insurance.



Matfen Hall Hotel

MATFEN HALL HOTEL, GOLF AND SPA

Matfen Hall Hotel Golf and Spa is located just 15 miles west of Newcastle in the charming village of Matfen and is the ancestral home of Sir Hugh and Lady Blackett. This stately home is set in 300 acres of pretty parkland and has been a hotel since 1999.

Your Room

The hotel offers 53 bedrooms which are all individually decorated in traditional and contemporary styles combining traditional charm with modern amenities. Facilities include en-suite bathroom, direct dial telephone, flat screen TV, ironing facilities, trouser press, tea/coffee making facilities, hairdryer, fridge, bath robes and safe.

Your Space

Set in the heart of some of Northumberland's most beautiful countryside, the hotel's estate is set out in a classic parkland landscape and includes a 27-hole course, par 3 course and driving range. Onsite there is also a fitness centre and spa with swimming pool, a spa bath, and massage facilities in relaxing candlelit treatment rooms. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel. The hotel's Library Restaurant has been awarded 2 AA Rosettes for its cuisine, and dining in this dramatic setting is a stately affair - enjoy fine dining in front of a log fire with scenic views over the surrounding grounds. There is a focus on using the finest locally sourced ingredients, great pride is taken in producing imaginative menus, highlighting the best that the region has to offer. There is also The Conservatory Bistro which overlooks the golf course and is ideal for pre-dinner drinks and lighter fare.



Classic Room: These rooms are situated in the new section of the Hall and are decorated in contemporary style with the option of a twin or double bed configuration. Approximate size 4.1 x 3.8 metres.



Deluxe Room: These offer spacious comfort with a seating area and a luxurious en-suite bathroom. Deluxe rooms are situated in the new and original section of the hotel with the option of a twin or double bed configuration. Approximate size 5.2 x 4.6 metres.



Premier Rooms: These rooms offer spacious luxury accommodation in the original part of the hall. They are decorated with traditional elegance and have outstanding views of the gardens or golf course. Approximate size 6.8 x 6.5 metres.



Principal Rooms: Matfen Hall's Principal rooms are the perfect choice if you would like something extra special. Principal rooms are in the original part of the Hall with stunning views of the garden or golf course. Approximate size 6.8 x 6.5 metres.



Golf course



Pool



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Alnwick Castle