

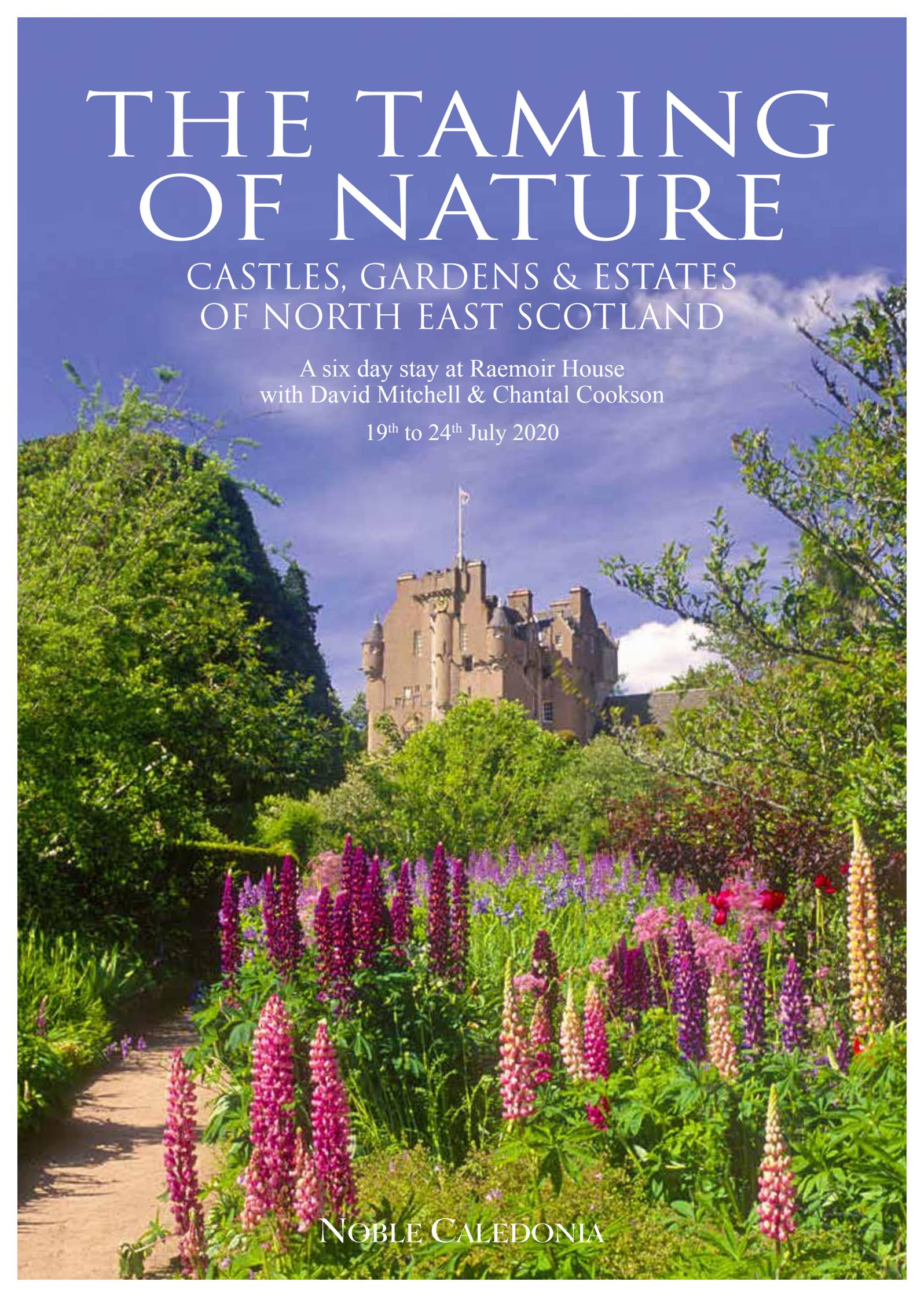
THE TAMING OF NATURE

CASTLES, GARDENS & ESTATES
OF NORTH EAST SCOTLAND

A six day stay at Raemoir House
with David Mitchell & Chantal Cookson

19th to 24th July 2020

NOBLE CALEDONIA



An Introduction by Andrew Cochrane, Noble Caledonia Founder & Director



“ Join us for a magical midsummer break at Raemoir Mansion House and Estate in glorious Royal Deeside. Each day features a programme of short excursions, designed to help you discover and enjoy the region’s unique history and celebrate its art, architecture, gardens and historic collections.

Our explorations begin with a short drive over the Grampian Mountains so inspirational to Lord Byron and celebrated in his work ‘Dark Lochnagar’. This route to Edzell Castle, famed for its renaissance walled garden built in 1604 by Sir David Lindsay will be via the Cairn O’Mount providing an opportunity for you to enjoy the wild and magnificent scenery. On arrival we will explore the castle and the walled garden complete with parterres, a summerhouse and bathhouse! This unique garden is famed for its decorated ornate sculpted panels and is of European importance for its architecture. From here a further five hundred years of Scottish history, excellence and craftsmanship unfold with a visit to Drum Castle, one of Scotland’s oldest Tower Houses which is now famed for its vast library and collection of historic roses.

The formal garden at Pitmedden; originally laid out by Sir Alexander Seton in 1675 and recreated by the National Trust for Scotland in the 1950’s, provides an opportunity for a leisurely morning stroll before a look at the Museum of Farming Life which brings the area’s significant agricultural past to life. Our tour also takes in the Scottish Baronial masterpiece of Fyvie Castle which has links with William the Lion 1214, King of Scotland; it contains a vast collection of lavish art works by Raeburn, Batoni, Romney, Gainsborough and others, as well as Flemish Tapestries, fine furniture, armour and antiquities. Here, outside you will have time to discover the walled garden with its collection of Scottish fruit and colourful borders. The inspirational pink fairy-tale Craigevar Castle ‘which brings out the child in all of us’ holds an impressive collection of art and antiquities, all viewed by natural light. This is a setting that provides a special insight into innovative conservation work. Not far away, a visit to Kildrummy Castle Gardens allows us the opportunity to explore a romantic quarry garden, built below a ruined Medieval castle.

On our last day we will visit the magnificent turreted Crathes Castle, which was lived in by the Burnett family for over 350 years. Today it is famed for its artworks, fine furniture, delightful 16th century painted ceilings, oak panelling and treasures such as the ‘Horn of Leys’ linked to Robert The Bruce. We will also explore the internationally renowned colourful walled garden; framed by ancient yew hedges it contains many rare and unusual plants. After lunch we drive westward through the heart of beautiful Royal Deeside to visit Balmoral Estate; the much-loved private home of the Royal Family since 1852 when it was purchased by Prince Albert and Queen Victoria.

Each daily outing has been carefully designed to include something for everyone with a careful mix of the region’s finest castles, significant art collections and antiquities; all set within stunning gardens and estates. During your stay you will have time to soak up the grandeur and the atmosphere of the landscape as well as encountering a mixture of garden styles including formal, woodland, walled and kitchen gardens; many containing historic plant collections, colourful herbaceous borders plus splendid trees and shrubs. ”



Edzell Castle and Gardens



Fyvie Castle



Garden of Historic Roses, Drum Castle



Walled Garden at Fyvie Castle



Panelled ceiling of the Long Gallery, Crathes Castle



Balmoral Castle and Gardens

YOUR HOSTS

David Mitchell – Guest Speaker



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.

Chantal Cookson – Tour Leader



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 in her busy life still working periodically as part of the Noble Caledonia field staff team. Chantal is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.



Pitmedden Gardens



Woodland Garden, Kildrummy Castle



The historic village of Ballater



Craigievar Castle

The Itinerary

Day 1 Aberdeen to Raemoir House. Meet at Aberdeen Airport or Rail Station in the mid afternoon for the transfer to Raemoir House where the attentive staff will assist you on arrival. Settle into your room or explore the grounds before meeting this evening for drinks and a welcome dinner.

Day 2 Edzell Castle & Drum Castle. After a leisurely breakfast drive through the Grampian Mountains via Cairn O'Mount, the heart of Nan Shepherd country (author of the Grampian Quartet) to Edzell Castle, a fusion of art, science and nature and one of the finest 17th century walled gardens. Here David Mitchell will discuss the importance of the garden and its origins. Later, we drive along the coast to Stonehaven for lunch. In the afternoon we will make for Drum Castle, one of the oldest tower houses with a fine collection of portraits and Georgian furniture. After a guided tour of the house enjoy a walk in the historic scented Rose Garden.

Day 3 Pitmedden Garden & Fyvie Castle. Drive to Pitmedden, surely one of Scotland's finest gardens. After a brief introduction take time to explore and enjoy at your own pace the silence and elegance of this unique Scottish Renaissance walled garden famed for its colourful parterres. In the late morning a short drive will bring us to Fyvie Castle and after lunch in the Victorian Kitchen join a guided tour of the 800-year-old castle including the impressive art collection. Later, join David Mitchell for a walk in the two acre walled garden with its abundant collection of Scottish Heritage fruit.

Day 4 Craigievar Castle & Kildrummy Castle Garden. Our day begins with a visit to this



Pink foxgloves at Pitmedden Gardens

famous fairy-tale pink castle complete with turrets. A 17th century Scottish Baronial Tower House, it is renowned for its plasterwork, Jacobean oak panels and art collection. Situated on a designed landscape, it is home to several magnificent specimen trees. In the late morning drive to Kildrummy and enjoy a picnic lunch before a pleasant afternoon walk through Kildrummy, one of the most peaceful and tranquil gardens in Scotland's North East. Built within an ancient quarry below the ruined 12th century castle it has a fine plant collection including woodland with wonderful vistas. David Mitchell will be available to answer questions and help you explore the grounds. Return to Raemoir for afternoon tea and some Scottish traditional music.

Day 5 Crathes Castle & Balmoral. The highlight for many will be our visit to Crathes Castle and Garden, regarded by many as the finest historic castle and garden in Scotland. Steeped in history, it is famed for its exceptional 16th century painted ceilings, oak paneling and other antiques. Enjoy the wonderful plant collection including

herbaceous borders and a wide variety of exotic shrubs surrounded by a magnificent ancient yew hedge. We will take lunch at Crathes and then continue westwards through Royal Deeside to visit Balmoral. Stroll through the formal garden before exploring the vegetable gardens, the ballroom and the stable exhibitions. Driving back to Raemoir, we will stop at the historic borough of Ballater, famed for its Royal warrant holding shops and distinct architecture. This evening enjoy the farewell dinner with music at Raemoir House.

Day 6 Raemoir House to Aberdeen. After a hearty Scottish breakfast transfers will be provided to Aberdeen Airport and Rail Station.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Category	
Ha Hoose Standard Room	£1995
Ha Hoose Suite	£2195
Main House Standard Room	£2295
Main House Superior Room	£2495
Main House Deluxe Room	£2595
Main House Premium Deluxe Room	£2795
Ha Hoose Standard Room for sole use	£2995
Main House Standard Room for sole use	£3295

PRICE INCLUDES: Five nights hotel accommodation at Raemoir House on a breakfast & dinner basis • Lunch on days 2, 3, 4 & 5 (note day 4 will be a picnic lunch) • Afternoon tea on day 4 • Tour Leader • Guest Speaker • Excursions as described with entrance fees • Transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Raemoir House

RAEMOIR HOUSE, ROYAL DEESIDE

For the duration of our tour we have taken over this fine house which is located close to the town of Banchory. Only forty minutes from Aberdeen, this beautiful early 19th century country house, which sits within 14 acres of private parkland, is both elegant and commodious making it the perfect location in which to enjoy Highland hospitality.

A total of 18 en-suite bedrooms, split between the main building and the adjacent Ha Hoose (Hall House) makes for the perfect size house party. The bedrooms are large and beautifully furnished, many with period furniture and some have splendid views through large Georgian windows. Having this delightful property for our sole use allows us to plan mealtimes to suit our programme and provides access to the many beautiful sitting rooms including the impressive Oval Room, panelled drawing room, Garden Room and grand Georgian Room. The award-winning kitchen will provide breakfast and dinner from locally sourced providers and specially selected wines will be served with dinner each evening.



The Oval Ballroom



The Lounge



The Big Fish Bar



Ha Hoose



The Garden Room

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

There are six categories of room located across both the Main House and the original building, Ha Hoose.

MAIN HOUSE

This is the main building comprising of three floors. The ground floor is the public area with the reception, bar and the public rooms and the first and second floor are the accommodation levels.

Standard Rooms

Craigbeg: This first floor room has a double bed and views over the side grounds. The bathroom has a bathtub with shower. There are 31 steps from the main entrance to the room, a secondary staircase accounting for the extra nine stairs up from the first floor.

Cullerlie: This first floor room has a four poster king size bed and views over the side grounds. The bathroom has a walk-in shower. There are 22 steps from the main entrance to the room.

Glassel: This first floor room has a double bed and is at the back of the house with views to Ha Hoose and the rear grounds. The bathroom has a bathtub with shower. There are 22 steps from the main entrance to the room.

Campfield: This first floor room has a double bed and is at the back of the house with woodland views. The bathroom has a bathtub with shower. There are 22 steps from the main entrance to the room.

Brockton: This second floor room has a double bed and is at the back of the house with views to the rear of the house. The bathroom has a bathtub with shower. There are 42 steps from the main entrance to the room.

Clachnaben: This first floor room has a king size bed (which can also be configured as a twin) and is at the back of the house with woodland views. The bathroom has both a bath and separate walk-in shower. There are 22 steps from the main entrance to the room, and a step up into the shower.

Cowdray: This second floor room has a king size bed (which can also be configured as a twin) and views over the front grounds. The bathroom has a bathtub with shower. There are 42 steps from the main entrance to the room.

Superior Room

Durris: This second floor room has a double bed and views over the front grounds. The bathroom has a bathtub with shower. There are 42 steps from the main entrance to the room.

Deluxe Rooms

Crathes: This first floor room has a king size bed and views over the front grounds. The bathroom has a bathtub with shower. There are 22 steps from the main entrance to the room.

Dunecht: This first floor room has a four poster king size bed and views over the front grounds. The bathroom has a bathtub with shower. There are 31 steps from the main entrance to the room, a secondary staircase accounting for the extra nine stairs up from the first floor.

Premium Deluxe Rooms

Raemoir: This first floor room has a four poster king size bed and views over the front grounds. The spacious bathroom has both a bath and separate walk-in large shower. There are 22 steps from the main entrance to the room.

Scolty: This first floor room has a four poster king size bed and views over the front grounds. The bathroom has both a bath and separate walk-in shower. There are 22 steps from the main entrance to the room, and a step up into the shower.



Premium Deluxe Room - Raemoir



Premium Deluxe Room - Scolty



Standard Room - Clachnaben



Standard Room - Craigbeg



Superior Room - Durris



Deluxe Room - Crathes



Deluxe Room - Dunecht

HA HOOSE

The original building at Raemoir dating back to 1690, this characterful granite stone structure is situated to the rear of the Main House and is a level, 50 metre walk from the main entrance. There are three low steps to get into the building.

Standard Rooms

Larnach: This ground floor room has a king size bed (which can also be configured as a twin) and views over the back lawn and the Main House. The bathroom has a walk-in shower.

Learney: This first floor room has a double bed and views over the back lawn and the Main House. The bathroom has a bathtub with shower. There are 17 steps from Ha Hoose's front door to the room.

Suites

Morven: This ground floor suite has a king size bed, a separate seating area and views over the back lawn and the Main House. The bathroom has a walk-in shower.

Spybrae: This first floor suite has a king size bed (which can also be configured as a twin), a separate seating area and views over the back lawn and the Main House. The bathroom has a bathtub with shower. There are 17 steps from Ha Hoose's front door to the room.

Please note: Due to the layout of the hotel and grounds, we do not recommend this tour for those with walking difficulties.

NOBLE CALEDONIA

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Itinerary and accommodation subject to change. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.

Cover image: Herbaceous borders in the gardens of Crathes Castle