**“Scotland Unearthed” Tour**

**‘The Knights Templar, The Holy Grail and**

**The Truth Behind the Da Vinci Code’**

**June 5-12, 2022**

***Tour Guides Hayley A. Ramsey and ‘America Unearthed’ TV Show Host Scott Wolter***

**Day 1:** Check in at Dalhousie Castle Hotel, the most ancient castle available to stay in Scotland and the home of the Ramsays who were closely tied through marriage to the Sinclairs of Rosslyn Chapel. Dinner in the Castle’s fine dining restaurant “The Dungeon” followed by a Lecture by Hayley and Scott.

**Day 2:** Lunch at the Grail Grill & Restaurant in the Village of Roslin. Walk down to the ancient Roslin Castle where legend says a Templar treasure lies hidden then back up to Rosslyn Chapel and tour the Chapel. Legend also has It that Rosslyn Chapel is the resting place of the Holy Grail inside the Apprentice Pillar. What are the secrets and symbols the chapel hides? Drive to the small town of Temple where the original Knights Templar Preceptory of Scotland was built in the 12th century on land belonging to the Sinclairs. Templar graves with esoteric symbols are everywhere.

**Day 3**: Cross the Firth of Forth and explore the ruins of Ravenscraig Castle that belonged to the Templars’ protectors, the St. Clairs of Rosslyn, and is featured in a poem by Sir Walter Scott. Then explore the Wemyss Caves just up the coast. The Wemyss Family had many connections to the St. Clairs of Rosslyn. Based on recently discovered ancient journals belonging to the families, there is strong reason to believe that the Knights Templar hid out in these Caves after escaping France in the early 1300s where they were provided with food and supplies by the St. Clairs. H ead to Dunkeld House Hotel in the beautiful village of Dunkeld for dinner and the night.

**Day 4:** First stop is Scone Palace where the ancient Scottish Kings were crowned, including Robert the Bruce. Until 1296 Scone was the resting place of the Stone of Destiny that had been brought all the way from Egypt by Egyptian Queen Scota (origin of the Scots and of Scotland’s name) and her husband Gaythelos (origin of Gaelic) over 3,400 years ago. Some claim the original Stone is now in Edinburgh Castle with Scotland’s Crown and Septer, while others believe the English King’s army was given a fake substitute in 1296 and that the real Stone of Destiny is being protected by modern day Knights Templar to be brought out again when Scotland gains its independence. Then drive to Dunino Den, a beautiful off the beaten path site where the ancient Pictish kings were crowned all the way back to the first century by a natural Well with a footprint in the stone. There are rock carvings here, one being a Green Man with links to Rosslyn Chapel. Legend has it that the site is still used by those who practice the old traditions. Drive to Stirling for dinner and two nights.

**Day 5:**  Visit Stirling Castle and what archaeologists believe may be the real “Round Table” of King Arthur. Then to the nearby site of the Battle of Bannockburn where the Templars are held to have been Robert the Bruce’s “secret weapon” that helped them achieve victory over the far larger forces of the English King. Stop by Torphichen Preceptory, a stronghold of the Knights Hospitaller who took over the Scottish properties of the Templars.

**Day 6:** Drive to Kilmartin and visit ancient Kilmartin Church with many Templar graves and stones. Drive to a 5,000-year-old ritual site of standing stones and cairns and then to Dunadd Fort, a site that may be connected to King Arthur and the Legend of The Sword In The Stone. Drive to Castle Sween where Knights Templar reportedly hid out after their persecution by the Church before reportedly heading to North America, and then to Oban for dinner and two nights.

**Day 7:** Take the ferry to Isle of Mull and drive to the beautiful Isle of Iona, where ancient local stories claim that Jesus and Mary Magdalene visited, where she had a son by the name of John Martinus, and where she was buried in a cave. Back to Oban by ferry.

**Day 8:** Drive to Kilwinning Abbey where according to legend the Knights Templar hid treasure after escaping France on the infamous “Friday the 13th” when all Templars were declared heretics. Visit the very first Masonic Lodge, Lodge 0, nearby. Then to Edinburgh to Holyrood Palace and Abbey where the Inquisition of the Knights Templar took place in Scotland. They were found not guilty! Later in 1745, before the failed uprising, Bonnie Prince Charlie was made Grand Master of the modern Knights Templar at Holyrood. Drive to the Norton House Hotel near Edinburgh Airport for a farewell dinner and Lecture by Hayley and Scott.

**Day 9 (Optional):** Walk up to the historic Arthur’s Seat for a spectacular view of Edinburgh and the surrounding countryside -- Yes, *that* King Arthur! Explore Scotland’s Royal Mile in Edinburdh, time for shopping, and dinner at Angels With Bagpipes restaurant.