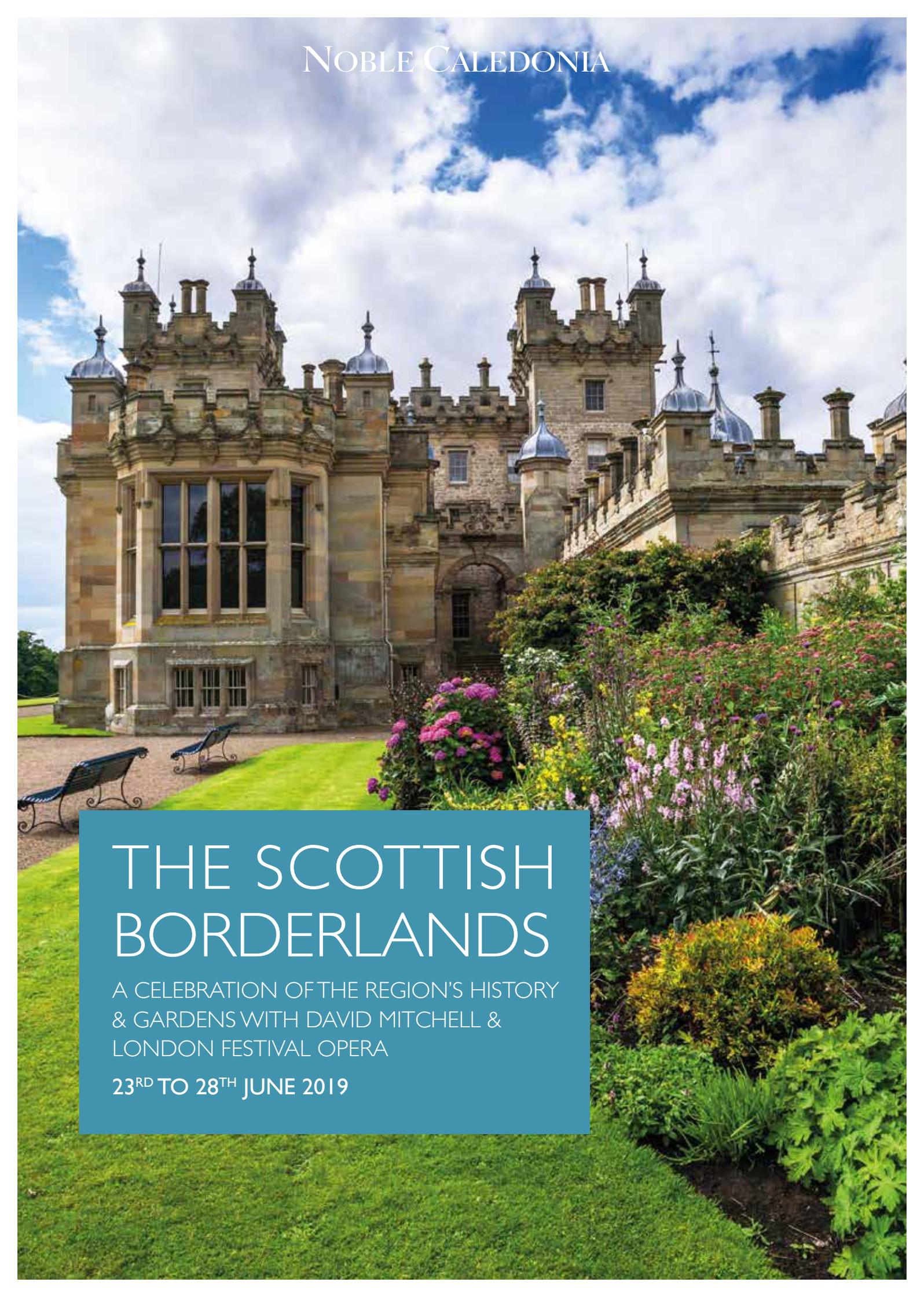


NOBLE CALEDONIA



THE SCOTTISH BORDERLANDS

A CELEBRATION OF THE REGION'S HISTORY
& GARDENS WITH DAVID MITCHELL &
LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA

23RD TO 28TH JUNE 2019



AN INTRODUCTION BY ANDREW COCHRANE, NOBLE CALEDONIA FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

Have you been guilty, like me when driving north to Scotland bound for its cities or highlands and islands, of not really noticing the area just beyond the English border. Only recently I discovered what I had been missing. This wild and beautiful land has a rich history, albeit somewhat bloody. Here the Reivers, warring clans of brigands brought havoc from the 13th to 15th century until the Union in 1603.

Sandwiched between the Cheviot Hills on the English border and the Pentland and Moorfoot ranges to the south of Edinburgh, it is a wonder that the area is still relatively undiscovered. Particularly when taking into account the impressive number of abbeys, castles, stately homes and gardens. The Borderlands are a joy to visit, crowd-free and offering a gentler style of tourism. The world has yet to catch on to this secret place allowing those genuinely interested to explore the rich heritage in the lush undulating landscape.

Our unique itinerary has been devised with the kind help of David Mitchell who will accompany the tour. It is a place close to his heart and he will enjoy sharing with you not only its splendid gardens but an itinerary that celebrates four centuries of Scottish history. The aim is very much to capture the 'Sense of Place' which surrounds the region and its heritage. You will be in no doubt that you have crossed the border, that wonderfully hardy Scottish edge is in abundance as is a warm welcome that you only find in areas where tourism is still a relative novelty.

Adding that special touch will be London Festival Opera who will perform in Kelso and Mellerstain House. The itinerary will be well paced with no crack of dawn departures and some free time to relax in the hotel's riverside garden, explore Kelso and enjoy a walk along the River Tweed.



Newhailes House



Mellerstain House



Melrose Abbey

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.

TOUR LEADER – Chantal Cookson



Chantal was born in Suffolk very near the sea and now lives in Northumberland where her husband farms. Chantal has been associated with Noble Caledonia since the company was founded in 1991 and has led tours, be it cruising or land, all over the world. Chantal's initial experience of cruising in British waters was in 1991 when Noble Caledonia undertook its first cruise around the British Isles, which was a groundbreaking voyage and led to a very successful and popular concept. Though her main job over the last 25 years has been working for Sotheby's, she is now a Travel and Fine Art Consultant intertwining her busy life still working periodically as part of the Noble Caledonia field staff team. Chantal is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrival to the Scottish Borderlands. Arrive this afternoon to the Ednam House Hotel in Kelso. A transfer will be provided at a specific time from Edinburgh Waverley Station. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner at our hotel this evening.

The Enlightenment & Conservation Day 2 Newhailes House & Garden & the Shepherd House Garden.

Leave this morning and drive to the National Trust for Scotland's Newhailes House and Garden. Newhailes brings three centuries of history to life. Originally built in the 17th century, this Palladian house was owned by the influential Dalrymple family and featured prominently during the Scottish Enlightenment. During a guided tour we will hear about the Trust's own conservation strategy of carrying out 'only as



Smailholm Tower

much work as necessary but as little as possible' to maintain the true character of the house. Later explore the vast gardens which are also part of a conservation project to restore the 18th century landscape. After lunch depart for Inveresk Village and the wonderful small garden of



Floors Castle

Shepherd House. It may only be an acre, but it is one of the great British Gardens. Situated in the middle of the 18th century village of Inveresk the garden has been developed by Charles and Ann Fraser. Ann is a botanical artist and the formality is balanced by the romance of the planting. Return to the hotel in the afternoon and after dinner enjoy a presentation by David Mitchell - "The Golden Age" - Plants, People and Places.

Gardens, Landscape & Architecture

Day 3 Carolside Garden & Mellerstain House & Garden. We begin our leisurely day with a drive to Earlston for the lovely romantic late 18th century Carolside Garden set in a parkland, flanked by wooded hills and on a bend of the River Leader. Best known for its soft and delicate herbaceous planting and subtle colour schemes, we have the morning to enjoy its design rooms, Secret Garden and Winter Garden. Sweeping lawns lead to an oval walled garden where a historic collection of ancient roses is housed. This is without doubt one of Scotland's finest private gardens and after our visit we will drive to Mallerstain House & Garden for lunch. Spend the afternoon exploring this most beautiful Robert Adam's House with its perfectly proportioned rooms, stunning decoration and remarkable works of art including paintings by Van Dyck, Ruysdael, Gainsborough,

Ramsay and a host of other old masters. Later, be guided around the spectacular formal gardens, designed by Reginald Blomfield in 1910 and the Italianate Terraces with herbaceous borders. Step down to the lower terraces where a sweeping stretch of lawn descends to the lake. London Festival Opera will entertain us in the Music Room of this most stately of homes.

Tales of the Borders, History, Ballads and Literature

Day 4 Melrose Abbey & adjacent Gardens, Abbotsford House & Garden, Scotts View & Smailholm Tower. Set off for Melrose Abbey, probably the most famous ruin in all Scotland. The monks lived here until 1590, yet the ruins today still afford a view of what life must have been. The heart of Robert the Bruce is buried in the Chapter House. Spend some time in the Harmony and Priorwood Gardens and explore the charming small market town of Melrose. After lunch at a local restaurant we drive to the nearby former home of Sir Walter Scott, Abbotsford House. After a guided tour of this baronial house, including the stunning library, David Mitchell will lead a tour through the garden, or if you prefer you can explore independently. Continue on to Scott's View overlooking the River Tweed and the iconic Eildon Hills, which was apparently a favoured spot for Scott to sit and relax and look for literary inspiration. Lastly, stop at the Smailholm Tower, the

best preserved 15th century Borders Keep which has amazing views over the Cheviot Hills. An exhibition here is linked to Sir Walter and the Border Ballads and. Enjoy dinner at the hotel followed by a talk by David Mitchell - The origins of the Scottish Garden.

Dukes, Monks & Markets

Day 5 Floors Castle, Grounds and Gardens & Afternoon at leisure in Kelso. Depart for Scotland's largest inhabited castle, Floors Castle, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Roxburghe since 1721. Still very much a family home with a splendid collection of grand rooms, tapestries and fine art set in a rolling landscape overlooking the Tweed. After a tour of the castle, explore

the extensive grounds including one of the finest Victorian kitchen gardens in the Walled Garden. Stroll through the woodland garden to awe-inspiring Millennium Garden with its French style parterre. Stay for lunch and then return to Kelso for an afternoon at leisure to take a stroll along the Tweed or spend time in lovely Kelso. This evening we will have our farewell dinner in the hotel followed by a performance by London Festival Opera.

Day 6 Departure from the Scottish Borderlands. After a final leisurely breakfast check out of our hotel. A transfer will be provided at a specific time to Edinburgh Waverley Station.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Category	Brochure Price
Classic Courtyard Room	£1995
Double River View Room	£2095
Classic River View Room	£2195
Orangery Room	£2295
Principal Room	£2495
Orangery Suite	£2695
Single Room	£2295
Classic Courtyard Room for sole use	£2795

PRICE INCLUDES: Five nights hotel accommodation at Ednam House Hotel on a breakfast and dinner basis • Four lunches • Entrance fees • Tour Leader • Guest Speaker • Two performances by London Festival Opera • Transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Ednam House Hotel



Classic River View Room



Classic Courtyard Room



The Orangery Suite

EDNAM HOUSE HOTEL

For our five night stay we have taken over all the accommodation at the delightful Ednam House Hotel. Situated in the heart of Kelso on the banks of the River Tweed, this lovely Georgian hotel combines the best of both worlds with a town centre location but with the luxury of three acres of riverside gardens. The Ednam became a hotel in the 1920's and generations of anglers have stayed here. Kelso is the perfect location for our exploration of the Borders, it is an ancient town that Sir Walter Scott once called the most beautiful in all Scotland. Built in 1761, the hotel has recently undergone refurbishment but has retained its stylish Georgian features and homely atmosphere. Part of the Robert Parker collection of hotels, an ownership that believes that each hotel has its own unique qualities defying the dreaded 'corporate' style that proliferates the hotel industry. The Riverside Restaurant is under the direction of head chef Peter Carr who has worked with some of the UK's leading chefs including Heston Blumenthal, and it was recently awarded a coveted AA Rosette.

YOUR ROOM

Each of the 33 rooms has been individually styled and all feature comfortable beds, flat screen televisions, tea and coffee making facilities and superfast Wi-Fi. There are a number of room grades to choose from:

Single Rooms: Ideally positioned for river gazing with views across the River Tweed, the single rooms are just right for the lone traveller and filled with everything needed for a comfortable stay. They are located on the ground and first floors and the bathrooms feature a shower over bath.

Classic Courtyard Rooms: Right in the heart of the house, the courtyard rooms are generously sized and charmingly decorated with king-sized beds and elegant period furniture. The rooms are located on the first floor. The bathrooms feature a shower over bath and the bed configuration is either twin or double.

River View Rooms: Perfectly proportioned and complete with fine furnishings and antique furniture, these lovely ground floor rooms offer restorative views over the River Tweed. The bathrooms feature a shower over bath and the bed configuration is double.

Classic River View Rooms: Enjoying views of the magnificent River Tweed, these rooms are ideally located for watching the world go by. With a little extra space for a few more luxuries, they offer super comfy king-sized beds, bespoke furnishings, fluffy robes and additional toiletries. The rooms are

located on the ground and first floor. The bathrooms feature a shower over bath and the bed configuration is either twin or double.

Orangery Rooms: Just a stone's throw from the main hotel building, our newly refurbished Orangery provides the ultimate in secluded relaxation. With uninterrupted river views, king-sized beds and elegant interiors these rooms have that little extra wow factor for a special occasion or a romantic break. These rooms are located on the first floor. The bathrooms feature a shower over bath and the bed configuration is either twin or double.

Principal Rooms: Our four principal bedrooms are spacious and resplendent with original plasterwork, marble fireplaces and antique furnishings. With plenty of space for a few more luxurious features like a queen or king-sized bed they offer all you need for a truly indulgent stay. These rooms are located on the first floor. The bathrooms feature a shower over bath or walk in shower and the bed configuration is either twin or double.

The Orangery Suite: This is the most luxurious room in the hotel complete with stunning views of the River Tweed. Spacious and sumptuous, the Orangery Suite has all you need for a luxurious break. A sleek, free-standing bath in which to soak and sip champagne, a separate sitting area for relaxing and a statement king-sized bed for the perfect night's rest. Located on the ground floor, it has a bath and a walk-in shower and a double bed configuration.



Bar area

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: Floors Castle.