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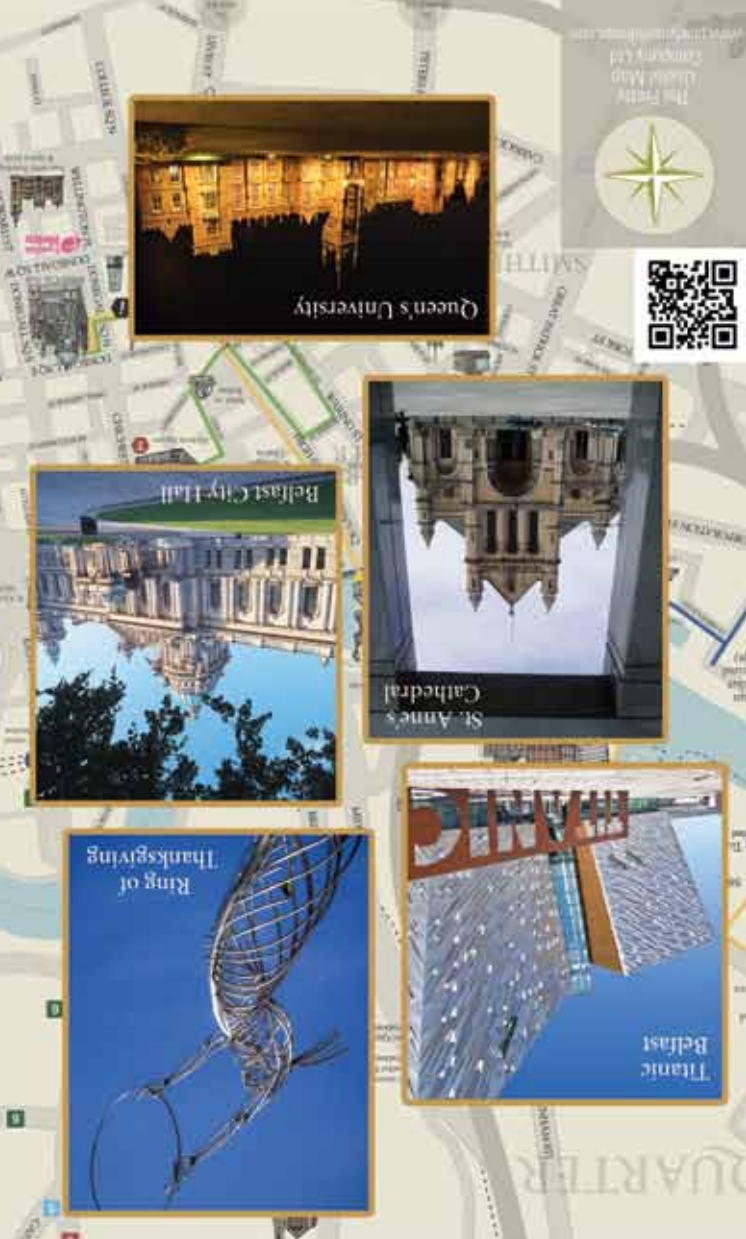
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St. Anne's Cathedral

St. Anne's Square



Exploring the City

Belfast's city centre and Quarters make finding your way around this compact streetscape a doddle. Here's our quick guide to the main areas and landmarks.

City Centre

Belfast City Hall (H6) opened in 1906 and is home to Belfast City Council. Its imposing dome dominates the city centre and statue-filled grounds provide refined outdoor space for locals and visitors. A cafe, exhibition and excellent free tours (all Mon-Sat) invite you inside and reveal yet more about its fascinating architecture and history. **Royal Avenue** stretches from its front gates and features the **Masts (G6)** which mark Belfast's maritime prowess.

Titanic Quarter

The world's most famous ship was built in East Belfast's Harland & Wolff shipyard. Titanic-inspired bus, boat and walking tours tell its tragic story (see **Tours & Attractions**). Opened in April 2012, the ship's centenary, **Titanic Belfast (C/D3)** visitor attraction rises to the ship's height and overlooks Titanic's Slipway. Nine interactive galleries and a shipyard ride recount the doomed liner's story. Titanic's tender **SS Nomadic (D3)** sits in neighbouring Hamilton Dock and opens for tours in late-2012. The 44ft dry dock of **Titanic's Dock & Pump-House (A1/2)** provides a wave-factor footprint of the mighty vessel. **HMS Caroline (B2)**, the last survivor of WW1's Battle of Jutland is moored nearby (but may be moving), and the iconic **Samson and Goliath cranes (C/D1)**, built in 1974 and 1969, loom large over the city. The **Odyssey Arena (E4)** hosts big gigs and the Belfast Giants ice hockey team, and its adjoining **Pavilion (E4)** houses restaurants, bars, clubs and family-friendly **W5 (E4)** Interactive Discovery Centre. You can trace your local roots at **PRONI (E3)** - the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

Queen's Quarter

This South Belfast neighbourhood is home to **Queen's University (K/L7)**. The main building opened in 1849 and was designed by Sir Charles Lanyon. Other work includes neighbouring **Botanic Gardens (L6/7)** and **Palm House (L6)**. **Ulster Museum (L7)** exhibits include an Egyptian mummy, the Spanish Armada's *Gróna* treasure and a History of Northern Ireland. Cafes, restaurants and bars are dotted throughout the Quarter, and shoppers should browse the stylish boutiques of nearby **Lisburn Road (from K8)**.

Cathedral Quarter

Named after **St. Anne's Cathedral (F6)**, this city centre Quarter is a vibrant hub for the arts, restaurants, nightlife, hotels and big city events. **Custom House (E5)**, **St. Anne's (E1/6)** and **Writer's Squares** (opp. St. Anne's Cathedral) often stage free events. The Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival, Festival of Fools, Belfast Children's Festival and St. Patrick's Day Parade are among the Quarter's annual shindigs. Opened in April 2012, **The MAC (E6)** - Metropolitan Arts Centre dominates St. Anne's Square and contains two theatres, three galleries and a cafe across its seven stories. The 113ft **Albert Clock (F6)** was completed in 1869 as a memorial to Queen Victoria's consort. Constructed on marsh land, it leans 4ft off the perpendicular and is known as Belfast's own Leaning Tower.

Smithfield & Union

The newest of Belfast's Quarters contains some of the city's oldest and most historic buildings including **Central Library (F7)**, **Smithfield Market (F7)** and the now abandoned Art Deco **Bank of Ireland (F7)**. The Quarter is also home to the Irish News and Belfast Telegraph newspapers and is the location for Belfast's clutch of Gay bars and clubs. **Titanic Pub & Kitchen (E7)** and the **Hudson Bar (F7)** are worth a visit (see **Food & Drink**). And other noteworthy buildings include **Clifton House** on Clifton Street, **St. Patrick's Church** on Donegal Street (both **E7**) and the **University of Ulster Art College** on York Street (**E6**). Plans to transform **Crumlin Road Gaol (D8)** into a restaurant, visitor attraction and whiskey distillery will ensure this northside district continues to grow in popularity. Until its opening, visitors can view this imposing prison and its facing Court House (now in a sorry state of disrepair) from bus or walking tours.

Shopping & Souvenirs

G5/6 House of Fraser, Victoria Square BT1 4QG (t. 0844 800 3705, www.houseoffraser.co.uk). This gleaming Victoria Square jewel opened in 2008 and is the House of Fraser group's largest-ever department store. Seven levels showcase top name men's and ladies fashion, beauty, homeware and childrenswear. Overseas visitors should check out about the VAT Free shopping scheme. The Oyster Bar, Caffè Nero and top floor ivory restaurant provide equally stylish dining. And two levels of car parking make retail runs a doddle. Entrances off Cornmarket and the corner of Chester and Victoria Streets.

F7 The Irish Linen and Gift Centre, 65 Royal Avenue BT1 1FE (t. 028 9031 4272, www.theirishlinenandgiftcentre.com). This friendly store's superb range of high quality Irish gifts and souvenirs includes Irish Linens, Galway Crystal, Belleek Pottery, Guinness merchandise and Titanic memorabilia (also at www.titanicstore.co.uk). Irish knitwear, jewellery, books and music are also available and Gift Parcels can be posted worldwide. Shoppers can save money with the VAT Free export scheme. Find it opposite CastleCourt Shopping Mall.

H5 St. George's Market, 12-20 East Bridge Street BT1 3NQ (www.belfastcity.gov.uk/stgeorgesmarket). Savour the delights of this award-winning covered Victorian market. Friday's Variety Market (6am-2pm) sells food, clothes, books, bric-a-brac and antiques. Saturday's City Food & Craft Market (9am-3pm) delights with local and international cuisine, crafts and live music. And the Sunday Market (10am-4pm) combines the two and attracts the usual large numbers of locals and visitors. A truly unmissable city shopping experience.

F7 Smithfield Market, Winetavern Street BT1 1JD (www.belfastcity.gov.uk/smithfield). An assorted collection of shops and shoppers ensures this market remains refreshingly unpretentious. Everything from collectibles and clothing to reptiles and rugs reaffirms its unforced charm, and the Irish Toy Soldier Museum is

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Gaeltacht Quarter

The name Belfast comes from the Gaelic *Béal Feirste* which roughly translates as 'the mouth of the sandbank'. Nowhere is this historical legacy more vibrant than along the **Falls Road (off G8)** where the Irish language has flourished, igniting a range of 21st century cultural experiences. Find out more in the **West Belfast** section and **Map**.

Other city highlights

Stormont Estate and Parliament Building (off F1) opened in 1932 and is home to the NI Assembly. Free tours (Mon-Fri) highlight its colourful story and the extensive public-access grounds provide fantastic city views.

Cave Hill and Belfast Castle (off A8) are North Belfast's architectural and outdoor jewels. Both provide exceptional views across the city, Belfast Lough and as far as Scotland on a clear day. The Castle serves food and drink and has landscaped gardens and a small exhibition. Cave Hill is one of several hills circling the city and its rocky peak, known locally as Napoleon's Nose, is said to resemble a sleeping giant and inspired Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*.

Public Transport Translink (t. 028 9066 6630, www.translink.co.uk) operates NI's public bus and rail systems.

Metro Bus: All main Belfast bus routes and departure points are marked on the map. **Metro Bus Day Tickets** allow unlimited travel. Buy your day ticket from the driver. Visit the **Metro Kiosk (H7)** near City Hall for more information.

NI Railways and Ulsterbus:
Great Victoria Street Rail Station/Europa Buscentre (H7) Express coaches to the North, West and South of NI, and Dublin.
Access to the NI rail network
Central Station (H4) Enterprise train to Dublin
Botanic Rail Station (J7) serves Queen's Quarter
Titanic Quarter Rail Station (F3) serves Titanic Quarter
Yorkgate Rail Station (C5) serves Cityside shopping and cinema complex
Laganaside Buscentre (F5) serves the East of NI

Self Guided Walks **Titanic, City of Merchants and Lagan Maritime Walking Trails** take in some of Belfast's most historic areas. Use the map to follow each trail, reading info panels along the way, many more of which are placed around the city to aid your urban narrative.

Food & Drink

The city's food and nightlife scene is the best it has ever been. New restaurants sit alongside old favourites, and many are award-winning and offering the best locally sourced produce. Here is a selection to get you started. Check ahead for opening hours.

H5 St. George's Market Bar & Grill, 1st Floor, St. George's Market, 119 May St BT1 4FG (t. 028 9024 0014, www.stgeorgesbargrill.com). Overlooking historic St. George's Market, the setting for this contemporary restaurant couldn't be more appropriate. Many ingredients used in its dishes are sourced from market traders, including dry aged Irish sirloin, roast north coast salmon and Portavogie tempura scampi. Stylish booths and balcony seating, with Fri & Sat market views, lend a sophisticated backdrop to your dining experience.

E/6 Salt Bistro, St. Anne's Square, Cathedral Quarter BT1 2LR (t. 028 9023 8012, www.saltbistrobelfast.com). This intimate dining space serves local provenance food in its chic yet casual surroundings. Light floods in from the triple aspect windows overlooking St. Anne's Cathedral and the eponymous Square - home to the MAC theatre and gallery. And the artistic theme is embraced with work by local artists adorning its white walls - and available to buy. Pre-theatre options and made to share mezze, seafood and anti pasti plates evoke that laid-back dining vibe.

Culture & Sport



always worth a gander. To lo cafe serves breakfast and lunch and keeps the punters coming back for more. Find it amid the equally eclectic Smithfield & Union shopping streets behind CastleCourt.

off H1 Aunt Sandra's Candy Factory, 60 Castlereagh Road BT5 5FP (t. 0282 9073 286, www.auntsandras.com). Candy fans of all ages love this sweetie emporium and ice cream parlour which specialises in bygone bonbons and handmade treats. Shamrock lollies, sticky Ulster Frys, old time fudge and chocolates of all descriptions populate the sugary shelves, and birthday parties and behind-the-scenes tours are a speciality. The team also sell their treats at St. George's Market and Victoria Square's Sunday Fayre.

G6 Co Couture, 7 Chichester Street BT1 4JA (m. 07888 899647, www.cocouture.co.uk). Serious chocolate lovers should head to this charming shop where owner and trained chocolatier Deirdre McCannay creates these award winning confections. The gluten free truffles and bars are handmade in small batches using only the very finest raw ingredients. Flavours range from Bushmills Whiskey to Biscuit and Cranberry and the presentation is as beautiful as the chocolates are delicious.

H6 The Steensons, Bedford House, Bedford Street BT2 7FD (t. 028 9024 8269, www.thesteensons.com). This family-owned jewellery shop oozes sophistication as befits its elegant bespoke and designer collections. Precious gems and metals are combined to create much sought after contemporary pieces. And the addition of other local and European jewellery makes this NI's largest gallery of its kind. You can also visit their workshop and visitor centre in Glenamoy on the Antrim Coast Road to discover how the exquisite pieces are made.

Accommodation

The city's hotel scene covers all budgets and desires, from **Guest Houses and B&Bs to Hostels and Self-Catering Apartments**. Three, Four and Five Star Hotels abound and offer fantastic last minute deals. And because the local tourism scene is relatively new, most overnight options are either equally new or recently revamped, so you can be assured of a top quality stay. Visit the **Belfast Welcome Centre's** excellent website for a full list and up-to-date rates - www.getotbelast.com.

J7 Belfast International Youth Hostel, 22 Donegal Road BT12 5JN (t. 028 9031 5435, www.bihn.org.uk). This 54 room Quater hotel is within walking distance of the city centre and the only one affiliated with Hostelling International. En-suite rooms, lift luggage, currency exchange and a cafe are all on-site. Book NI-wide tours and overnights at its sister hostels in Armagh, Enniskillen, Newcastle, Bushmills and White Park Bay. Dorms from £10.50pp. Check online for latest offers and packages.

Food & Drink



H7 The Bar + Grill at James Street South, 21 James Street South BT2 7GA (t. 028 9560 0700, www.belfastbargrill.co.uk). Created by the award-winning owners of adjoining James Street South restaurant, diners can expect the same local provenance and creative dishes at this laid back bistro. Steaks cooked to order on the charcoal grill channel a classic New York Steak House. And beautifully crafted starters, and pasta and risotto dishes served small or large keep the taste buds and budgets in check. Private dining and an on-site cookery school cater for all you city-bound epicureans.

F6 Hill Street Brasserie, 38 Hill Street, Cathedral Quarter BT1 2LB (t. 028 9586 6868, www.hillstreetbrasserie.com). Up this city cobbled street sits a stylish yet informal restaurant serving the best of local produce. The traditionally-inspired menu includes rump of lamb with roasted onion puree, baked hake with chorizo and fillet of beef with a herb crust. Lunch and Early Bird specials make for affordable dining in the extremely chic Cathedral Quarter.

E/6 The Potted Hen, St. Anne's Square, Cathedral Quarter BT1 2LR (t. 028 9023 4554, www.thepottedhen.co.uk). Interior iron columns, cream paneled walls and exposed ceiling duct work reflect this well-appointed restaurant's piazza abode. Slow cooked pork belly with Clonakilly black pudding and spiced monkfish fritters with skinny chips are among the locally-sourced meals. The atmosphere's as relaxed as the menu is inspired, and the relatively new restaurant has already garnered a local following of satisfied diners.

G7 City Picnic 16 Castle Street BT1 1HB (t. 028 9024 6122, www.citypicnic.co.uk). Opal fruit-coloured picnic benches, big metallic lights and shiny white tiles welcome you into this spacious corner store and cafe. It's a foodie fusion of globally-sourced take-out treats and dine-in bagels, burritos, subs and salads. Shakes, smoothies, ice cream and Sunday cupcake-making classes (check ahead) make it a hit with all the family.

C/D2 Crane View Kitchens, Queen's Road, Titanic Quarter (m. 07834 094149, www.tiv.tv). Experience an authentic dockers' lunch at this kitchen diner beneath the shadows of Harland & Wolff's cranes. As you enjoy Irish stew, milk and a Belfast bap, a real life shipyard worker regales with tales of derring-do from the city's maritime past. Pies, chips and platters are also served at the Docker's Lounge - with both eating options located in T13's shared cultural and urban sports space. Look for the big warehouse opposite Titanic Belfast visitor attraction and you've arrived.

E5 Fed & Watered, Obel Tower, 66 Donegal Quay BT1 3NL (t. 028 9023 1723, www.facebook.com/towerandwateredobel). Breakfast and lunch is served at this laid-back cafe at the Obel, Belfast's - and indeed Ireland's - tallest building. Soups, salads, sandwiches and a selection of hot food dishes keep those hunger pangis satiated before a riverside stroll, Titanic Boat Tour or walk to Titanic Quarter. Tea, coffee and pastries keep the sugar levels up - after all that sightseeing you deserve nothing less.

Culture & Sport

CULTURE
The MAC (E6), Grand Opera House (H7), Odyssey Arena (E4), Belfast Waterfront (G4/5), Ulster Hall (H7), Golden Thread Gallery (E6) and Lyric Theatre (off L5) are Belfast's main performance and arts spaces, and the **50th Belfast Festival at Queens** (19 Oct-4 Nov) its 2012 cultural highlight. The **Cathedral Quarter** boasts several smaller creative spaces, and the **Ulster Museum (L7)** has an excellent art gallery. The **Ulster Scots Agency** promotes Ulster Scots culture, language and history. Find out more about its work and events below.

E6 Golden Thread Gallery, 84-94 Great Patrick Street BT1 2LU (t. 028 9033 0920, www.goldenthreadgallery.co.uk). This free public gallery prides itself on providing a friendly and open creative space, with regularly changing exhibitions showcasing local and international contemporary art. A range of art books about the region and free guided gallery tours are also available. Look for the red brick building across from the Ramada Encore (and beside Beggs and Partners showroom) on the fringes of Cathedral Quarter. Open Tue-Fri 10.30am-5.30pm, Sat 10.30am-4pm.

SPORT

Aside from **Belfast Giants** ice hockey at the **Odyssey Arena (E4)** and **Ormeau Golf Club (L3)**, the city's main sports venues are off map, with **Ulster Rugby** playing at **Ravenhill (off L2)**, **NI International Football** at **Windsor Park (off L8)** and **Antrim GAA** at **Casement Park (off G8)**.

L3 Ormeau Golf Club, 50 Park Road BT7 2FX (t. 028 9064 0700, www.ormeaugolfclub.co.uk). Formed in 1893, this nine-hole course is one of the oldest golf clubs in Ireland and has an 18 hole par 68. Its mature parkland setting can claim 2011 US Open Champion Rory McIlroy, 1947 British Open Champion Fred Daly and Sherlock Holmes' creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle among its patrons. Visitor-friendly, centrally located and with views of Belfast's hills and the Harland & Wolff cranes, find it off the Ravenhill and Ormeau Roads.



G7 Mourne Seafood Bar, 34-36 Bank Street, BT1 1HL (t. 028 9024 8544, www.mourne seafood.com). We are, of course, an island race so expect only the finest fish at this exceptional restaurant. Uniquely in Ireland, all shellfish comes from the restaurant's own shellfish beds in Carlingford Lough. Oysters, mussels and cockles are menu faves at the main restaurant and upstairs Oyster Bar. Local brews, more marine morsels and a distinctly laid-back atmosphere keeps this gem at the top of its game. A cookery school continues the high culinary standard. Find it beside Kelly's Cellars pub off Royal Avenue.

G5/6 TGI Friday, Victoria Square BT1 4QG (t. 028 9024 9050, www.fridays.ie). This global American food and drink phenomenon encompasses a large corner of Victoria Square shopping centre. Its mammoth menu serves up burgers, steaks, wings and other US-themed dishes, with the Jack Daniels Grill range and huge cocktail list particular faves. Join families, friends and homesick Americans at this fun and colourful eating emporium.

E/6 House of Zen, 3 St Anne's Square, Cathedral Quarter BT1 2LR (t. 028 9027 8688, www.houseofzen.co.uk). Seductive and sophisticated, this new Chinese restaurant serves exotic dishes from across the country. Delicious dim sum and sliced fillet steak served on a sizzling plate are among the meticulously prepared and exquisitely presented food. Dark wood and jewel coloured lighting combine to create an opulent Oriental atmosphere. While freshly prepared cocktails, alcove seating and that pristine piazza location keep the mood convivial and the locals already flocking to it is door.

G5/6 Wagamama, Victoria Square BT1 4QG (t. 028 9023 6098, www.wagamama.ie). Cosy up in communal benches with fellow noodle fans and enjoy freshly prepared Japanese fare. So fresh, in fact, that you and your friends' dishes may arrive at different times. Informal and family friendly, the restaurant's super fast nose is served in minimalist chic surroundings. And with dishes as healthy as they are tasty, this Victoria Square eatery is always buzzing.

E/6 SQ Bar & Grill, St. Anne's Square, 20 Talbot Street BT1 2LD (t. 028 9026 1809, www.sqbarandgrill.co.uk). Situated in the Cathedral Quarter's Ramada Encore, this modern European restaurant reflects the hotel's minimalist decor and relaxed vibe. Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner as you overlook St. Anne's Square or cosy up in booted seating. Dishes such as Irish lamb, steaks, burgers and fish are locally sourced and served with a contemporary twist. We're talking chicken burgers in a chorizo and herb batter and cider braised pork belly with beetroot & apple crisps.

QR CODES These black & white squares link to additional information via our website and those of our advertisers. Simply visit your smartphone Market, search for 'QR Code scanner' and download a free App. Then select the App and scan the QR Code to link to the related pages. Genius.

TOURIST INFORMATION

G6 Belfast Welcome Centre, 47 Donegal Place BT1 5AD (t. 028 9024 6609, www.getotbelast.com). The official Tourist Information Centre's friendly staff can help with tourism enquiries, and book accommodation, tours and event tickets across Belfast and NI. A gift shop, bureau de change, internet access, lift luggage and plenty of free tourism literature are also available. Head up the escalator beside Boots the Chemist. Open Mon-Sat June-Sept: 9am-7pm, Oct-May: 9am-5.30pm, Sun Year Round: 11am-4pm.

TITANIC TOURS

F5 Titanic Boat Tours, dept. pontoon beside The Big Fish sculpture (t. 028 9033 0844, m. 07718 910423, www.jagantourismcompany.com). Navigate the lough where Titanic was launched and hear the ship's story from local experts. 1hr tours dept. April-Oct: daily 12.30pm, 2pm and 3.30pm and Oct-April: Sat & Sun 12.30pm and 2pm. A water taxi service, River Lagan trips, seasonal sailings to Carrickfergus Castle and boat party hire are also available. Combi tickets cover admission to **The Barge** maritime museum (G5). Check ahead to confirm tour times and prices. And visit the **Maritime Emporium (E5)** ticket office and gift shop at the Obel skyscraper. Titanic Tours £10, conc. £8, 2+2 £30, U4 free.

D3 Titanic Walking Tours, dept. outside Titanic Belfast visitor experience, Queen's Road, Titanic Quarter (m. 07546 489875, www.titanicwalk.com). Everything you've ever wanted to know about Titanic, and more, is revealed in these info-packed 90min tours. Explore the **Titanic Drawing Offices (D3)**, visit the Titanic Pump-House and stand at the bottom of the 44ft deep dry dock where the ship was fitted out. Titanic's Slipway and (if still in Belfast) HMS Caroline are also covered, and you can stop for food and gifts at the Pump-House cafe. Tours dept. daily 11am, 1pm and 3pm. £10, 10-16 £7, U10 £5, U5 free, 2+2 £28. Check ahead for off-season times and prices.

CITY & TITANIC BUS TOURS

See Belfast's main sights from these extremely popular Hop-On Hop-Off bus tours. Guides provide live commentaries as you glide through the Titanic Quarter, city centre, Shankill and Falls Roads and home via Queen's Quarter. Tours run every 30mins from 9.45am - 5pm. Tickets £10.50, conc. £10.50, U16 £6, U6 free, 2+3 £31 (vald 48hrs). Check ahead for winter times and prices.

G6 Belfast City Sightseeing Bus Tours, dept. Castle Place (t. 028 9032 1321, www.belfastcitysightseeing.com). Look for red buses with City Sightseeing livery.

G6 Titanic & City Tours, dept. Chichester Street (t. 028 9032 1912, www.titanicbustours.com). Look for the black buses with Titanic-inspired funnels and pot holes.

Belfast Photographic Tours (t. 028 9070 5525, m. 07791 052778, www.belfastphototours.co.uk). Capture the city by camera with guidance from a professional photographer. Tours can be tailor-made and equipment supplied.



Food & Drink

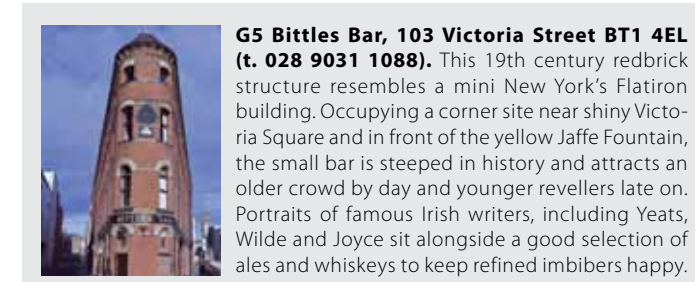


E7 Titanic Pub & Kitchen, 2-14 Little Donegal Street BT1 2JD (t. 028 9024 4855, www.titanicpubbelfast.com). This family-owned Smithfield & Union entertainment complex dates back to 1896 and once housed a company that provided Titanic's mattresses. Today the red brick and dark wood interior pays homage to the ship's Belfast roots with photos, stories and newspaper cuttings dotted throughout. Live weekend music, classy pub grub and expertly mixed cocktails - including the Titanic Cocktail - ensure a night to remember. Upstairs a suite of Snooker and Pool tables and beauty, tanning and nail treatments keep everyone entertained and looking good.

F7 Hudson Bar, 10-14 Gresham Street BT1 1JN (t. 028 9023 2322, www.hudsonbelfast.com). The sign 'Whiskey, Ales and Disco' perfectly embodies this stylishly retro venue. Opened in 2011, the bar instantly exudes a feeling of warm familiarity, from the vintage chic decor to in-the-know patrons. And by that we mean music lovers, arty students and drink aficionados - check out the Titanic and Danny Boy Whiskeys and great selection of brews. A great bar menu and themed music nights re-enforce this bar as a Smithfield & Union stalwart.

F/6 Monico Bars, 17 Lombard Street BT1 1RB (t. 028 9032 3211). Tiled floors, vintage mirrors and a strong sporting theme infuse this traditional city centre pub. The front bar is full of Belfast characters enraptured by the big screen action as they follow the day's bats. Daily drink specials and pub grub faves such as Irish stew and steak and peppered chicken keep shoppers and sightseers satiated. And the back lounge's live weekend music shores up the entertainment.

Danny Boy Whiskey (www.dannyboy.ie). When the pipes are calling savour this trio of award-winning Irish whiskeys. The 15 Year Old Malt has a fresh sweet flavour and comes in a limited batch of 2500 bottles. The dark golden brown Premium Blend is double distilled and infused with a toasty and vanilla aroma. And the Irish Whiskey Cream Liqueur combines a rich aroma of vanilla with a warm whiskey afterglow. Go online to discover more, and find the collection in local bars - including the Hudson Bar - and stores both locally and internationally.



Tours & Attractions

WALKING & SPECIALIST TOURS

G7 PLACE, 40 Fountain Street BT1 5EE (t. 028 9023 2524, www.placearchitecturetours.org). See Belfast's urban landscape in a new light as guides share its architectural stories and secrets. Themes range from Art Deco and Victorian Banks to Titanic, Churches and A City Shaped in Conflict. Tours dept. Sat & Sun at 11am (additional summer tours). Tickets £5pp. Visit the office beside the **Ulster Hall Library** (Belfast's oldest library) and also well worth a visit for more info on tours, exhibitions and talks. And check ahead for latest tour timetable, tickets and departure points.

BELFAST ZOO

Off A8, Antrim Road BT36 7PN (t. 028 9077 6277, www.belfastzoo.co.uk). This stunning Cave Hill setting houses over 1000 animals across 150 species. Animals include lions, giraffes, monkeys, elephants and penguins. International conservation and breeding projects are at its heart, with a Bird Park and Rainforest House adding to the wildlife experience. Cafes and a Zooenior Shop are also on-site. Open daily April-Sept 10am-7pm (last admission 5pm), Oct-March 10am-4pm (last admission 2.30pm). £10, 4-17 & 60+ £5, U4 free, 2+2 £27.

Gaeltacht Quarter

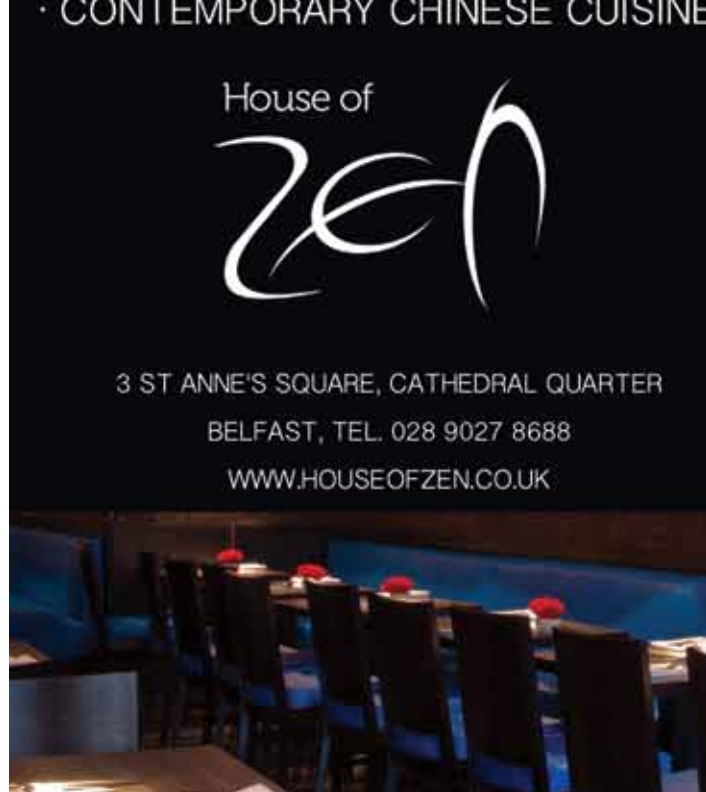


Recent political history dominates **West Belfast** and the **Gaeltacht Quarter**, and many overseas visitors are amazed at how close the Nationalist Falls and Unionist Shankill Roads are - a walk along connecting Lanark Way takes you to the Peace Wall. This Gaeltacht Quarter Map takes you on a journey along the main sights in and around the **Falls Road**. Until 2005 the top two floors of **Divis Tower (1)** were used for surveillance by the British Army. Coiste Political Tours leave from its base Mon-Sat 11am and Sun 2pm. **St. Peter's Cathedral (2)** was built in the Gothic Revival style and its twin spires can be seen across the city. The **International Wall (3)** is a constantly changing tableau of global conflicts and issues with particular support among the community. **Falls Remembrance Garden (4)** commemorates those who have died or been imprisoned for political reasons as far back as 1921. **Conway Mill (5)** is a 19th century linen mill and listed building now used as a community and arts hub. A cafe, craft shops and Irish Republican History Museum are located inside. The famous **Bobby Sands Mural (6)** is on the side of the Sinn Féin offices. **Clonard Monastery (7)** boasts magnificent mosaics

Food & Drink



CONTEMPORARY CHINESE CUISINE



Tours & Attractions

ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS & SPIRES MALL

H7, Fishwick Place, BT1 6DW (t. 028 9041 7200, www.assemblybuildings.co.uk). The corner of Great Victoria and Howard Streets is dominated by this imposing Gothic stone structure. Built in 1905 and HQ of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, 12 bells in its 40m high clock tower peal hymns throughout the day. The ground floor Spires Mall contains a small selection of shops and Spices Restaurant (open Mon-Sat 8.30am-5.30pm). Upstairs the magnificent Assembly Hall features a stained glass domed ceiling and is the largest space in the building's state-of-the-art Conference Centre.