







Belfast is a city with a unique character and history that sets it apart from other cruise destinations. Since the first cruise ship arrival in 1996, Belfast has now welcomed more than 1,000 cruise ship calls to the city and almost 2 million cruise visitors. We combine our heritage with a legendary welcome and a sense of humour, which ensures cruise visitors love their stay with us, but don't just take our word for it, read what the world's travel experts are saying!



Cruise Critic® has named Belfast as one of Europe's most popular cruise destinations in the Cruisers' Choice Destination Awards, 2018.



Belfast and Causeway Coast named number one region to visit in the world in 2018 by Lonely Planet.



Belfast named Rising Star destination by National Geographic Traveller magazine, 2018.



An award-winning cruise destination, Belfast is now widely regarded as one of the UK and Ireland's most vibrant and exciting city port of call, full of unique visitor attractions and friendly faces. There is so much for visitors to explore in the incredible city whose innovation, passion and pride gave birth to RMS Titanic and many other great ships. From castles towering high above the lough to tranquil canal towpaths by beautiful parks, Belfast has a myriad of wonderful experiences to enthral visitors.

Just 30 minutes away, visitors can explore the rugged coastlines, historic castles, stately homes and breathtaking scenery featured in the popular medieval fantasy series Game of Thrones® or find themselves at the eighth wonder of the world, the spectacular Giant's Causeway.

Belfast's literary heritage includes the childhood haunts of Narnia's creator CS Lewis, while visitors can follow in the footsteps of St Patrick to trace a Christian heritage that incorporates beautiful cathedrals and sailors' churches.

A UNESCO City of Music, Belfast is home to intimate gigs, traditional music and a buzzing culture and arts scene across the city. You can add to that atmospheric traditional pubs, restaurants famous for quality and value in a city that is compact, welcoming and easy to explore.



In 2019 Belfast Harbour was named the best port of call in the UK and Ireland for cruise ships in the Cruise Critic Editors' Pick Awards.



Belfast ranked #19 out of 73 destinations worldwide by the GDS Index 2021.



Belfast was awarded the UNESCO City of Music title in 2021.





In 2019 Cruise Belfast opened the first dedicated cruise terminal on the island of Ireland. The purpose built facility can accommodate all vessels currently operating in the UK and Ireland region and the berth has been dredged to accommodate the next generation of ships, designed to carry over 6,000 passengers and crew.

The large site has ample space to ensure shore side activities run smoothly and benefits from a dedicated cruise visitor information centre, a large coach parking facility and space for shuttle buses and taxis.

The location of the new cruise facility provides quick access by coach transfer to the city centre as well as providing an easy link to the motorway network, meaning visitors enjoy seamless transition time to popular shore excursion destinations outside the city.

### Cruise terminal facilities include:

- · Cruise visitor information centre
- · Shore excursion coach parking
- Dedicated shuttle bus space
- Taxi rank
- Free Wifi
- · Destination showcase video wall
- · Gift shop
- Washroom facilities including disabled access WC
- Security desks
- Seating









# CRUISE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

An inspirational cruise welcome facility, staffed by Visit Belfast travel advisors, offering a range of services including free tourist information and advice, information on tours and events, free Wifi, a 9 screen video wall, self-service touch screens and a gift shop. Visit Belfast have a team of multilingual Travel Advisors who provide tourist information at the quayside and on board when required. Maps, brochures and discount vouchers are available as well as a daily events listing and shuttle bus timetable information. Further information can be found at the Visit Belfast Welcome Centre, our flagship information centre, located across from Belfast City Hall. Opening hours are extended to accommodate the visit of a cruise ship. Cruise Belfast can also organise musical entertainment at the port either to welcome the ship to Belfast or to bid a fond farewell.

# SHUTTLE BUS SERVICES

When a ship visits the city, Cruise Belfast can provide assistance booking shuttle bus services from the Port to the heart of the city centre, close to the Visit Belfast Welcome Centre on Donegall Square North.



# TITANIC BELFAST

learn more about the city's shipbuilding heritage.

The jewel in the Quarter's crown, however, is Titanic Belfast, which has welcomed more than six million visitors from over 145 countries since it opened in 2012. Voted World's Leading Tourist Attraction in 2016, this architectural triumph houses the world's largest Titanic visitor experience, featuring nine interpretive and interactive galleries that explore the sights, sounds, smells and stories of Titanic, as well as the city and people who made her.

# Maritime Mile

### **HMS CAROLINE**

Based in Belfast's famous Titanic Quarter, HMS Caroline is the last remaining Royal Navy battleship from the First World War, now restored as a must-see floating museum with an amazing story to tell. Be immersed in life aboard this unique ship – lone survivor of history's greatest naval engagement... the Battle of Jutland!

### THE GREAT LIGHT

This former lighthouse optic is a unique heritage object with significance to Belfast's economic industrial maritime past. Originally serving both Mew and Tory Island lighthouses, the optic is the largest of its kind ever constructed and dates back to 1887.

# **GLASS OF THRONES**

HMS Caroline

Find six Game of Thrones® stained glass windows dotted along the Maritime Mile, from AC Hotel past Titanic Studios to HMS Caroline. Take a stroll to rediscover the most iconic moments from the saga immortalised in stained glass.



## SS NOMADIC

Explore the restored last remaining White Star Line vessel and the biggest Titanic artefact in the world. Built by Harland and Wolff in 1911, SS Nomadic served as the tender ship for Titanic on her maiden voyage, carrying first and second class passengers from the port of Cherbourg to the ship. The vessel also served in World Wars I and II, as well as luxury liners Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth.





# **ROAD GAOL**

Uncover 150 years of history with a tour of Belfast's most infamous prison. The Gaol dates back to 1845 and closed its doors as a working prison in 1996. Built between 1843 and 1845, the County Gaol for Antrim was designed by the renowned architect Charles Lanyon. The black basalt rock building was modelled on London's Pentonville Prison. Visitors can now take the tour of this nineteenth century Grade 'A' listed building and experience life behind bars. During its time in service thousands of people were imprisoned, 17 people were executed, numerous escapes were undertaken and many infamous inmates were detained.





A FAREWELL DINNER

# QUEEN'S **UNIVERSITY**

Queen's University is the UK's ninth oldest university with a distinguished heritage and history. The Lanyon Building was designed by architect Sir Charles Lanyon and opened in 1849. The image of the Lanyon Building is used on tourist literature and on bank notes, and is one of the most recognisable symbols of the city of Belfast and Northern Ireland.

# **CLIFTON HOUSE**

One of Belfast's most historic buildings, a tour of this former poor house provides a unique insight into the development of the city through augmented reality.

# ST ANNE'S **CATHEDRAL**

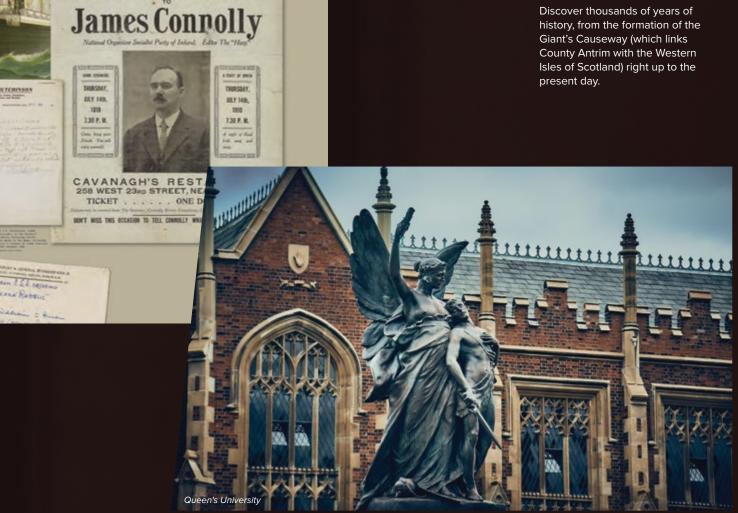
Romanesque in style with exquisite mosaics, carvings and stained glass. Visitors can take a self-guided tour of this stunning building to learn its history and hear about the people who helped shape this sacred site.

# **JAMES CONNOLLY CENTRE** ÁRAS UÍ **CHONGHAILE**

Tells the story of Connolly, exploring his role as a pioneer of the early trade union movement, and his travels throughout Britain and America. Learn of his key role in the Easter Rising, his subsequent court-martial, death sentence and execution.

# **DISCOVER ULSTER SCOTS CENTRE**

Discover thousands of years of



# HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE & GARDENS

Walk in the footsteps of peacemakers and presidents through the newly restored Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, Northern Ireland's only royal residence. The official home of the Royal Family in Northern Ireland since the 1920s, Hillsborough Castle has recently received more than £16m in investment by Historic Royal Palaces in an ambitious program to conserve and re-present the heritage and invite visitors to explore its many stories.

# ULSTER MUSEUM

As Northern Ireland's treasure house of the past and the present, the Ulster Museum tells the story of local people from earliest times to the present day and is home to a rich collection of art, history and natural sciences. Impressive galleries and interactive discovery zones offer something for everyone, from the simply curious to the enthusiast.





# Game of Thrones Studio Tour

The world's only official Game of Thrones Studio Tour, celebrating HBO's global hit television series, opened its doors in Northern Ireland in February 2022.

Located at the authentic filming location of Linen Mill Studios in Banbridge, County Down, the brand new 110,000-square-foot interactive experience reveals the world of Westeros like never before, giving fans and visitors the chance to explore the famous sets of King's Landing, Winterfell, Dragonstone, The Wall and beyond.

The Studio Tour showcases exquisite sets and the creative artistry behind many of the incredible costumes, props, weaponry and visual effects which brought the story of Game of Thrones® to life on screen.

The immersive experience brings visitors into The Seven Kingdoms, evoking the show's epic scale for fans of the show and all those interested in exploring the world behind the scenes of TV and film making.





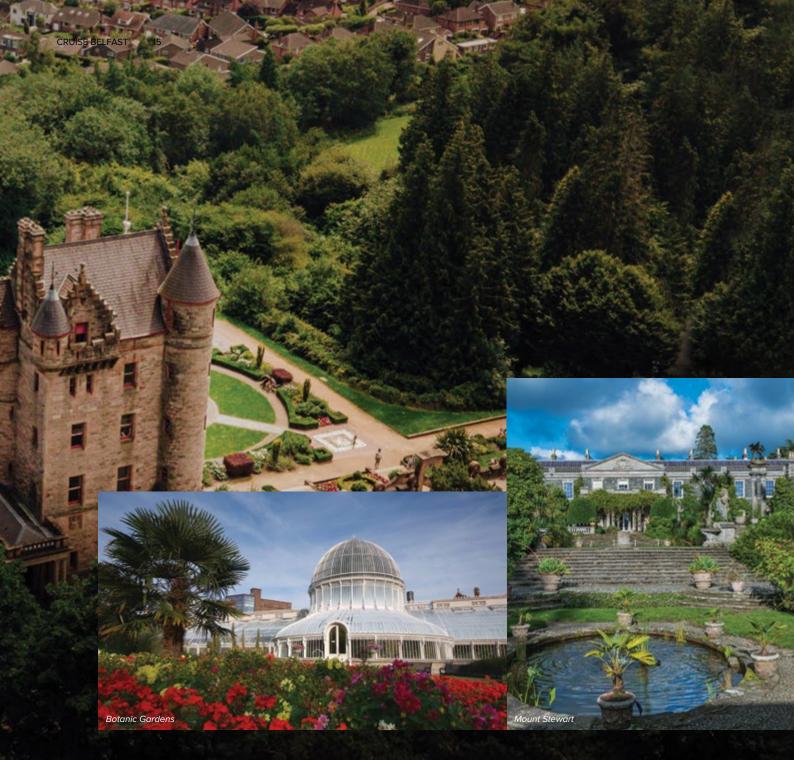








Belfast Castle's spectacular location and imposing architecture promise hours of family fun. Choose from the 2.4 mile Belfast Castle Estate trail, or be more adventurous and gain some of the best sights of Belfast on the 4.5 mile Cave Hill Country Park trail. The park has many natural and historical features including archaeological sites, ecotrails, walking and orienteering routes, and the landmark 'Napoleon's Nose' is said to have inspired Jonathan Swift's novel, Gulliver's Travels.



# BOTANIC GARDENS

Botanic Gardens was established in 1828 by the Belfast Botanic and Horticultural Society. Originally known as the Belfast Botanic Garden, the site contained exotic tree species and impressive plant collections from the southern hemisphere, many of which can still be seen in the park. It's also home to the Palm House and the Tropical Ravine.

# STORMONT ESTATE

In this 407 acre estate you will find the impressive Parliament Buildings, beautiful formal gardens, a children's adventure playground, statues, memorials and some fascinating WW2 sites, including the original barrage balloon anchors that held the balloons protecting the government buildings from bombings during the war.

# MOUNT STEWART

A stunning estate which has one of the most inspiring and unusual gardens in the National Trust's ownership and ranked as one of the top ten gardens in the world.

# Gauseway



A UNESCO World Heritage site, the Giant's Causeway is a magnificent, mysterious geological formation on the Causeway Coastal Route.











# TITANIC DISTILLERS

At the old site of the Titanic Dock and Pumphouse, explore the true home of the Titanic. Learn first-hand about the characters that have shaped and inspired the story behind Titanic Distillers Premium Irish Whiskey.

# HINCH DISTILLERY

Visitors to Hinch have the opportunity to see and learn about the distilling traditions on their guided tours. The distillery has been designed not only to produce world class whiskey and gin, but also to provide visitors with an up-close view of the whole process.

# COPELAND DISTILLERY

The Copeland Distillery is where the tales of old smugglers and savage ocean battles meet the shoreline of Donaghadee. It is here that Copeland produce their range of coastal inspired spirits that were born from the history and heritage of The Copeland Islands and the surrounding area.

# ECHLINVILLE DISTILLERY

Believed to be Ireland's only field-to-glass distillery, all Echlinville's new-fill spirit is distilled from barley grown on its land in the Ards Peninsula. A family-run distillery, who love to share their devotion to quality spirits with visitors from around the world, offer tours, tastings and special 'stay and distil' experiences.

# RADEMON ESTATE DISTILLERY

Take an exclusive prebooked tour and tasting experience, to unlock some of the secrets and skills that go into creating the local award winning Shortcross Gin. The head distiller will talk you through the fascinating process; from how they harvest local botanicals to labelling the finished product on site.

# TASTE AND TOUR

There are a number of tours in and around Belfast where you can taste and learn more about your favourite tipple. Take a Gin Jaunt around Belfast, visiting 5 of the best gin bars trying 7 very different gins, learning all about styles, garnishes, cocktails and more. The finest cocktails on offer have been selected to create a City Cocktail Circuit so you can enjoy the best handcrafted drinks and cocktail venues. The Crafty Beer & Street Eats tour lets you experience Belfast's best beer bars and street food venues with a resident beer expert or join a Whiskey Walk around Cathedral Quarter with an Irish Whiskey Expert.





# THE MURALS AND PUBLIC ART

Described as "the world's greatest open-air gallery", the murals in East and West Belfast are a must-see experience for visitors. Artworks range from Republican and Loyalist political statements to colourful celebrations of the city's famous sons and daughters. Check out the stunning street art scattered throughout the Cathedral Quarter and there are over 150 pieces of public art placed around the city to choose from. Pieces worth finding include: 'the Big Fish' on Donegall Quay, 'the Beacon of Hope' towering over the River Lagan, and Belfast's largest sculpture 'Rise' can be seen at the Broadway roundabout.

### **GALLERIES**

Belfast has an impressive array of gallery space, displaying everything from the most contemporary visual art in the Golden Thread Gallery and Belfast Exposed, to traditional printmaking techniques showcased in the Belfast Print Workshop. The Naughton Gallery at Queen's features a rolling programme of works from the University's own collection, touring exhibitions and shows by local and international artists.

# PERFORMING ARTS

Check out fantastic touring west end productions at the historic Grand Opera House (1895). Enjoy the tranquil river views as well as superb local productions at the stunning Lyric Theatre in the Queen's Quarter or enjoy a mixed programme of theatre, music, dance and visual art at the MAC in the Cathedral Quarter. The Ulster Hall (1862) in the Linen Quarter is home to the Ulster Orchestra as well as offering a programme full of all genres of music and comedy. The Waterfront Hall has stunning views and provides a fantastic programme offering concerts, comedy, theatre, ballet, dance and much more. In the Gaeltacht Quarter, Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich is an Irish language arts and cultural centre where you can experience traditional music, poetry readings, céilís, workshops and a children's arts programme.

## LITERARY SCENE

The Linen Hall Library is the oldest library in Belfast and the last subscribing library in Ireland, renowned for its unparalleled Irish and Local Studies Collection. Northern Ireland's Nobel Prizewinning poet, Seamus Heaney, is celebrated with an exhibition space and programme of literary events at HomePlace in Bellaghy.









From the political wall murals to the Giant's Causeway, the history of the Titanic to Game of Thrones® film locations, visitors find a variety of ways to explore more of Belfast and Northern Ireland.

# CITY TOURS

To get a general overview of everything the city has to offer, book a private guided taxi tour or open top bus tour. It's the ideal way to find out all about the city's history including visiting the famous political wall murals, the Peace Wall and other highlights in the Gaeltacht, Queens, Cathedral and Titanic Quarters.

# STREET ART TOURS

Belfast has become a place where street artists from across the world gather to produce their work. Spend just a few minutes in the city centre and you'll notice the walls - there is street art to be explored everywhere. Delve into this colourful world with the Google Map Street Art Guide, or take the Belfast Street Art Walking Tour to gain an entertaining insider's view to the art, the artists, the process, and the political and cultural history of the area.

# FOOD TOURS

Northern Ireland was awarded the Best Food Destination at the International Travel & Tourism Awards, so why not take a tour to sample some culinary delights! Enjoy a fun and food filled guided walk to some of the top food and drink hot spots around the city or take a trip to learn about the complex distilling process of our award-winning whiskeys and artisan gins or the brewing techniques of our local craft beers and ciders.

# BIKE TOURS

Take a bike tour around Belfast and discover a range of attractions and interesting points along the way, or create your own itinerary and hire a Belfast Bike from one of 40 docking stations located across the city centre.









# Unique Experiences

# BELFAST PUB EXPERIENCE

Located in a private bar this experience begins with a tasting session of local drinks including whiskey, gin, cider, beer and a local potato based vodka. Irish musicians, dancers and story tellers will bring 'The Belfast Story' to life through song and dance.

# COLIN GLEN

Just a short drive from Belfast city centre, Colin Glen is perfectly placed for a fun-filled, action-packed adventure. Choose from a range of fun activities including the Black Bull Run, Ireland's first Alpine Coaster and the Forest Flyover zipline.

# STADIUM TOURS

Indulge your curiosity with a behind the scenes tour of Kingspan Stadium, home of Ulster Rugby. Or relive the atmosphere of famous nights in Northern Ireland Football with a visit to Windsor Park.

# BELFAST TRADITIONAL MUSIC TRAIL

The Belfast Traditional Music Trail is a unique way to experience Irish music. With two professional musicians as your guides, you will be treated to a performance of traditional tunes, songs and stories.



Belfast is a great holiday destination with plenty of attractions for the young, and not so young, in the city and beyond. Go wild at Belfast Zoo with spectacular wildlife, fun feeding times and trails to follow, as well as panoramic views across Belfast. Get up close and cuddle the little animals at Ark Open Farms, visit Ireland's largest collection of native and exotic waterbirds at Castle Espie or view wildlife from all over the world at Belfast's Window on Wildlife. If prehistoric beasts are of more interest, head over to the Ulster Museum, with its interactive learning zones full of great activities to keep the kids happy. The Odyssey Pavilion provides some wet weather respite with a whole host of entertainment under one roof –find W5 discovery centre, bowling alleys, cinemas and, if the Belfast Giants are playing at home, end to-end ice hockey matches. Experience life under the sea at Exploris Aquarium, choose from trampolining, high ropes courses or indoor

skiing at We Are Vertigo or get your skates on at Dundonald Ice Bowl. Take a splash at the Let's Go Hydro inflatable water park or test your adventure golf skills at The Lost City. Then venture out of the city to enjoy a wealth of National Trust properties with glorious grounds and gardens to explore and plenty of family events on offer throughout the year.



### **DINING OUT**

Belfast is home to some of the most talented chefs in the world who have put the city on the culinary map. Great chefs, superb local produce and great value means Belfast has one of the tastiest food scenes in the UK or Ireland.

# MARKETS AND MORE

Belfast really is a foodie's delight. At the weekend, St George's Market oozes Victorian charm with some of the finest fresh produce and street food as well as local arts and crafts. Stop for brunch or soak up the atmosphere with great live music. Explore amazing delis with their extensive range of high quality local artisan products.

# COFFEE STOP

Belfast has a vibrant café culture. From local artisan roasters, to incredible independent coffee shops and top class baristas... you'll never be far away from a great handcrafted coffee or a boutique loose leaf blended tea.



# Shopping

With a huge variety of independent retailers, high street names, boutiques, speciality shops and traditional markets, you'll find it here in Belfast.

Find everything you could possibly need under one roof at either Victoria Square or Castle Court; discover all the high street names you can think of along Donegall Place and Royal Avenue or hunt out the city's unique craft shops, vintage stores, independent record shops and second hand books retailers. For chic designer boutiques and private art galleries, interspersed with delis, wine bars and cafés, you can make a day of it on the Lisburn Road.

### **VISITOR TIP**

If you're in the city at the weekend, don't miss the chance to browse stalls full of the finest fresh produce, local arts and crafts and delicious hot food at the charming Victorian St George's Market, which is open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



Cruise Belfast is a partnership formed between Belfast Harbour and Visit Belfast which promotes Belfast internationally as a leading destination for cruise ships visiting Northern Europe. Through the initiative at Cruise Belfast, cruise lines, excursions companies and shipping agents have a dedicated team to support them when they visit the city. This destination support, service and warm welcome has earned Belfast its position as one of the most popular cruise destinations in Europe.

More information on all the support available, as well as sample itineraries, can be found at

www.cruise-belfast.co.uk





### Steeped in history

The Port of Belfast can trace its origins back to 1613 and emerged as the most important port in Ulster in the early eighteenth century. In April 1912 it was also the location from which the RMS Titanic sailed, the world's largest and most luxurious ship at that point.

Belfast Harbour is Northern Ireland's largest port, handling 70% of the region's seaborne trade. This includes 80% of Northern Ireland's oil and petroleum imports and 1.5 million ferry passengers each year. Belfast Harbour is the largest cruise port in Northern Ireland with over 250,000 visitors each year. The Harbour Estate covers an area of 2,000 acres, representing 20% of the Belfast city area. Belfast Harbour has the longest deep-water quay in Ireland at 1 kilometre in length with a draught of 10.2 metres.

Since its formation, Belfast Harbour has developed and improved the Port, reclaiming land to accommodate new quays, developing new trades and adapting to changes in shipping and cargo handling technology giving us the efficient, modern facility that we have today. Belfast Harbour is linked directly to the M2 motorway, which leads north towards one of the world's most scenic drives along the Causeway Coast and Glens and onto the historic City of Derry, County Londonderry; south to St. Patrick's Country in Counties Down and Armagh; or west to the beautiful Fermanagh Lakelands.

# BELFAST HARBOUR INFORMATION



# D1 Deepwater berth

Maximum length: 450m Maximum beam: 50m Maximum draft: 11.0m

### Stormont Whart

Maximum length: 300m+ Maximum beam: 40m Maximum draft: 10.2m

# Pollock Dock

Maximum length: 200m Maximum beam: 35m Maximum draft: 8.5m

- Tugs: 24 hour availability, requirement depending on size and equipment
- Restrictions on arrival/departure times:
   Tidal only
- Range of Quay heights: 1.1 5.8 metres
- Difference between high and low tides:
   3.8 metres
- ETA to whom: Belfast VTS
- ETA contents: ETA to Fairway Buoy, Last Port, Max draught, Masters Name
- Pilotage Compulsory: Yes
- Pilot VHF: 12
- Position of pilot pickup: 'Fairways' Buoy
- Distance from Port: 6 miles
- · Pilot Working Hours: 24 Hours
- Prevailing Currents: 2 kts
- Winds: Prevailing SW
- Is fresh water available: Yes
- Number of Hoses: 2
- Tonnes per hour guaranteed: 12 tonnes
- Type of fitting: 10 tonnes
- Garbage and sewage: 4"
- Security personnel: Reception facilities available
- Passengers/crew inspection: Yes
- Tour buses at quay: Yes
- Tourist desk: Yes
- Shuttle service: on quayside/ship
- Taxis: Yes, 10 minutes to city centre

# USEFUL



### Port location

Ships dock at D1, Stormont Wharf or Pollock Dock, with each located less than 3 miles north or a ten minute drive from Belfast city centre.

### **Tourist Information**

Visit Belfast Welcome Centre 9 Donegall Square North Belfast BT1 5GB

+44 (0) 28 9024 6609 info@visitbelfast.com

October - May Mon - Sat: 9am - 5.30pm Sun: 11am - 4pm June - September Mon - Sat: 9am - 7pm Sun: 11am - 4pm

Tourist information & advice Tickets for tours & events Accommodation bookings Gift shop Free Wi-Fi Bureau de Change Left luggage



### Language

English

International Dialling Code 00 44 + area code (without 0) + local number

### Climate

The weather in Northern Ireland is traditionally changeable but mild. Although the summer months sometimes see periods of sunshine, at any time of year it is advisable to be prepared for rain.

### **Currency and Banking:**

British pound sterling (£). Larger stores accept Euro (€) notes and usually give change back in sterling. Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) dispense cash at hundreds of locations and credit cards are widely accepted.

### **Smoking**

A smoking ban has been implemented in all Northern Ireland's workplaces and enclosed public spaces, including pubs, cafés, shopping centres, restaurants, buses and trains.

### **Tipping**

It is now a generally accepted practice in restaurants to leave a gratuity of 10-15% for good service. Some restaurants may add on an obligatory 10 or 12.5% service charge on large group bookings.

### **Disability Access**

Belfast's buildings are more accessible to wheelchair users than ever. Shopmobility Belfast provides free wheelchairs and scooters to hire from CastleCourt and Victoria Square shopping centres and the Shopmobility office at 2 Queen Street, Belfast. For more details contact: +44 (0)28 9080 8090 or visit www.shopmobilitybelfast.co.uk





# Cruise Belfast

Cruise Belfast is a partnership formed between Belfast Harbour and Visit Belfast which promotes Belfast internationally as a leading destination for cruise ships visiting Northern Europe.

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