

Things to do in Northern Ireland



Belfast

If you wish to explore Belfast and learn about the history and landmarks – there are a variety of tours available.

To get the best views take one of the open top tours, these will take you through the city centre, out to Titanic Quarter where you can see the infamous cranes of Harland & Wolff, then to the architecturally impressive Parliament Buildings Stormont, through the leafy suburbs of East Belfast where the iconic writer C S Lewis spent his childhood, not forgetting the Political Wall Murals in West Belfast depicting the story of Belfast's colourful past.

For numbers less than eight why not get a more personal insight and take a traditional Black Taxi Tour, concentrating on the West of the City, the driver as your guide will take to the notorious Shankill and Falls areas of Belfast.

The Antrim Coast & Giants Causeway

The Causeway Coastal Route is rated as one of the Top Five Road Trips worldwide. The road starts in Carrickfergus and takes you to Larne, the gateway to the nine Glens of Antrim, a romantic realm of rivers, woodland and cascading waterfalls. The road takes you around the coast to the unique Giants Causeway. Formed over 60 million years ago, when molten lava cooled suddenly on contact with water, it is an awe inspiring landscape of mostly hexagonal basalt columns. Also, within easy reach of Bushmills, the oldest 'legal' distillery in the world!

The Walled City of Derry

Londonderry, also known as Derry is an ancient city and situated less than two hours from Belfast. The rich cultural and architectural heritage is reflected in the city's three names: Derry, from old Irish *Doire*, a reference to the oak grove where Saint Columba founded a monastery around 546 AD, Londonderry, the name granted during the seventeenth century Plantation of Ulster, and The Walled City, a modern nomenclature reflecting its status as one of the best preserved walled cities in Europe. Today you can stroll along the walls and explore some of the many intriguing sights. Saint Columb's Anglican Cathedral, the beautiful Guildhall and the Craft Village. Across the city is Saint Eugene's Roman Catholic Cathedral, dating from 1873. Derry also has the Harbour, Tower and Workhouse Museums and is a host of many atmospheric pubs throughout the old town.

The Fermanagh Lakeland's

Situated in the west, The Fermanagh Lakeland's are an area of natural beauty, the twin lakes of Lough Erne cover one-third of Fermanagh. The lower Lough is a splendid curve of open water, five miles wide, narrowing to the isthmus where Enniskillen stands. The upper Lough is a myriad of islets inter-cut by the sinuous curves of the River Erne. Fermanagh affords great opportunities for boating, everything from cruising to canoeing, plenty of fishing in the lakes and rivers. Also, the ferry from Trory goes across to Devenish Island, one of the most important monastic sites in Northern Ireland. Fermanagh is also host to the famous Marble Arch Caves and Castle Coole, perhaps the most stately of all the National Trust properties in

Northern Ireland which was designed by James Wyatt for the Earl of Belmore and completed in 1798.

The Mourne Mountains & Down

Towering above Newcastle in the south east corner of Northern Ireland are the beautiful mountains of Mourne. Distinctive with 12 summits rising to above 2,000 ft the Mournes offer spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. The Mourne Mountains provide the every outdoor activity - hill walking, cycling, climbing, golf, horse riding, and fishing - the perfect holiday location. Nearby Downpatrick is the home to the impressive and historic Down Cathedral and the grave of St Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland.

Affectionately known as 'The Linen Homelands', County Down is still the centre for Irish Linen. The Ferguson Linen Centre in Banbridge and the award winning Irish Linen Centre and

Museum at Lisburn follow the history of the flax flower fabric from the 17th century to the present day. Down has many museums and records of times past across the County, including the perfectly preserved Down County Museum at Downpatrick's Old Jail and the superb Ulster Folk and Transport Museum near Holywood.

Dublin

Situated just two hours south by high speed train, Dublin is world renowned. Dublin is a medieval city where the charming and cosmopolitan converge in delightful diversity. Fine museums and art galleries chronicle Dublin's long and historical past, while the pubs and cafes buzz with traditional and contemporary entertainment. Just a 20 minute journey takes you from the bustling city to the charming coastal towns and villages which dot the lovely coastline of Dublin County, where you can enjoy craft shopping, water sports, seafood dining and picturesque walks against the spectacular backdrop of Dublin Bay. With its Viking remains and atmospheric cobbled alleys and Georgian squares, it is notorious for literary landmarks – from the James Joyce Tower and the Writers museum to the famous Gate and Abbey Theatre to Trinity College. Not to forget the many traditional Irish pubs and of course 'the craic'.

Lagan Boat Cruise

The tours we offer aim to provide a totally different perspective of Belfast from the river, harbour area and the lough to tourists, local residents, and school and community groups. Commentary focuses on the constantly changing mixture of heritage and modern developments on the river, history of the area, conservation issues and the impact of new development on the river environment. The tours also provide a welcome and relaxing respite from the hustle and bustle of city life. The M.V. 'Joyce Too' is fully weatherproof and heated.

Price of Guided Tours:

£200 per tour for groups of up to 45 passengers (tour lasts 75 mins).

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2 Laganbank Road

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T: 028 90 330844

W: www.laganboatcompany.com

Belfast City Walking Tour

Belfast City Walking Tours brings a range of interesting guided walking tours. Belfast developed between three rivers; the BLACKSTAFF, FARSET and the LAGAN. We invite you to...

GET AN INSIGHT INTO THE BELFAST OF THE PAST AND LEARN ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED AND WORKED ALONG THE BANKS OF THE THREE RIVERS AND FINALLY TO SEE BELFAST IN A NEW AND FASCINATING WAY

Tours can also be arranged to start from a day, time and location of your choice. Tours available all year

Cost £6.00 per head for 1 hour 30 minutes duration.

Belfast City Pub Tour

No visit to Belfast would be complete without a trip around it's famous and historic pubs. The hospitality of Belfast city and it's people is legendary and there's no better way to enjoy the 'craic' and the banter with the locals than over a few drinks.

Each Pub Tour features six pubs and lasts for approx. 2 hours.

Group Bookings by prior arrangement all year round Group Concessions available for parties of 12 or more: £5.00 per head.

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Belfast City Sightseeing Open Topped Bus:

Welcome to Belfast City Sightseeing, and our Open Top Bus Tours of the fastest changing, fastest growing city, with the best tasting Guinness and funniest local people!

Take one of our tours which depart regularly from Castle Place, right in the middle of Belfast City Centre and see how our city was born during a time of industry and engineering, survived famine, disease, bombing raids and of course our recent political troubles, to now being one of the most exciting cities in Europe.

Not forgetting our recent history any visitor can learn about the political wall murals on the Shankill and Falls Road, the peace line and recent civil unrest through our dedicated and talented local tour guides.

Let our tour guides entertain and educate on a whistle stop tour through 300 tumultuous years of history and introduce you to a city brimming with confidence and optimism.

Tel: 028 9045 9035/ Mob: 07977 905803

Titanic Docks & Pump House Tour

Thompson Dock is the final place where the celebrated RMS Titanic rested on dry ground.

Guided Tours run daily for approx 1 hour. Private bookings on arrangements.

www.titanicsdock.com

028 9073 7813