

# A weekend in Belfast an insider's guide to the best sights, tours, shops, food and bars.

Experience a Titanic city full of surprises and hidden gems. Soak up the lively atmosphere, stroll along fine Victorian streets, enjoy world-class visitor attractions and indulge in a cafe, restaurant and entertainment scene that can rival any city in Europe.

Belfast is quick and easy to get to, it's just 2 hours from Dublin by car, bus or train. Or if you're flying from Great Britain, you can travel to Belfast from around 20 different airports, with the London to Belfast flight taking just 1 hour and 20 minutes.

## Friday

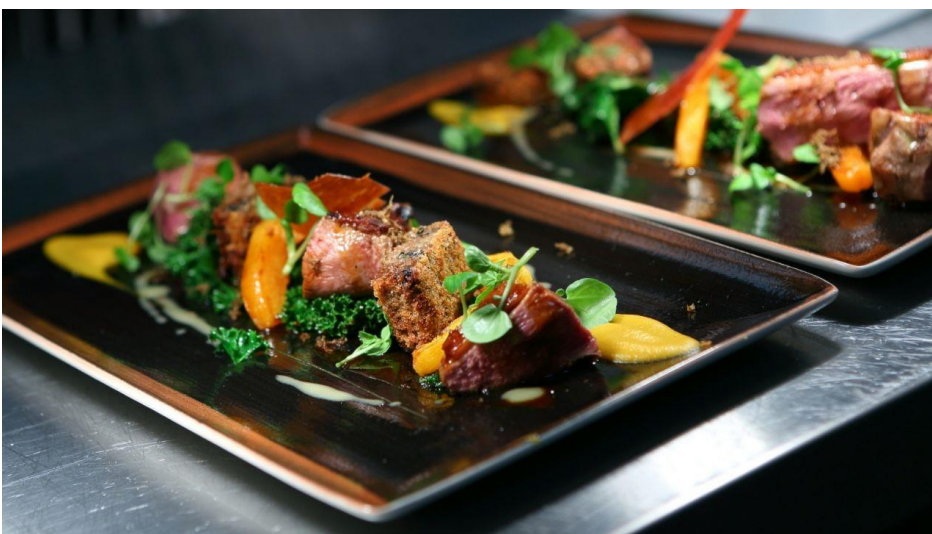


### 6.30pm - A Belfast Welcome

After settling into your hotel, dive straight into the city's night life with a pint at the Crown Liquor Saloon Bar.

Dating back to 1826, this glorious Victorian gin palace is a priceless gem with mosaic tiled floors, stained-glass windows and cosy snugs (private seating areas).

Enjoy an eclectic range of real ales and a generous helping of our famous Belfast hospitality.



Howard Street Restaurant

### 7.30pm - Dinner

Wherever you go in Belfast, you'll find fabulous food and drink.

It's a short walk from **The Crown Bar** to the award-winning Bar and Grill at **James St.** Located in an old linen mill, the restaurant takes its inspiration from the great steak houses of New York and French-inspired brasseries, and offers some of the best cooked steaks in the city. Other options for dinner include **Acton & Sons** and **Howard Street Restaurant**, both of which are located in an area dubbed Belfast's Linen Quarter. **Deanes Meat Locker**, as the name suggests, is a meat driven restaurant with a feature charcoal grill. Well worth a visit.



### 9.30pm - Rooftop Bars and Beer Gardens

Follow up with drinks at **Sweet Afton**, **Rita's** or **The Perch**, a garden inspired rooftop bar reached by an old service elevator. Listen to house music from their resident DJ or cosy up under blankets with a few cocktails.

## Saturday



Bullitt Hotel

### 9am – Breakfast

Start your morning with breakfast in the cool surroundings of the **Bullitt Hotel**.





## 10am - The Big Fish

Make your way to the River Lagan where you'll discover The Salmon of Knowledge, more commonly referred to as The Big Fish, which is decorated with printed ceramic tiles telling the story of Belfast. A favourite selfie spot, legend says if you kiss The Big Fish you'll gain all of its knowledge!



Titanic Belfast

## Titanic Quarter

Cross the Lagan Weir Footbridge to enter the Titanic Quarter. This area is steeped in the rich history and tradition of the city's shipbuilding heritage. The world's most famous ship was built in the city over 100 years ago. It took three years and 3,000 men to build RMS Titanic and, at the time of her launch, she was the largest man-made object on the planet.





### 10.30am - Titanic Belfast

Titanic Belfast is a must-see on any visit to Belfast. It features nine interactive galleries telling the tragic story of the world's most famous ship. From the history of the city and men who built her, to the tragedy of the ship sinking, you'll experience it all with original footage and interactive exhibits. Book online to avoid the queues.



### SS Nomadic

Don't forget, your Titanic Belfast ticket also includes entry to SS Nomadic, Titanic Belfast's little sister ship and the last remaining White Star Line vessel. Come on board and experience over 100 years of authentic maritime and social history.





## Lunch

In between tours, take a stroll over to The Dock Cafe for a bite to eat. It's the only honesty box cafe in Belfast, meaning that you only pay what you can afford. Find a table, a squashy sofa or a cosy corner to watch the world go by. Browse a huge range of local art and photography and dabble with a range of board games and jigsaws.



Victoria Square

## 3.30pm - Shopping

Heading back to the city centre, cross the Queen's Bridge where you'll spot Nuala with the Hoola, a sculpture officially known as the Beacon of Hope. Follow Ann Street to Victoria Square, Belfast's premier shopping centre, where you'll find four fabulous floors of gorgeous glamour and stunning styles, topped by an iconic dome with panoramic views across the city.





## 6pm - Cocktails

After a busy day of sightseeing and shopping, treat yourself to a cocktail at **The Ivory rooftop terrace**, situated at the top of Victoria Square. With an extensive cocktail list, choose a classic with a twist on the old favourites while relaxing on the terrace.

In the mood for something a little different? Indulge in a cocktail at **Revolucion de Cuba** on Arthur Street, the ultimate Cuban food, cocktail and fiesta experience.



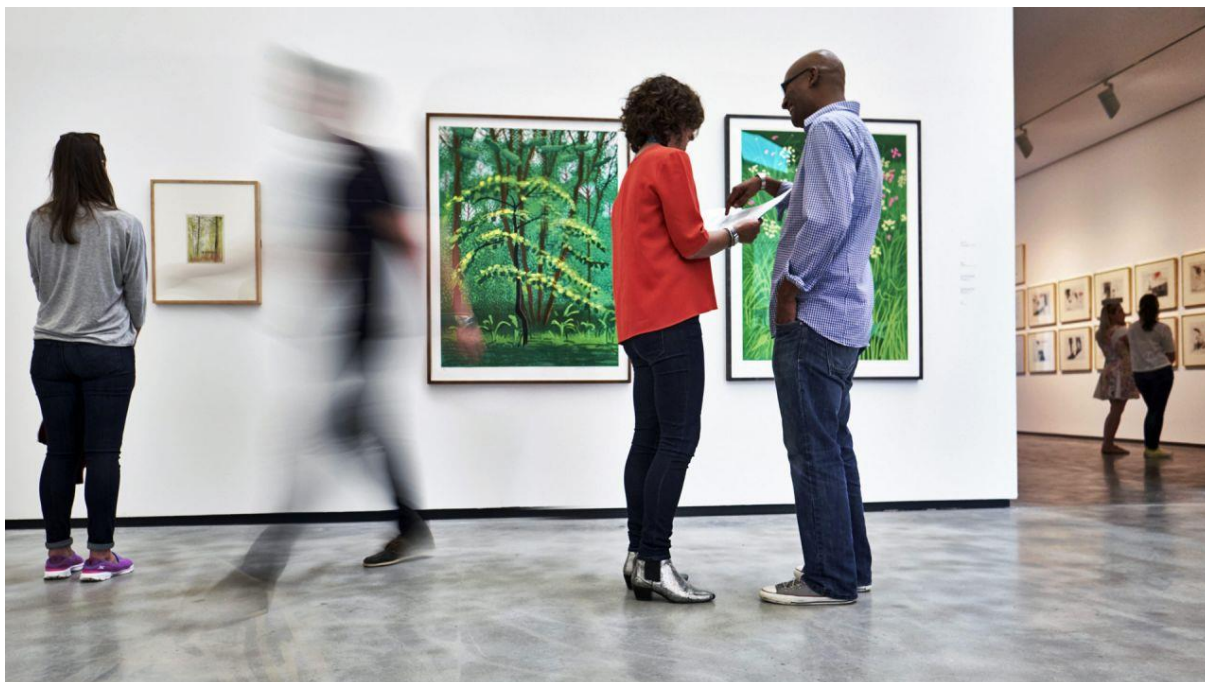
Coppi

## 7.30pm - Cathedral Quarter

The buzzing Cathedral Quarter is full of character and one of the most enjoyable places to hang out on a Saturday night, with a mixture of bars, restaurants, theatre and live music.

Tucked away in the historic back streets, The **Muddlers Club** is named after the secret society that met there over 200 years ago. It serves deceptively simple food, with an extensive cocktail list. Or opt for a tasty range of cicchetti (Italian style tapas) at the hugely popular **Coppi** in St Anne's Square.





## The MAC

Discover the best of local theatre and art at The MAC, or stroll along the cobbled streets and fairy light lined allies to find a lively bar and settle in for the night!



## 10pm - Nightlife

A few pub and bar suggestions include **The Duke of York**, which boasts a memorabilia filled bar where the crowds spill out onto Commercial Court during good weather, and **The Dirty Onion** which is situated in an old building with an exposed wooden frame and has live music seven nights a week.



# Sunday



## 10am - Breakfast

After a late night, wake up to a traditional Ulster Fry, an essential taste experience during your visit to Belfast. Visit St George's Market, a culinary and cultural adventure, with everything from fresh food to live music. For breakfast on the move, opt for a Belfast Bap filled with local bacon while you dander around the market stalls which are packed with handmade crafts, fresh food and antiques.



## 11.30am - Belfast City Hall

A five minute walk from St George's Market, you'll find the iconic Belfast City Hall. A prominent, copper topped building, it's hard to miss!

Take a free daily tour to learn about its fascinating history, architecture and surrounding gardens including the Titanic Memorial Garden.





## HMS Caroline

Or explore HMS Caroline, Belfast's very own floating museum at Alexandra Dock, and last surviving vessel from the World War One Battle of Jutland in 1916. Having undergone extensive restoration, the visitor experience enables visitors to discover a range of historic spaces including Captain Crookes' Cabin, the engine room, sick bay and galley kitchen.



## 2pm - Sightseeing Tour

Hop on a sightseeing bus or take a taxi tour to discover the hidden parts of the city. Tour tickets and advice are available from the Visit Belfast Welcome Centre, just opposite Belfast City Hall. Explore the political murals and peace wall, and see the thousands of names scrawled over every inch of the wall, described by the Independent's Travel Editor, Simon Calder as the world's greatest open air gallery. A hop-on, hop-off bus tour will take around 1 hour and 30 minutes if you don't get off at any of the stops and tickets are valid for 48 hours.





## **Crumlin Road Gaol**

It's well worth hopping off the bus at Crumlin Road Gaol, a 19th century prison which witnessed 150 years of imprisonment, conflict and executions before it closed its doors in 1996 and reopened as a visitor attraction. Discover what prison life was like and visit the condemned man's cell and execution room.



## **Stormont Parliament Buildings**

Other hop-on, hop-off bus stops include the historic Belfast Castle, Stormont Parliament Buildings and The Ulster Museum, Northern Ireland's treasure house of the past and present. All are free entry.

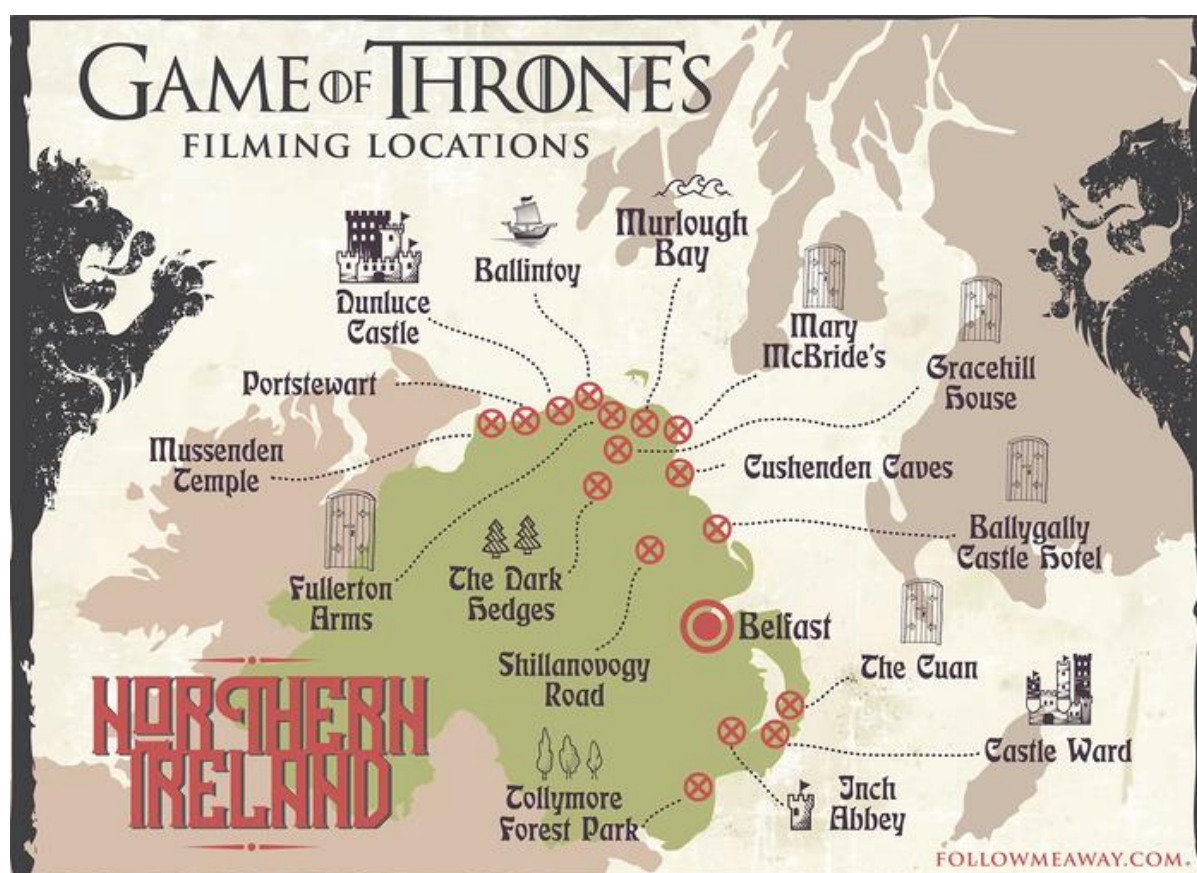




## 6pm - Dinner

Before saying farewell to Belfast, sit down to some of the most delicious seafood available at one of our speciality fish restaurants. **Love Fish** on Howard Street has a fresh seaside feel and a small plate menu so you can try the very finest prawns from Portavogie and mussels from Dundrum in County Down. Or opt for **Mourne Seafood**, a restaurant in the heart of the city, which harvests its shellfish from their very own shellfish beds.

## Other highlights include



Northern Ireland is the Home of Thrones. The popular TV series Game of Thrones® was filmed in Belfast and across Northern Ireland. Our rugged coast lines, historic castles and breathtaking scenery



are the perfect setting for this epic story. Get the full experience and explore the filming locations with a Game of Thrones tour.



## The CS Lewis Reading Room, QUB

The iconic CS Lewis Reading room is a serene reading space decorated with glass-engraved inscriptions from the Belfast author's works as well as a hand carved replica of the famous wardrobe door from the Chronicles of Narnia.