



Weekend in Belfast



Belfast at a Glance

- **Capital of Northern Ireland** – and its largest city, with around **340,000 people** in the city proper and over **670,000** in the wider urban area.
- **Location:** Nestled at the head of Belfast Lough (a sea inlet) and surrounded by low hills, which makes it both scenic and compact.
- **Name:** “Belfast” comes from the Irish *Béal Feirste*, meaning *mouth of the sandbank ford*.

History & Identity

- **Shipbuilding Heritage** – Belfast is world-famous as the birthplace of the RMS **Titanic** and many other great ships, built at the Harland & Wolff shipyards.
- **Industrial Powerhouse** – In the 19th and early 20th centuries it was known for linen production, rope-making, and engineering, earning the nickname “*Linenopolis*.”
- **The Troubles (late 1960s–1998)** – The city was deeply affected by conflict between unionist/loyalist and nationalist/republican communities. Today, peace walls, murals, and tours offer insight into that period.
- **Modern Renaissance** – Since the Good Friday Agreement (1998), Belfast has transformed into a vibrant, safe, and welcoming city with a buzzing arts, music, and food scene.

What It's Known For

- **Titanic Belfast** – The world-class visitor attraction telling the story of the Titanic.
- **Murals & Peace Walls** – Powerful street art reflecting Belfast's political and cultural history.
- **Music & Arts** – From traditional Irish sessions in pubs to venues like the Ulster Hall and MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre).
- **Green Spaces** – Botanic Gardens, Cave Hill Country Park (with sweeping views), and Ormeau Park.
- **Friendly Locals** – Belfast is often praised for its warmth, wit, and hospitality.



Food & Drink

- **Ulster Fry** – The ultimate cooked breakfast.
- **St George's Market** – A foodie hotspot with fresh produce, local crafts, and live music.
- **Pubs with Character** – **Kelly's Cellars** (dating back to 1720) and **The Crown Liquor Saloon** (ornate Victorian gin palace).
- **Modern Dining** – Belfast now has Michelin-starred restaurants, but also plenty of cozy, affordable cafés and pubs.



Practical Vibes

- **Walkable City:** The centre is compact—you can stroll between most sights.

- **Transport:** Glider buses, [Belfast Visitor Pass | Translink](#), **Must be purchased 5 days in advance** and Belfast Bikes make getting around easy. Must be purchased 5 days in advance
- **Weather:** Expect changeable skies—bring a light rain jacket even in summer!

Day 1 (Saturday)

Morning

- [♥ St George's Market](#) – Start your day at this beautifully preserved Victorian covered market. Open Fridays to Sundays, it's full of crafts, music, and hearty food stalls (like an Ulster fry bap for around £8!)
- [♥ Belfast City Hall](#) – Just a stroll away. Admire its grand architecture and take part in a **free guided tour**, then visit the adjacent [♥ The Titanic Memorial Garden](#)

Lunch

- Grab something cozy and affordable at one of the market's food vendors or nearby cafés like [♥ Established Coffee](#)

Afternoon

- [♥ Ulster Museum](#) & [♥ Botanic Gardens](#) – Both are free to enter. Wander the lush gardens and step inside the museum to explore natural science, art, and history exhibits
- Optional: Take a stroll through [♥ Queen's University Belfast](#) area and enjoy the **Botanic Gardens** in a relaxed vibe—locals love this spot

Evening

- [♥ Cathedral Quarter](#) & [♥ Belfast Entries](#) – Explore this vibrant district, full of street art, quirky cafés, and historic alleyways like Pottinger's Entry and Winecellar Entry. Have a drink or light bite in a local pub—resulting in charming atmosphere without high prices

Day 2 (Sunday)

Morning

[♥ Titanic Belfast](#) Ticket price £24.95

- **A Self-Guided Journey**
Titanic Belfast offers a self-paced tour through ten interactive galleries,



inviting visitors to engage with the sights, sounds, and stories behind the Titanic—from its conception and construction right here in Belfast, to its tragic maiden voyage and enduring legacy

- **Highlights Include:**

- **The Shipyard Ride**—a dynamic, mini-carousel-style journey through a scale model of the ship's rudder and slipways
- Galleries such as **Boomtown Belfast**, **The Launch**, **Myths & Legends**, **Titanic Beneath**, and more—each offering historical depth, interactive storytelling, and sensory immersion

- **Special Bonus: SS Nomadic**

Your Titanic Belfast ticket includes entry to the SS Nomadic—the only surviving White Star Line tender—where you can step aboard and explore its maritime history

- **Booking Tip:** It's best to book tickets online to save a few pounds and secure your preferred time slot.

- **Duration & Timing:** Allocate around 1.5–2.5 hours for the full experience, with last admission typically 1 hour 40 minutes before closing

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Lunch

- Head to **CS Lewis Square** to enjoy the Narnia-themed sculptures and soak in the literary vibe—free and fun
- Or explore the **Maritime Mile** a scenic riverside area rich in Titanic-era history and free to walk

Afternoon

- **Crumlin Road Gaol Visitor Attraction and Conference Centre** **HMS Caroline** at Titanic Quarter—both offer value for money with rich historical insight

Late Afternoon

- **Ormeau Park** – Relax and stretch your legs in Belfast's oldest public park, full of scenic paths and open space—perfect for a picnic or leisure stroll

Evening

- Treat yourselves to a memorable meal at **room2 Belfast hometer's** lounge or café—stylish, affordable, and includes two welcome drinks if you're staying there (still, consider just visiting for dinner if lodging elsewhere).

Or enjoy a local pub in the **☛ Cathedral Quarter**—like **☛ Kelly's Cellars** or **☛ Sunflower Public House**—for that authentic Belfast pub experience with soul but light on the wallet

Budget Tips & Highlights

- **Free Attractions:** Botanic Gardens, Ulster Museum, City Hall tours, CS Lewis Square, Maritime Mile, public parks, and walking tours
- **Local Flavors:** **☛ St George's Market** for hearty, affordable meals; pub snacks; casual café fare
- **Transportation:** Belfast is compact and highly walkable (most central spots are within 20 minutes). For longer trips, **☛ Belfast Bikes** (30-min free daily access) or purchase a **Belfast Visitor Pass | Translink** which gives you unlimited travel for 1, 2, or 3 consecutive days on Translink's Metro, Glider, NI Railways, and Ulsterbus services within the designated Belfast zone—plus discounts at top attractions and eateries.

Budget-Friendly Cafés in Belfast

Here are some lovely cafés that won't strain your budget:

- **☛ Neighbourhood Cafe**
A welcoming local favorite, ideal for warm brunches or a sweet treat and specialty coffee in a relaxed atmosphere.
- **☛ Causeway Cafe**
Open daily for breakfast, brunch, and lunch. Famous for a hearty Ulster fry, plus they offer free Wi-Fi—great for a cozy, satisfying stop.
- **☛ Established Coffee (Cathedral Quarter)**
A stylish café offering top-notch barista-level brews and tasty snacks. Handy location, and a local go-to.

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