

REGIONAL GUIDE

# Belfast



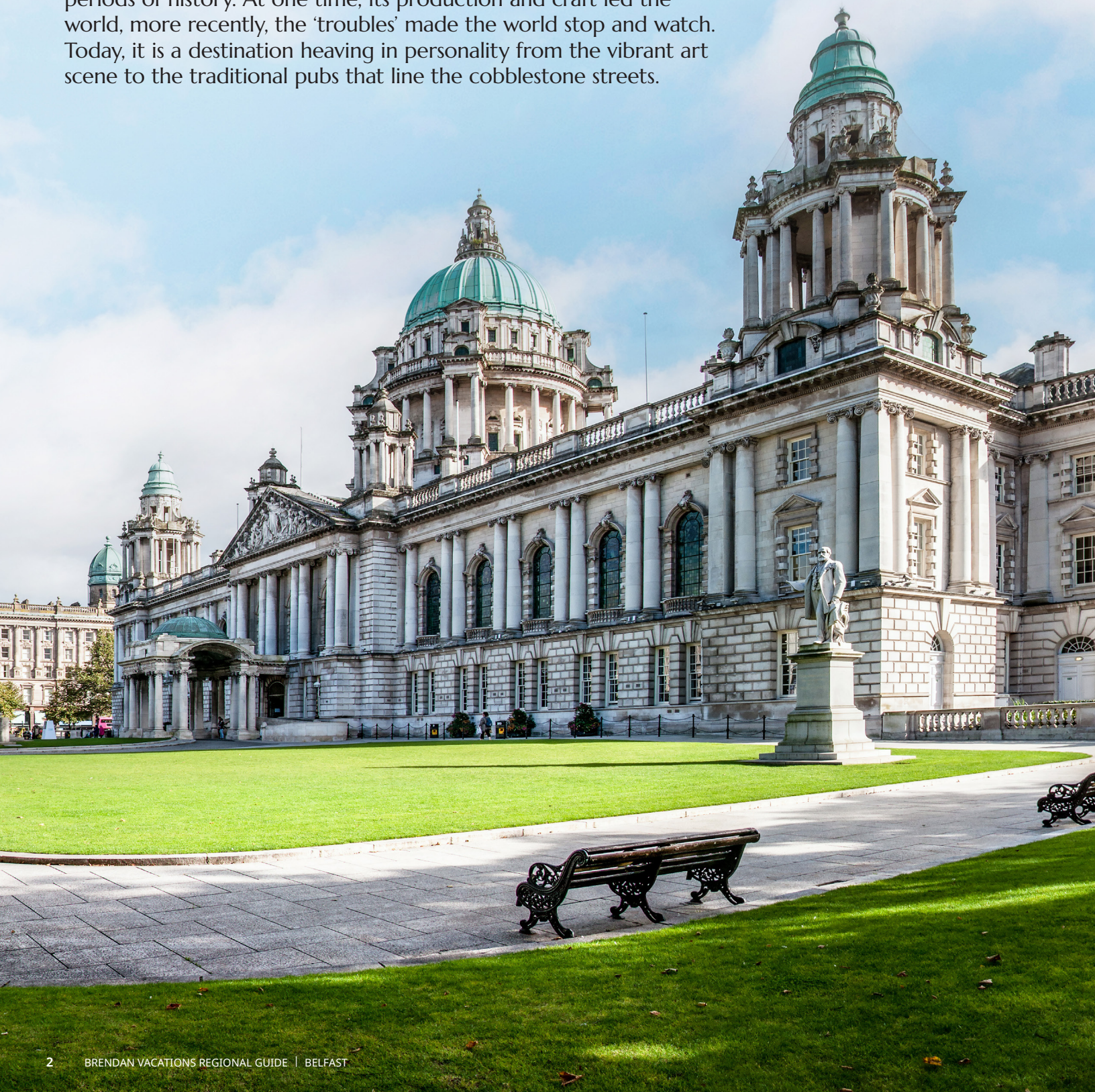
Your Celtic Story Starts Here



# Brilliant & Booming

Discover the best of Northern Ireland's thriving capital

Belfast's story is complex, colorful, poignant and proud. This city of titan-sized industries has evolved through immense and intense periods of history. At one time, its production and craft led the world, more recently, the 'troubles' made the world stop and watch. Today, it is a destination heaving in personality from the vibrant art scene to the traditional pubs that line the cobblestone streets.



## Walls that talk

Hop in a traditional black cab with an experienced, professional 'cabbie', a driver and local historian who will tell stories of the city, including the famed murals that showcase the often defiant and emotional expression of the locals.

©TourismIreland

“““

I get the opportunity to bring Belfast to life for our guests, whether it be telling them about the history of the city, taking them to see the beautiful buildings or showing them how warm the people of the city are. I take great pride in showing all the different ways Belfast is the center of the universe.

DEE MORGAN | LOCAL HOST, BELFAST

## Belfast City Tour with a Local Specialist

See the main attractions, discover hidden gems and learn the secrets and stories of the city from an enigmatic local who was born and raised there.

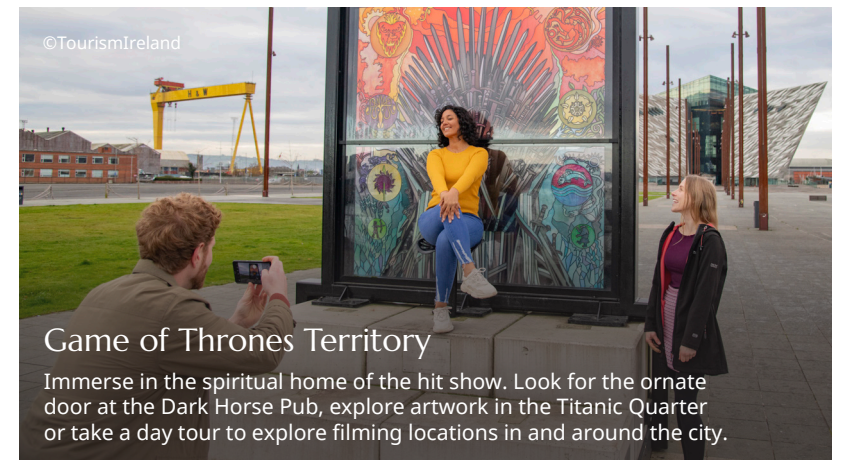


©TourismIreland

## Belfast Hop-on, Hop-off

The 'HOHO' bus is a great way to explore the city. Take in must-see stops such as HMS Caroline and St. George's Market.

*Individual attraction tickets not included*



©TourismIreland

## Game of Thrones Territory

Immerse in the spiritual home of the hit show. Look for the ornate door at the Dark Horse Pub, explore artwork in the Titanic Quarter or take a day tour to explore filming locations in and around the city.

Time it right

- Festive Markets  
Throughout December
- Autumn Fairs  
Late September
- Pride  
Last week of July



Ulster Museum

Located in the Botanic Gardens is a treasure trove of exhibitions featuring Irish art, history and natural science.

Free & fantastic

- Belfast City Hall
- Albert Clock
- The Big Fish statue
- Titanic Public Art
- CS Lewis Square





ACCOMMODATION SPOTLIGHT

# Grand Central Hotel

Transformed from an iconic office block, the Grand Central is an ode to the city that fuses grandeur and glamour with unique Belfast spirit.

From its sky-scraping Observatory on the 23rd floor to the modern luxury rooms, numerous restaurants and the impeccably designed lobby, this is an elevated stay quite literally from top to bottom.

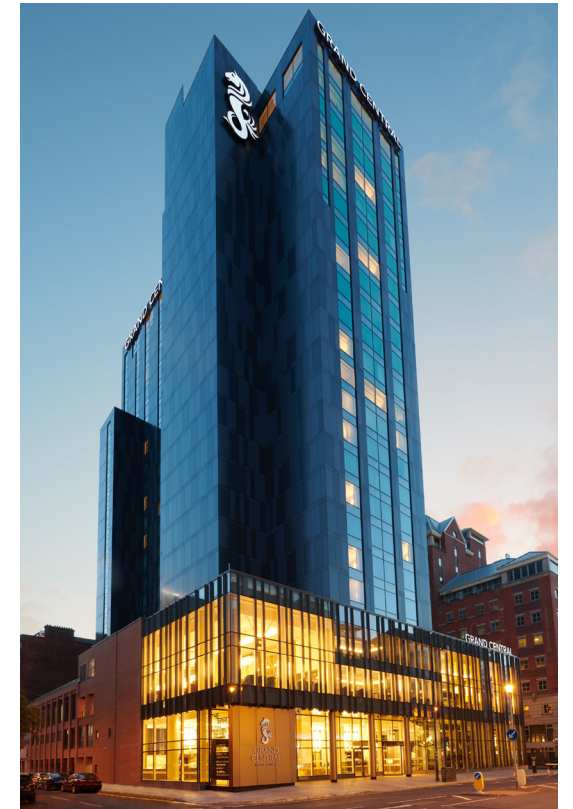
There are multiple choices for dining. There's the first floor Grand Café's airy brightness, perfect for starting your day with the expansive hotel breakfast options.

Going up, the second-floor Seahorse Restaurant has three distinctive spaces, each one offering a distinctively unique experience and refined details.

Finally, at the top is the Art Deco-themed Observatory Lounge with its famed 360° views of the Belfast skyline, perfect for cocktails or afternoon tea.

Located in the up-and-coming Linen Quarter, the hotel is a spectacular hub for exploring the Titanic Quarter's history or Cathedral Quarter's charming, cobbled streets and pubs.

Location, service, dining, views. The chic and shining 5-star Grand Central is simply the premier choice of stay in Belfast.





# Food & Drink

Where to sip, savor & *sláinte*

Don't sleep on the culinary scene in Belfast. From stalwart traditional stops to towering fine dining fare, there is no shortage of options to eat, treat and delight yourself.

If you're in search of classic fare, visit the **Titanic Hotel** on Queen's Road (located in the former offices of Harland & Wolfe). Enjoy modern cocktails, coffee and mid-day meals at the elegant Harland Bar or the Wolff Grill.

After elevated dining experiences? We'd recommend **The Muddlers Club** at 1 Warehouse Lane and **OX** at 1-3 Oxford Street for Michelin Star Dining and **Fish City**, known for its award-winning seafood at 33 Ann Street.

Must visit bars and pubs in Belfast start at the **Duke of York** pub, a quintessential Irish pub in the heart of the Cathedral quarter at 7-15 Commerical Court. **White's Tavern** at 2-4 Winecellar Entry is the oldest tavern in Belfast, established in 1630. **Bittles Bar** is a great central venue, located in the Belfast's iconic Flatiron Building at 70 Upper Church Lane. Lovingly restored by the National Trust, **The Crown Liquor Saloon** at 46 Great Victoria Street features 1820's structure and decor and is one of the most photographed spots in the entire city.



©TourismIreland



©TourismIreland



## John Long's Fish & Chips

It's hard to go wrong with fish and chips anywhere in the Celtic Isles, but in Belfast there's absolutely one way to do it right. John Long's is the oldest established fish & chip shop in the city, serving up their specialty for over 100 years. The word is definitely out on 'the best kept secret in Belfast' as it has been sought out by everyone from comedians, politicians, musicians and A-list actors such as Brendan Fraser and Sean Bean.







©TourismIreland

ACTIVITY SPOTLIGHT

# Titanic Belfast

The Titanic Belfast museum is a testament to both the golden age of seafaring travel and the city's storied shipbuilding past. Inside an immersive experience that explores the full history of the ship from its construction to ill-fated maiden voyage and aftermath.



©TourismIreland

## Handcrafted history

The infamous RMS Titanic's tragic legend is interwoven with the strength of Belfast's industrial might. The building of the ship started in 1909, resulting in a nine deck, 882-foot-long and 175-foot-tall ship, held together by three million rivets. Every single inch of the massive ship was assembled by hand, by a 14,000-person Belfast workforce (at the peak of the build).

## A moving monument

Standing at the same height of the ship itself and shaped like an industrial iceberg, the museum is composed of 9 interactive galleries over 8 floors, each providing an immersive experience that connects visitors with every aspect of the ship's fateful history. Learn details of what was the largest moving man-made object of its time and how this Olympic-class 'unsinkable' ocean liner met its tragic demise in 1912. Discover stories of Belfast locals who worked on the ship and accounts from the rediscovery in 1985 and subsequent exploration of the wreckage.



©TourismIreland



©TourismIreland



©TourismIreland



FROM THE EXPERTS

# 24 Hours in...

What to do if you only have one day in Belfast as recommended by one of our Celtic Experts.

“““

What would I do if I only had 24 hours to explore Belfast? It's one of my favourite cities in Ireland, so I'd plan my itinerary carefully because I want to make sure I experience all that this wonderful city has to offer.

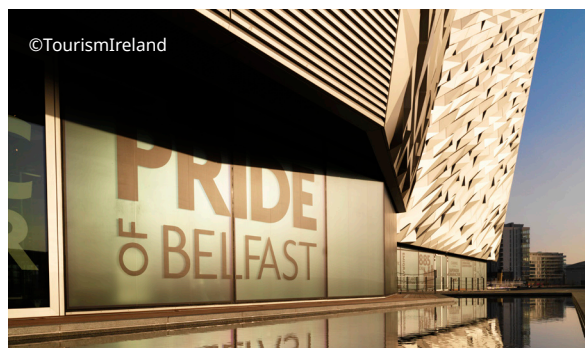
First, I would make sure to spend some time with one of the city's most knowledgeable and witty characters, Dee Morgan. She grew up in the city and has so much love for Belfast, it is impossible not to fall in love with the city too. She regales you with stories from her youth, which was during the height of the troubles, and explains how far the city and its people have come.



©TourismIreland

I'd then jump a famed black taxi to tour the outskirts of the city with a local guide. You'll hear about the sad history, but also about the unity and pride of the locals, and what's been accomplished here to recover.

After a spot of lunch, I'd head to the Titanic Quarter to marvel at the history of the legendary ship Titanic. You could easily spend hours here learning so much about the origins of the ship, the people who worked on it and indeed the people who sailed on it.



©TourismIreland

For the evening, I'd visit the Cathedral Quarter's pubs and restaurants, maybe a pre-dinner drink in the Dark Horse, then head to Stock Kitchen for a scrumptious dinner. If I'm still thirsty after dinner, I'd get a night cap in the Cloth Ear or head for some Irish trad music in the Duke of York.

EMMA POWER | CUSTOM TRAVEL SPECIALIST



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.



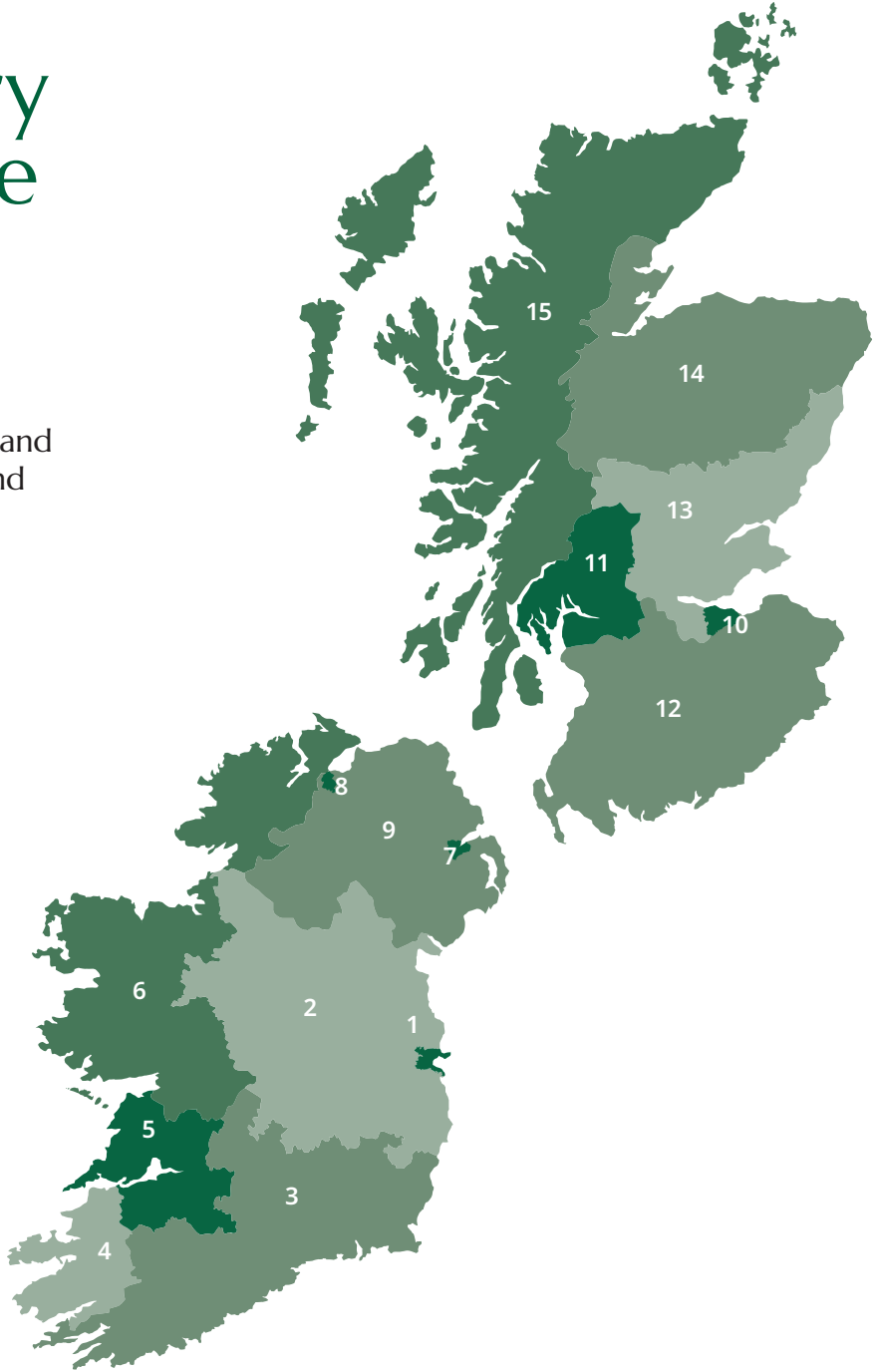


# Explore every corner of the Celtic Isles

Excitement, connection, history, romance and more than a little Celtic magic. Every region of Ireland & Scotland has it's own stories and we're here to help tell them.

Download more of our regional guides at [brendanvacations.com](http://brendanvacations.com)

1. Dublin
2. Dublin's Doorstep & the Hidden Heartlands
3. Cork & the Southeast
4. Killarney & the Southwest
5. Shannon Region
6. Galway & the West
7. Belfast
8. Derry~Londonderry
9. Northern Ireland's Causeway, Glens & Lakelands
10. Edinburgh
11. Glasgow & Loch Lomond
12. Scotland's South
13. Scotlands's Lowlands
14. Scotland's Highlands
15. Scotland's Highlands & Islands



FOLLOW OUR CELTIC STORIES | #MYBRENDANSTORY

 [brendanvacations](#)
 [brendanvacations](#)
 [brendanvacations](#) | Read our blog [The Gab](#)