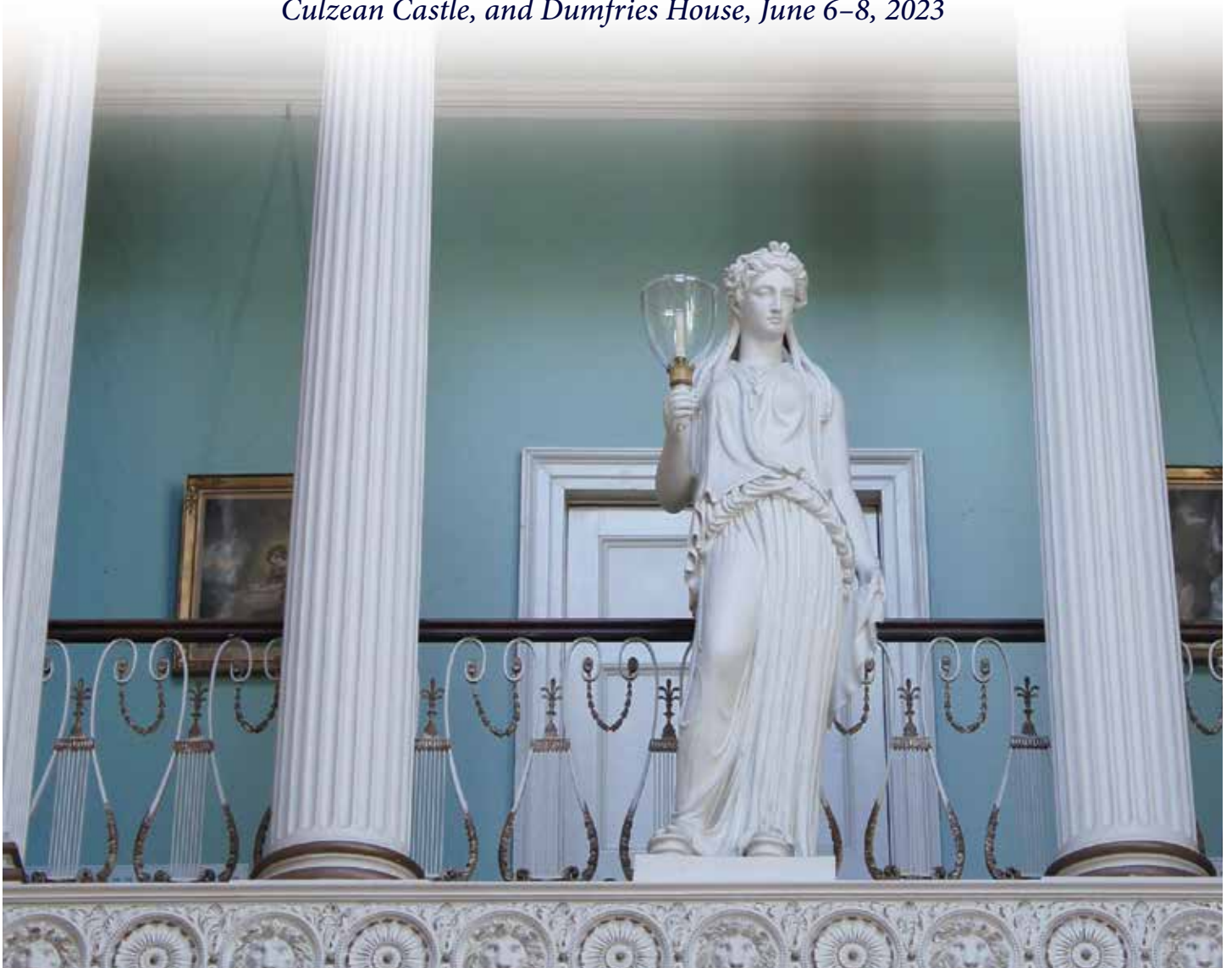


Country Houses of the Scottish Borders

Tour Leader: Curt DiCamillo

May 31–June 6, 2023 | Scotland

*With an optional post-tour extension to Drumlanrig Castle,
Culzean Castle, and Dumfries House, June 6–8, 2023*



Heritage Tours
by American Ancestors



NATIONAL
TRUST for
SCOTLAND

Foundation
USA

Wednesday, May 31

Arrive at Edinburgh independently no later than 12:00 noon today (for those arriving in Edinburgh earlier we can recommend hotels). We will meet at Edinburgh's Balmoral hotel, from whence we will depart by coach at 2:00 p.m. for **Schloss Roxburghe**, our home for the next week. A luxury boutique country house hotel on the banks of the River Teviot, Schloss Roxburghe is an award winning hotel located on the Floors Castle Estate.

After settling into our rooms, we'll take the short drive from the hotel for a private tour and reception at **Floors Castle**, the home the 11th Duke of Roxburghe. Believed to be the largest inhabited castle in Scotland, Floors was designed in the early 18th century by William Adam (father of the more famous Robert Adam) for the 1st Duke of Roxburghe. It was the 6th Duke who embellished the Adam house with a multitude of spires and domes in the Scottish 16th century style. The final effect was breathtaking and made the Floors one of the most atmospheric houses in Britain. Often used as a film location, Floors' greatest role in that mode was as Greystoke Castle in 1984's *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes*. The castle displays outstanding collections of French 17th and 18th century furniture, tapestries,

Chinese and European porcelain, silver, and one of the celebrated series of Savonnerie carpets commissioned by Louis XIV for the Galerie d'Apollon in the Louvre. Many of these treasures came to Floors from Duchess May, the American wife of the 8th Duke, who was a Goelet from New York. The great Gobelins tapestries from the Potières des Dieux series today at Floors once hung at Ochre Court, the Goelet house in Newport, Rhode Island.

After our Floors visit we'll return to the hotel for dinner in the Conservatory.



Floors Castle courtesy of Curt DiCamillo

Thursday, June 1

We are in for a treat at **Marchmont**, a Palladian mansion that completed a comprehensive seven-year renovation and refurnishing by owner Oliver Burge in 2019. Built in 1750 and "aggrandized" in 1917, Marchmont contains some of the finest Georgian and Arts & Crafts interiors in Scotland. We'll start with a guided tour to see a house that, in 2018, was awarded the Historic Houses / Sotheby's Award for Best Restoration, described by the jury as "stunning." A seasonal buffet lunch will be served in the Old Kitchen Gallery—home to a collection of Scottish Colourist paintings—followed by a tour of the outdoor sculptures in the Marchmont gardens, with wonderful opportunities to view the house and surrounding vistas. Post war and contemporary sculpture include works by Barbara Hepworth, Bernard Meadows,



Marchmont House courtesy of Mark J Richards

Lynn Chadwick and Antony Gormley, as well as Keith McCarter, David Nash, and Steve Dilworth, alongside "local hero" artists Frippy Jameson, Charlie Poulsen, and Andrew Mackenzie.

Next we head southwest to nearby **Mellerstain House**, home of the 14th Earl of Haddington, where we'll have a guided tour. William Adam designed the two wings in the early 18th century, while his son, the famous Robert Adam, designed the central block between 1770 and 1778. The library is particularly famous and considered by many experts to be one of the greatest masterpieces of Neoclassical decoration and color, with extraordinary plasterwork that incorporates marble busts by Roubiliac. There is also a fine collection of paintings, including works by van Dyck, Gainsborough, Ramsay, Aitken, and Nasmyth.

After Mellerstain, we'll head back to the hotel to relax before our evening at **Manderston House**, home of the 4th Baron Palmer. We will have a tour of the house, followed by dinner in the grand Edwardian dining room. Rebuilt between 1901 and 1905 by the Scottish architect John Kinross in the Adam Revival style, Manderston is probably the supreme example of the Edwardian country house in Britain—the swan song of its era. The architect was told by his client to spare no expense and the results are evident: opulent state rooms, a cantilevered marble staircase with a silver-plated balustrade (inspired by the staircase at the Petit Trianon and the only silver staircase in the world), inlaid marble floors and columns, silk and velvet wall hangings, and curtains woven with gold and silver threads.



Mellerstain House courtesy of Curt DiCamillo



Abbotsford House courtesy of Curt DiCamillo

Friday, June 2

We begin the day with a visit **Abbotsford House**, where we will have a private tour of the romantic home of Sir Walter Scott. Designed in the Scots Baronial style and considered, after his literary works, Scott's most enduring monument, Abbotsford contains artifacts and mementos of the famous writer, including a small knife owned by Rob Roy and a silver urn given to Scott by Lord Byron.

Next we arrive at **Traquair House**, the oldest inhabited house in Scotland, for lunch in the private 18th century dining room, followed by a tour of the house with Catherine Maxwell Stuart, the first female Laird of Traquair. Originally a hunting lodge of the Scottish kings (the first recorded royal visit was from King

Alexander I, who arrived in 1107), the Scottish Crown owned Traquair until 1478, when the house passed to a branch of the royal Stuart family, whose descendants continue to live here today. Inside, there are sumptuously decorated rooms from the 16th and 17th centuries, including one of the best preserved libraries in Scotland. Traquair is important because it predates the Scottish Baronial style of architecture and was very likely seminal in the creation of the style.

Just a stone's throw from Traquair, in the town of Innerleithen, is **Robert Smail's Printing Works**. Our visit to this fully functional Victorian era letterpress print shop, now preserved by the National Trust for Scotland as an industrial heritage museum, will include a demonstration of how a local printer around 1900 would carry out orders for printing and stationery.

Return to the hotel. The evening and dinner are on your own at the hotel, or at restaurants in nearby Kelso and Jedburgh (a list of suggested restaurants will be provided).

Saturday, June 3

Spend a full day in and around Edinburgh. Begin at the **Scottish National Gallery**, which houses Scotland's national collection of fine art, for a tour of highlights of the collection. Located on The Mound in central Edinburgh, the gallery's art spans from the Renaissance to the 20th century and features masterpieces by Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, El Greco, Velázquez, Rembrandt, Vermeer, van Dyck, Tiepolo, Landseer, Gainsborough, Constable, Turner, and Angelica Kauffmann, among others.

After lunch in town, we will head a few miles north to Leith, on the Firth of Forth, where the Royal Yacht *Britannia* is docked. The former royal yacht of the British monarchy, she was in service from 1954 until 1997. On our self-guided tour we will learn that *Britannia* was far more than a posh royal cruise liner. She was a showcase for cutting-edge naval engineering and the first royal yacht that could do double duty as a floating hospital in wartime, if necessary. In 1986, for instance, she rescued more than 1,000 refugees from South Yemen. Over the course of her 44 years in service, *Britannia* facilitated 968 official visits and traveled over one million nautical miles.

We'll end our day at **The Georgian House**, one of the most important 18th-century townhouses in Britain. Here we'll have a private tour, followed by a reception with substantial canapés that will serve as an early, light supper. Located on Edinburgh's Charlotte Square, this beautiful Neoclassical palace front townhouse by Scotland's super star architect, Robert Adam, sports luscious interiors fitted out to showcase the glory of late 18th-century design. Named after Queen Charlotte (the wife of George III), Charlotte Square is considered one of the world's great urban spaces; and, not surprisingly, the elevations for the square were also designed by Robert Adam. The Georgian House is one of the flagship properties of the National Trust for Scotland, who have owned it since 1956.

Sunday, June 4

This morning we'll journey west to **Bowhill House**, where we'll have a private tour, followed by lunch. One of Britain's great treasure houses, Bowhill has an outstanding collection of art, most of which King Charles II gave to his illegitimate son, James, Duke of Monmouth and Buccleuch. The collection includes paintings by Canaletto, Guardi, Claude, Ruysdael, Gainsborough, Raeburn, van Dyck, and Wilkie, with particular standouts being Reynolds's *Pink Boy* and Canaletto's view of Whitehall. Bowhill also contains one of the most important collections of miniatures in the world, with works by Nicholas Hilliard, Isaac Oliver, Samuel Cooper, and Hans Holbein. The collection of over 800 miniatures features images of Charles I, Oliver Cromwell, Mary



Bowhill House courtesy of Curt DiCamillo

I, Pepys, James VI and I, Elizabeth I, Katharine of Aragon, Henry VIII, and even George Washington and Benjamin Franklin! The gallery hall contains three great Mortlake tapestries depicting the triumphs of Julius Caesar. The tapestries were woven in 1670 from Mantegna's magisterial nine canvases, collectively called *The Triumphs of Caesar*, which have hung at Hampton Court Palace since 1630.

We'll continue north to the famous **Rosslyn Chapel**, a 15th century church in which practically every surface is covered with ornate, mysterious stone carvings. Since the late 1980s the chapel has been the subject of many conspiratorial theories that involve the Holy Grail, the Knights Templar, and Freemasonry. Not surprisingly, the chapel was prominently featured in Dan Brown's bestselling 2003 novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, and its 2006 film adaptation. Owned by the 7th Earl of Rosslyn, the chapel is today a place of worship of the Scottish Episcopal Church. We'll have a 15-minute introduction of the chapel, followed by time on our own to explore the amazing interiors.



Rosslyn Chapel

This evening we visit **Thirlestane Castle**, where we will have a tour of the house, followed by dinner in the State Dining Room. The historic home of the Earls of Lauderdale, Thirlestane contains some of the finest Restoration ceilings in existence, very likely based on the work of the Renaissance artist Andrea Mantegna at the ducal palace at Mantua.

Monday, June 5

This morning we drive north to **Newhailes House**, one of the star properties of the National Trust for Scotland, where we'll have a guided tour of what is considered the finest Palladian villa in Scotland. Famed for its Rococo interiors and fine Chinese wallpapers, the house was saved in 1997 by the National Trust for Scotland, who spent £12.7 million and 100,000 man hours to conserve Newhailes. The library, added in 1718, was the epicenter of the Scottish Enlightenment. Called by Dr. Johnson "the most learned room in Europe," it was here that Adam Smith, David Hume, and others met and discussed intellectual and scientific accomplishments of the time.



Preston Hall courtesy of Curt DiCamillo

Then it's off to the divine **Preston Hall** for a visit hosted by owners Will and Henrietta Callander, who will give us a tour of their home and host us for an informal lunch. Considered the architect Robert Mitchell's masterpiece, Preston is an impressive house of seven bays with domed pavilions (inspired by Robert Adam's Register House in Edinburgh). The most impressive interior is the staircase hall, which features, as lusciously described by Colin McWilliam in *The Buildings of Scotland: Lothian*, an "Oval dome in pendentives, with top lantern, a panelled segmental vault at each end; beneath them on all four sides an opening with composite columns in antis, and four lifesize figures on Coade stone (each one different) bearing lamps."

We then continue to **Arniston House**, where owner Henrietta Dundas-Bekker will give us a tour of her ancestral home. For over 400 years Arniston has been the home of the Dundas family who, in the 18th century, were one of Scotland's most powerful families. The house was begun in 1726 by William Adam and completed in the 1750s by his son, John. As well as portraits by Henry Raeburn and Allan Ramsay, there is magnificent Adam architecture, with molded ceilings, fireplaces, and stucco work.

We'll end the first part of the tour tonight with drinks and a farewell dinner in the Conservatory at Schloss Roxburghe.

Tuesday, June 6

Our main tour ends after breakfast this morning. After checkout from the hotel, a coach will take participants to Edinburgh Airport (arriving at 11:00 a.m.) and then proceed to the city center to drop off the remaining participants at The Balmoral hotel and Edinburgh Waverley train station. ***For tour participants leaving from Edinburgh Airport, please do not book flights departing before 2:00 p.m.***

Optional Extension

Tuesday, June 6

For those joining the two-night optional extension, we will leave the Borders and travel west to **Drumlanrig Castle**, the Dumfriesshire home of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, where we'll have lunch and a tour of the castle. The 1st Duke of Queensberry, William Douglas, had the castle built on the strategic site of an ancient Douglas stronghold that overlooks the Nith Valley. A superb example of late 17th century Renaissance architecture, the pink sandstone castle has 120 rooms, 17 turrets, four towers, and amazing art, including Rembrandt's *Old Woman Reading* and two French cabinets made for Louis XIV's use at Versailles.

Our coach will then deliver us to **Dumfries House Lodge**, a five-star country guest house on the Dumfries House Estate in East Ayrshire, where we'll stay for two nights. After time to unpack and rest, we will have drinks and dinner at The Lodge restaurant.



Drumlanrig Castle courtesy of Curt DiCamillo

Wednesday, June 7

Today head west to the shores of the Firth of Clyde, where we'll have a special visit at **Culzean Castle**, the flagship property of the National Trust for Scotland. Perched on 150-foot-high cliffs, Culzean is dramatically positioned overlooking the deepest coastal waters in the British Isles. The core of today's castle is a 15th-century tower house that was repeatedly added to and altered over the centuries. The architect who made the most changes, and left the castle primarily as it is today, was Robert Adam, who radically rebuilt the house in his castle style in the late 18th century.

We'll have **lunch at the Castle Restaurant** before returning to Dumfries House Lodge, where there will be free time to rest, relax, and explore the estate grounds, including the arboretum and the Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden.

Tonight we will have an exceptionally special experience: a grand tour of **Dumfries House**, followed by drinks and dinner in the historic house. Famously rescued by Charles, Princes of Wales, in 2007, the 18th-century Palladian house is considered the finest work of the Adam brothers. Today owned by the Prince's Foundation, the sumptuously restored house contains one of the finest collections of Chippendale furniture in the world, the majority of which has survived unaltered since the mid-18th century, when it was made for Dumfries House.



Dumfries House courtesy of Curt DiCamillo

Thursday, June 8

Following check-out, the coach will drop participants at Glasgow International Airport (by 10:30 a.m.) and then head east to Edinburgh Airport (dropping off by 12:00 p.m.). The last stop will be in central Edinburgh, where there will be drop offs at The Balmoral hotel and Edinburgh Waverley train station.

Tour Leader Curt DiCamillo



Curt is the Curator of Special Collections at American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS). Before he came to NEHGS he worked for the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the National Trust for Scotland. Curt is a noted historian and a recognized authority on the British country house, about which he has written, lectured, and taught in the U.S. and abroad. Since 1999 he has maintained an award-winning database on the web, TheDiCamillo.com, which seeks to document every English, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish country house ever built, standing or demolished. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the World*, is a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and a member of the Council of the American Museum in Britain.

Tour Prices

Main Tour

Tour Cost, based on double: \$8,995

Single Supplement: \$1,345

Add-On Upgrade Costs at Schloss Roxburghe (per suite for 6 nights):

Junior Suite in the Manor House: \$1,050

*Tour price is per person, based on double occupancy,
with a minimum of 15 paying participants.*

Optional Post-tour to Dumfries House Lodge

Tour Cost, based on double: \$1,925

Single Supplement: \$225

*Tour price is per person, based on double occupancy,
with a minimum of 9 paying participants.*

Deposit & Final Payment

A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to reserve a spot on the main tour; an additional \$500 per person is required to reserve a spot on the Postlude. Deposits are payable by check or credit card (MasterCard, Visa, or American Express). Final balance will be invoiced and is due on or before March 31st. Final balance payments are payable by check only to Travel Muse, Inc.. Registrations will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis.

Activity Level

Moderate; good walking ability is advised. Some museum and palace visits require use of staircases, and there will be a limited amount of walking on uneven ground during mountain touring.

Flights

Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their round-trip air arrangements.

Terms & Conditions

We require that all tour participants be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to participate on the tour. Participants will receive an online weblink to an expanded Registration Form and Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour upon registration. This document must be submitted to Travel Muse Inc. before the participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements on your behalf can be confirmed.

Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, American Ancestors/NEHGS and Travel Muse must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be sent upon tour registration.

Tour Inclusions (Main Tour)

Six nights' accommodation at Schloss Roxburghe in Kelso, Roxburghshire (U.K); breakfast daily, 5 lunches, 1 reception with supper-style appetizers, 4 dinners including pre-dinner drinks; wine or beer at lunches, receptions and dinners.

Tour Inclusions (Post-tour)

Two nights' accommodation at Dumfries House Lodge in Cumnock, Ayrshire (U.K); breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 2 dinners including pre-dinner drinks; wine or beer at lunches, receptions and dinners.

Additional Tour Inclusions (Main Tour and Post-tour)

All sightseeing and admission charges as outlined in the itinerary; land transportation by deluxe air-conditioned coach; bottled water on the coach; leadership of Curt DiCamillo; services of American Ancestors/NEHGS tour manager; local English-speaking guides for all planned sightseeing activities; gratuities at included meals and for guides; one airport transfer on the last day of the tour as indicated in the itinerary; handling of two (2) pieces of luggage per person at the hotel upon arrival and departure; service charges and taxes; complete pre-departure documentation and materials including reading list, travel tips, and destination information.

Tour Exclusions

Airfare, taxes and fuel charges, baggage fees; airport portage; passport or visa fees; individual transfers to and from the airport for individuals not using the scheduled group transfers; meals other than those specified in the itinerary; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; personal items such as telephone calls, room service, valet service, a la carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, laundry charges; travel extensions; tour deviations; entry or departure fees levied by local governments; personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation or interruption; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

Cancellation Policy

Notification of cancellation must be made in writing to American Ancestors/NEHGS and Travel Muse and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by American Ancestors/NEHGS and Travel Muse. Cancellation fees are calculated as of the day that notification is received in writing by American Ancestors/NEHGS and Travel Muse.

There is a non-refundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Planning travel takes extensive training, knowledge, expertise, time, and research. Additionally, many suppliers require payment well in advance of a tour's departure date and do not offer refunds.

When a participant cancels, the following scale of per person charges is incurred:

**Written consent received by American Ancestors/NEHGS:
On or before March 31, 2023:** Refund all monies minus \$500 registration and planning fee.*

After March 31, 2023: No refund.

**Travel insurance is the best way to protect your tour investment. Information will be sent to you upon receipt of your Personal Tour Agreement.*

**For more information, please contact Cy Britt, Director of Heritage Tours,
at cy.britt@nehgs.org or 617-226-1267.**