

SCOTLAND: GREAT HOUSES & GARDENS

24 – 27 JUNE 2024

FROM
£1,970
PER PERSON

Tour Leader: Tania Illingworth


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY



This unique tour visits great houses and gardens in the scenic Scottish Borders and East Lothian, staying at the historic 5* Schloss Roxburghe Hotel on the banks of the River Teviot. Many visits are private and some are by special permission to these landed estates in the Scottish Borders.

Highlights include an exclusive visit to Mertoun House, the home of the Marquess of Stafford, which has been under restoration. See the spectacular private collection of Old Masters (paintings by Rembrandt, Poussin, Raphael and Titian) and the mature and well-maintained gardens, dating from the late 17th century. Visit Bowhill, the ancestral home of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch and home to part of the superb Buccleuch art collection.

There are private visits to fine houses associated with the Adam family of architects, including Mellerstain, home of the Earl of Haddington and one of Scotland's great Georgian houses as well as the 'Gem of the Scottish Borders': Floors Castle: seat of the Duke of Roxburghe for over 300 years.

Explore several private gardens in the Scottish Borders including Carolside, with its National Collection of pre-1900 Galicia roses, and the marvellous, lovingly-restored Victorian walled garden at Portmore Castle. Enjoy a day in East Lothian, on Scotland's eastern coastline. See Broadwoodside, one of the finest contemporary gardens in Scotland as well as the renowned and outstanding walled garden at Tynninghame House.



4-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 24 JUNE 2024

24 June London / Berwick-upon-Tweed / Kelso

Morning train from London Kings Cross to Berwick-upon-Tweed (not included in the cost of the tour).

Lunch under your own arrangements (please buy or bring a sandwich before departure from London). On arrival in Berwick-upon-Tweed, transfer by coach to Mertoun for an exclusive tour of the private paintings collection, by special arrangement with the Marquess of Stafford. Designed by Sir William Bruce for Sir William Scott of Harden, Mertoun House was built in 1703-05 on a high bank overlooking the River Tweed. Enjoy a private tour of the garden with the head gardener. Within the 26-acres, there are colourful herbaceous borders, with azaleas and shrub roses. Pretty trails wind through the garden, past an ornamental pond, to an arboretum and a walled kitchen garden which contains a 16th century dovecot, thought to be the oldest one in Britain. Time permitting, stop in the picturesque town of Melrose, at the foot of the Eildon Hills. Drive to the 5* Schloss Roxburghe Hotel where 3 nights are spent. This elegant historic hotel set in the rolling hills in the Scottish Borders is located on the edge of the River Teviot, three miles from the pretty market town of Kelso. Formerly owned by the Duke of Roxburghe, the hotel boasts an impressive contemporary new spa, a heated outdoor pool and the only

championship layout golf course in the Scottish Borders. Dinner at the hotel.

25 June East Lothian

Depart for East Lothian, to visit Broadwoodside, one of Scotland's finest private contemporary gardens, by special arrangement with the owners, Robert and Anna Dalrymple, who will guide the party. Formally part of the Yester estate of the Tweeddale family and looking out to the Lammermuir Hills, the impressive garden is centred on two beautifully designed courtyards and settled around an ancient agricultural steading.



Lunch at Greywalls, an elegant Edwardian country house hotel showcasing the collaboration of Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll with stunning views of Muirfield Golf Course and the Firth of Forth. Explore the six-acre formal walled garden with the head gardener. Continue to Dunbar to visit the gardens at Tynninghame House

to see the spectacular privately owned 4-acre walled garden, by special arrangement with Charnisay Gwyn. The walled garden combines the lawn with sculpture and yew hedges, an apple-walk and extensive herbaceous planting, including roses and peonies with an informal arboretum. Return to the hotel. Dinner under own arrangement



26 June Melrose & Peebles

This morning, visit Abbotsford, the 19th century home of the author Sir Walter Scott. He spent much of his adult life here, the River Tweed and Border countryside offering constant inspiration for his novels. Still furnished much as it was during his lifetime, the house holds his collections of books, armouries and historical relics. The gardens were originally designed by William Atkinson and the main feature is the three part walled garden next to the house, where there are impressive double herbaceous borders and an orangery. Time at leisure to explore the picturesque town of Melrose.



Abbotsford

Continue to Earlston for a private lunch at Carolside, an 18th century mansion in the bend of the River Leader, hosted by the owners, Anthony and Rose Foyle. Today, this 200-year-old garden is best known for its delicate herbaceous planting, Broadwoodside Bowhill House Estate striking Delphinium beds, its design of rooms with a secret garden, winter garden and herb garden backed in espaliered pear trees and yellow and white roses. Sweeping lawns lead to an oval walled garden where an Historical Collection of ancient roses is housed including a National Collection of pre-1900 Gallica roses. Afternoon private visit to Portmore Gardens, by special arrangement with the owners, David and Chrissie Reid. This Victorian walled garden has herbaceous double borders, a potager, rose garden, pleached lime walk and ornamental fruit cages. There are large Victorian glasshouses which contain an Italianate Grotto. Outside the walled garden is the water garden leading to a woodland walk and a formal garden of yew and box. Return to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel.

27 June Kelso / Berwick-upon-Tweed / London

Morning visit to Mellerstain, home of the Earl of Haddington, for a private tour of the house. It was begun in 1725 by William Adam for Lady Grizel Baillie and completed by his son Robert from 1770 – 1778. The

interior is outstanding, with fine ceilings preserved in the original colours. The Library is a masterpiece of classical decoration, with plasterwork incorporating marble busts by Roubiliac. There is a superb collection of paintings including works by Van Dyck, Gainsborough, Ramsay and Nasmyth, as well as fine furniture and embroidery. Mellerstain stands in 200 acres of parkland, with an Italian-style terraced garden leading to a sweeping lawn which descends to the lake, with a glorious view to the folly, Hundy Mundy and the Cheviot Hills.

Continue to Floors Castle, the home of the Duke of Roxburghe. Built by William Adam in 1721, the Castle is the largest inhabited house in Scotland. Enjoy a private guided tour of the house which houses a marvellous collection of fine art and porcelain including paintings by Matisse and impressive Belgian tapestries. Explore the castle gardens with fine herbaceous borders, fruit trees and meandering paths. The Walled Garden is a showpiece of seasonal colour and interest and a summer house built in 1867 for Queen Victoria's visit sits overlooking the Millennium Garden.

Lunch at the Terrace Café under own arrangements. Transfer to Berwick-upon-Tweed for a train to London Kings Cross (not included in the cost of the tour).

TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£1,970
Single Supplement	£495

Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily; 2 lunches; 2 dinners
- All entrance fees, visits, excursions and transportation as per the itinerary
- Gratuities in restaurants for included meals; gratuities to guides/s; gratuities to driver/s; portage
- Local guides
- The services of your tour leader throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES

- Trains for London Kings Cross to Berwick-upon-Tweed
- Travel insurance
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 02/08/23.





YOUR TOUR LEADER



TANIA ILLINGWORTH

Tania Illingworth (nee Tolstoy) is three quarters Russian by birth, all her grandparents having fled the Russian Revolution in 1918. She has a degree in Russian Language & Literature, with Byzantine Art. Tania is one of our most long standing, experienced and popular tour leaders and has led tours widely throughout Western, Central and Eastern Europe.



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