




WELCOME

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a pink top and dark pants, is walking away from the camera down a paved path. The path is lined with tall, mature trees with thick, gnarled trunks and dense green foliage, creating a tunnel-like effect. The lighting is soft, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting. The path leads towards a bright area in the distance where a white car is visible. The overall mood is serene and mysterious.

The Dark  
Hedges, aka  
Game of  
Thrones®  
Kingsroad

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# Getting to/around NI and

## AIRPORTS

### Belfast International Airport

- LOCATION: 20 miles from Belfast
- DESTINATIONS: Europe/GB
- FLIGHT TIMES: Less than one hour to London Heathrow or Edinburgh

### George Best Belfast City Airport

- LOCATION: Three miles from Belfast city centre
- DESTINATIONS: Europe/GB
- FLIGHT TIMES: 65 minutes to London Heathrow

The Airporter offers a direct shuttle service from the two Belfast airports to Derry-Londonderry

### City of Derry Airport

- LOCATION: 7.5 miles from Derry-Londonderry
- DESTINATIONS: Major GB cities, including London and Glasgow
- FLIGHT TIMES: 85 minutes to London



# key 'Must Visit' locations



## PORTS

### Belfast

- LOCATION: *Central Belfast*
- DESTINATIONS: *England, Scotland and the Isle of Man*
- FERRY TIMES: *82 minutes to Cairnryan, Scotland or eight hours to Birkenhead, Liverpool (choice of day/night sailings)*

### Foyle

- LOCATION: *Derry - Londonderry*
- Key marine gateway to the North West of Ireland for both commerce and cruise tourism

### Larne

- LOCATION: *24 miles from Belfast*
- DESTINATIONS: *Scotland*
- FERRY TIMES: *Two hours to Cairnryan, Scotland (sailing up to seven times a day)*

## TRAIN

### Belfast Lanyon Place

- LOCATION: *Central Belfast*
- DESTINATIONS: *Dublin and locations throughout Northern Ireland*
- TRAIN TIMES: *Less than two hours to Dublin City Centre*

# Did you know?

## 1.89m

Northern Ireland has a population of 1.89 million people and its capital city Belfast has a population of 343,000.



*The Titanic Belfast Experience* was named the 'World's Leading Tourist Attraction' at The World Travel Awards 2016.

In 2018, Lonely Planet named Belfast and the *Causeway Coastal Route* the best region to visit in the world. In addition, Lonely Planet co-founder *Maureen Wheeler* was born in Belfast.

Smash hit TV show *Game of Thrones®* was filmed all over Northern Ireland, and you can take a tour of most of the locations. *Castle Ward* became Winterfell and the *Dark Hedges* became the Kingsroad, to name just a couple.



Milk of Magnesia, the portable defibrillator, pneumatic tyres, aeroplane ejector seat, and hot chocolate were all invented in Northern Ireland. *The Royal Victoria Hospital* in Belfast (built 1906) was also the first 'air-conditioned building in the world.'

Belfast is an hour away from some of Europe's most beautiful scenery, including the *Unesco World Heritage Site* Giant's Causeway and The Mountains of Mourne.



Belfast's iconic *Samson and Goliath* cranes are the biggest free-standing cranes in the world. Samson stands at

## 106m

*Derry* is Ireland's only completed walled city, renowned as one of the finest walled cities in Europe.





# Global leaders

**N**orthern Ireland is a powerhouse of innovation and talent. It's home to two world-class universities, Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and Ulster University (UU) and has one of the fastest-growing knowledge economies in the world. Northern Ireland companies, universities and research institutes are at the forefront of solving complex global challenges across industries such as health, technology, cybersecurity and food safety. In this section, the focus is on nine specific business sectors in which Northern Ireland is among the global leaders.

## CYBERSECURITY

Northern Ireland is the No.1 investment location globally for US cybersecurity development projects, attracted by the hard-to-find skill

sets being developed at

QUB and UU, as well

as renowned cyber

courses within

local colleges.

The region

offers world-

class talent,

tech research

excellence and

highly competitive

costs including

attractive research

and development

(R&D) incentives. The cyber

start-up and SME tech community

is thriving, with talent incubation

programmes, as well as nurturing a

highly developed entrepreneurial

collective and networking scene.

### Did you know?

The Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT) at QUB is the UK's Innovation and Knowledge Centre (IKC) for cybersecurity, and the UK's largest cybersecurity-focused university technology research, development and innovation centre.



## MEDICAL, LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

These thriving areas benefit from a strong collaborative approach between industry, academia and clinicians. Expertise includes precision medicine with focused research centres and education facilities. Here's some more detail on three sub-sectors in particular:

### Nursing and midwifery

Health and social care in Northern Ireland is going through significant change, moving care delivery from predominantly hospital-based to community settings and closer to the patient or client's own home or in their home. Nursing and midwifery are key to this.

### Oncology

With world-renowned labs and institutes and highly-skilled scientists and researchers, Northern Ireland is a leader in cancer care and



#### Did you know?

Californian company CV6 Therapeutics is present in Belfast to work on a highly innovative project to develop a new, more effective chemotherapy drug.



research through clinical trials.

UU and QUB offer a critical mass of globally competitive research expertise with both universities ranking among the top 10 in the UK for biosciences research.

### Pharmaceuticals and biomedical

Northern Ireland's pharmaceutical sector has spearheaded biomedical research developments in cancer, cardiovascular disease and cystic fibrosis. Over 250 local and international businesses have helped establish this sector's innovative reputation.







### Did you know?

Local company Sixteen South has earned over 50 major international awards including the prestigious Broadcast Award for its children's animation series "Lily's Driftwood Bay", shown in over 125 countries.



## CREATIVE AND DIGITAL

World-class facilities, state-of-the-art tech and access to a highly-skilled talent pool mean global recognition as an important production centre for film and TV.

Much of HBO's epic fantasy television series Game of Thrones® was filmed in Northern Ireland from its pilot episode in 2010 to the final series broadcast in 2019.

Companies such as Netflix, Universal Pictures, SYFY, BBC and Disney have also chosen the region for recent productions, while Belfast has also recently approved planning for its third film studio at Belfast Harbour. In addition, a flourishing animation sector is supported by specialised graduate and undergraduate courses in computer animation for games, VFX, feature and TV animation.

## ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND ENGINEERING

Northern Ireland has a rich engineering legacy, including being the location of the world's greatest shipbuilders at Harland and Wolff.

Its experience also spans across aerospace and defence, automotive, construction, materials handling, electronics and consumer products.

The region has an enviable reputation for its strengths in plastics and polymers, composites design and manufacturing, power generation, specialist joinery and fit-out (including marine) and off-site/modular construction solutions, to name but a few.

From speakers, sponsors, exhibitors and local organising committee members, to access to world-renowned factories and research centres, Northern Ireland is the obvious choice for conference organisers.



### Did you know?

One in five of the world's computer hard drives have parts made in Northern Ireland.



## FINANCIAL, LEGAL & BUSINESS SERVICES

### Financial

A host of global financial services institutions including Citi, CME Group, Visa, Vela and TP ICAP and a dynamic cluster of home-grown entrepreneurs such as First Derivatives, Datactics and FSCOM thrive in a supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem. This growth has been fuelled by a combination of world-class talent, highly competitive operating costs and research excellence in a low-risk, pro-business environment. Three of the 'Big Four' accountancy houses have also located their UK delivery centres in Belfast, providing client-facing services from the capital.

### Legal

For professional and legal services, the region offers a ready pool of culturally-compatible, highly educated talent. There

#### Did you know?

Northern Ireland is home to both Deloitte and PwC's largest UK offices outside London.



is a strong partnership between the economic development agency, businesses and universities, leading to success in attracting talent and international investors.

### Business

The region has a high quality, skilled workforce with proven experience in delivering business services to UK, European and US clients.

The sector includes contact centres, IT services, facilities management, recruitment services and business to business services.

## AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE

You'll find a dynamic, rapidly growing international aerospace industry rich in knowledge, skills and experience – in fact, the

world's first aircraft manufacturer Short Brothers plc

was based in Belfast.

There's a resilient supply chain with expertise in

key technologies including advanced metal forming; precision machining; aircraft seating and interiors; design and stress modelling; and tooling design and manufacturing.

#### Did you know?

Northern Ireland aerospace is a £1.9bn industry; it's globally the second largest aerospace nation after the USA, with over 100 firms employing over 10,000 people.





### Did you know?

Food and drink from Northern Ireland is exported to over 70 countries and enjoyed by customers in top hotels and Michelin starred high-end restaurants.



Airbus, Boeing, Spirit AeroSystems Belfast, Embraer, BAE Systems and GKN Aerospace are among the original equipment manufacturers and tier one firms currently working with aerospace companies based here.

### AGRI-FOOD

With fertile countryside, passionate farmers and award-winning, enterprising producers, it is no surprise that Northern Ireland is a leader in food security research and traceability, with a global glowing reputation for food safety.

It's home to many centres of excellence undertaking industrially relevant research and channelling university expertise into the development of sophisticated products and processes.

At QUB, pioneering research is carried out at The Institute for Global Food Security, a centre which advises the UK and other governments on food safety. While over at UU's Nutrition Innovation Centre for Food and Health (NICHE), they are working to understand the links between diet, human development and disease.

## TECHNOLOGY

More than 1,200 companies, including 100 global technology leaders, have established business operations in Northern Ireland.

Innovative start-ups are creating technology solutions of global significance from the region and international investors include major financial institutions and world-class cybersecurity leaders.

Northern Ireland is home to two world-renowned universities, Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and Ulster University (UU) that specialise in research across a range of disciplines including eight clusters: Core data science, cybersecurity, hardware, the internet of things, medicine, robotics, economy and multimedia analytics. The country also has the highest percentage of qualified IT professionals in the UK and Ireland, which makes it a hot spot for attendees, inspiring speakers and potential sponsors for technology related conferences and events.



### Did you know?

Northern Ireland is the number one global destination for financial technology (fintech) investment.



## GREEN ECONOMY

Belfast is fast becoming a zero-emissions, climate resilient economy, while Northern Ireland's engineering, technological and construction expertise makes it an ideal location for businesses focusing on the renewables and energy sector.

It has a great location as a deep-water, non-tidal base to serve offshore energy projects in the Irish and Atlantic Seas. The country is also emerging as a region of excellence in biofuels with a range of innovative design, manufacturing, installation, operation and maintenance companies within several sub-sectors including anaerobic digestion, biomass & bio-storage.



### Did you know?

Visit Belfast will become a certified, sustainable DMO by 2022, aligned with The Belfast Resilience Strategy and the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

# Visit Belfast

**B**elfast is a vibrant, welcoming and easy to reach city that offers a wonderful array of conference venues, accommodation and experiences. The city is also very walkable with all of the six key areas, from the famous Titanic Quarter to the leafy Queens Quarter, situated close to one another.

Our friendly and helpful team offers free and impartial advice on all aspects of arranging business events in the region. We provide a range of support, including:

- Flexible financial support (subvention)
- Venue searching and preparation of proposals
- Funded site visits / FAM trips
- Account manager to assist in event planning
  - Destination marketing support
- Hybrid events support
- Accommodation advice
- Introduction to

partner PCO & DMCs and event management companies

- Ideas for social programmes
- Securing in-kind support such as civic hospitality, special offers & discounts for delegates
- Advice on extender and partner programmes, as well as tourist information and welcome desks at the airports and your conference.

Our team can also source a local business, academic or medical leader who can act as an ambassador within your sector to support your meeting in the city. And we offer advice on local organisations that may be interested in partnering with you to support delegate attendance, exhibition and sponsorship.



 [meetbelfast.com](http://meetbelfast.com)  
[conference@visitbelfast.com](mailto:conference@visitbelfast.com)



## ICC Belfast

**I**CC Belfast is Northern Ireland's only purpose-built international convention centre and contains over 7,000sqm of event space.

Our team has 20 years' experience of hosting national and international events for associations and corporate clients, including The Royal College of Nursing and AstraZeneca. Our dedicated, expert event professionals work in partnership with clients, taking on your objectives and making recommendations to raise events to the next level.

ICC Belfast can bring any atmosphere to life through the clever use of LED stage lighting, a full PA system, 4K broadcast cameras and radio microphones. Recent innovation and investment mean the venue now has the technical infrastructure to easily host truly hybrid events.

Conferences, product launches, award ceremonies and more can all incorporate a virtual element to ensure your reach extends globally.

Our event technology platform is fully customisable, offering the flexibility to communicate key messages that can be branded. Engagement and interaction can be measured and encouraged also through polls, Q&A sessions and the option for on-demand content.

We pride ourselves on creating bespoke, seamless event journeys and strive to offer a citywide event experience like no other.

 [iccbelfast.com](http://iccbelfast.com)

*WHERE: 2 Lanyon Place, central Belfast*  
*EVENT SPACE: 7,000sqm – Main Auditorium, Halls 1 & 2 and Riverside Foyer are the largest spaces*

*CAPACITY: Up to 5,000 delegates*



# Back to nature

## LOUGH NEAGH'S STORIES

[facebook.com/loughneaghstories](https://www.facebook.com/loughneaghstories)

WHERE: *Lough Neagh (30 mins from Belfast)*

This experience offers history and heritage trips by boat and land. You'll learn about the working lives of traditional Lough Neagh fisher people, and the importance of the entire Lough Neagh ecosystem.

Your captain, who has over 30 years' experience working in these waters, will explain his typical working day and the traditional, sustainable fishing methods used.

## PADDLE WITH PURPOSE

[strangfordloughactivitycentre.com](https://www.strangfordloughactivitycentre.com)

WHERE: *Killinchy, County Down (30 mins from Belfast)*

Strangford Lough is an area of outstanding beauty, which hosts more than 2,000 species of wildlife. You'll take to the water in a canoe,

with an expert guide highlighting the damage being caused to wildlife and habitats along our rivers and coastlines by litter and plastic.

You'll then explore the islands respectfully, collecting rubbish en-route to help keep the beach and island clean, ending with toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate.



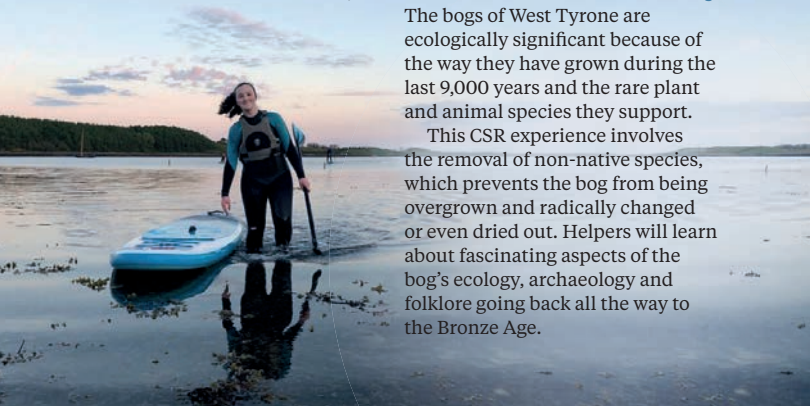
## FOYLE TRAILS

[foyletrails.com](https://www.foyletrails.com)

WHERE: *West Northern Ireland, nr. Omagh*

The bogs of West Tyrone are ecologically significant because of the way they have grown during the last 9,000 years and the rare plant and animal species they support.

This CSR experience involves the removal of non-native species, which prevents the bog from being overgrown and radically changed or even dried out. Helpers will learn about fascinating aspects of the bog's ecology, archaeology and folklore going back all the way to the Bronze Age.





## Extraordinary experiences

**N**orthern Ireland surprises people. It awakens their senses, fires their imaginations, stretches their muscles and maybe touches their soul. So surprise your clients with the best of what this invigorating destination has to offer – covering culture, landscapes, legends, cities, coast and food.

### LONG MEADOW FARM ORCHARD EXPERIENCE

 [longmeadowcider.com](http://longmeadowcider.com)

WHERE: *Portadown, County Armagh (35 minutes from Belfast)*

EVENT SPACE: *The nearby 34-bedroom Segoe Hotel has meeting and conference space*

The Long Meadow is part of the

farm which has been owned by the McKeever family for three generations. After a warm welcome from the family and their friendly St Bernard dog, you'll learn about the heritage of apple growing in Armagh and the history of the farm.

Next up is a tour of the orchard – depending on the time of year, you might get to marvel at the pink blossom in May, to harvest an apple or even taste an apple straight from the tree. The tour continues with the plant room where apples are processed for cider, apple juice and cider vinegar. You'll finish in the tasting room where you can pull your own pint of cider and have a wonderful picnic lunch, supplied by award-winning Yellow Door Deli.



## BALLYGRAFFAN: HORSES FOR LEADERSHIP

 [ballygraffan.com](http://ballygraffan.com)

WHERE: *Near Comber, County Down (30 minutes from Belfast)*

EVENT SPACE: *Two bedrooms on-site*

Northern Ireland has always had a great affinity for horses, working with them and learning from them for generations. At Ballygraffan, you will discover that simply being around horses can be incredibly relaxing. When you arrive, you'll be invited in for coffee and introductions and then the rest of your time will be spent outdoors with the horses.

You'll get the opportunity to learn new leadership skills through a series of ground-based (non-riding) exercises with the horses, led by life coach June. The interactions can enable you to gain insights into your own behaviour, communicate more effectively and improve personal and professional relationships.



## FINNEBROGUE WOODS SCHOOL OF BUSHCRAFT

 [finnebroguewoods.com](http://finnebroguewoods.com)

WHERE: *Downpatrick, County Down (40 minutes from Belfast)*

EVENT SPACE: *Four giant tipis that can host up to 200 guests*

Step into the wild at Finnebrogue Woods School of Bushcraft and learn the basics of fire craft and shelter building with expert bushman, Rob. His teaching style encourages teamwork, learning new skills and having fun among nature. Your group can enjoy this experience in the privately-owned Finnebrogue

Woods located outside Downpatrick, known as the 'home of Saint Patrick'. Lunch is provided but you cook it yourself over the campfire in a scenic lakeside setting.

There are also four giant tipis that can host 60-200 people for a summer party, promotional event or marketing activation.

## CANOE & CAKE

🌐 [traceysfarmhousekitchen.com](http://traceysfarmhousekitchen.com)  
[mobileteamadventure.co.uk](http://mobileteamadventure.co.uk)

WHERE: *Killinchy, County Down (30 minutes from Belfast)*

EVENTSPACE: *Tracey's Farmhouse can host up to 25 people*

Enjoy the beauty of Strangford Lough from your canoe and relax in the serenity of your surroundings before tucking into tasty treats in a magnificent traditional Irish thatched cottage.

You'll meet at Tracey's Farmhouse Kitchen, situated 10 steps from the shoreline. You'll then meander down to the water's edge where your canoes will be waiting. John from Mobile Team Adventure will take you out on the water and you'll paddle around the numerous lovely small islands on the Lough.

After all that canoeing Tracey will welcome you back to a roaring fire where there will be a demonstration of traditional soda bread making. You'll also get to sample Tracey's homemade jams, award-winning butter and delicious cake.



## XHALE: AWAKENING YOUR SENSES

🌐 [xhale.biz](http://xhale.biz)

WHERE: *Slieve Gullion Mountain, County Armagh*

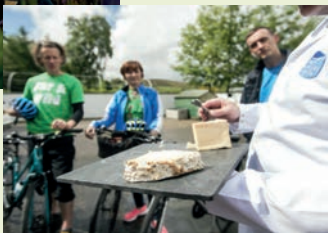
EVENT SPACE: *Ann's WW2 hut can be used for smaller private events*

Slieve Gullion mountain is a mythological sleeping giant where you will rest, reconnect and re-energise. Forest therapy guide and meditation coach Ann Ward will offer you creative ways to deepen your connection with nature.

Ann advocates the practice of 'forest bathing', which originated in Japan in the 1980s as a stress prevention technique. Spending two hours in the forest can boost your immunity for up to 10 days. Your forest experience will end with a tea ceremony with warm foraged elderberry cordial and homemade shortbread. You'll then travel a short



distance to Meigh village to Ann's quirky, creative healing space, a cosy World War Two hut. Relax over a locally produced, seasonal three-course lunch, after which you gently end on a guided meditation.



## FAR & WILD'S FOODIE CYCLE TOUR

 [farandwild.org](http://farandwild.org)

WHERE: *Derry-Londonderry*

EVENT SPACE: *The city has a wide range of accommodation and meeting options*

This experience takes in two great culinary experiences in a two-hour bike ride. The tour focuses on quality local produce – the stops at cafés, restaurants and breweries vary seasonally and include The Walled City Brewery, Pykes N' Pommes, 9ine Hostages Cafe and The Legenderry Warehouse No 1.

The tour also includes a view of the historic St Columb's Park, Ebrington, the Peace Bridge and

inner-city - the aim is to show the city from a different angle, adopting a 'slow adventure' approach, and can be tailored to your group's interests and fitness requirements on request.

## TASTE & TOUR: BELFAST FOOD TOUR

 [tasteandtour.co.uk](http://tasteandtour.co.uk)

WHERE: *Belfast city centre*

EVENT SPACE: *ICC Belfast is a four-minute walk from St George's Market, where the Belfast Food Tour begins*

Founder Caroline Wilson is passionate about Northern Irish food and Belfast. Her tours take you into quiet streets and behind closed doors to meet the inventive people who are using the country's fantastic ingredients in innovative ways, to create world-class food and drink.

These producers have an infectious love for the food they create and are happy to share it, to talk about it and to show you how to taste it. This is a great way to discover the real spirit of the people of Belfast and enjoy some fabulous food into the bargain.



# Visit Derry

**V**isit Derry is the official destination marketing and tourism organisation for Derry-Londonderry and the region. We offer a complete service for event planners and MICE buyers, with the very latest products and attractions from our vast database of over 280 members. The Conference Support Scheme we offer is an attractive incentive for conference organisers offering support towards venue hire, marketing and transport.

We will work in close partnership with you to create authentic, memorable and exclusive programmes, guaranteeing your visit will be *LegenDerry!*

## **DERRY-LONDONDERRY / REGION**

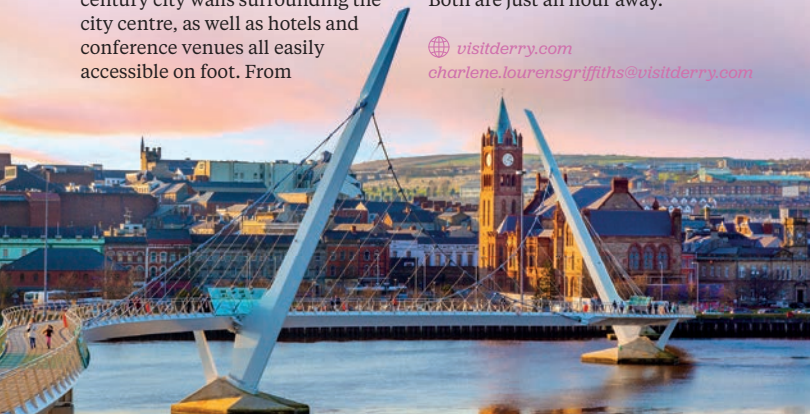
Derry-Londonderry is a natural conference village, with its 17th-century city walls surrounding the city centre, as well as hotels and conference venues all easily accessible on foot. From

contemporary venues and residential properties to historic buildings and quirky spaces, there is something to suit every requirement.

The social aspects of a conference are just as important as the academic content – after a busy day, delegates want to kick back, relax and network with industry colleagues. We place a real emphasis on creating the atmosphere to inspire connections.

Our idyllic position linking the Causeway Coastal Route with the awe-inspiring Wild Atlantic Way offers an opportunity to create incentive programmes with a real wow factor. Delegates can look forward to visiting the famous Unesco World Heritage Site of Giant's Causeway and the Bushmills Whiskey Distillery, the oldest licensed distillery in the world. Both are just an hour away.

 [visitderry.com](http://visitderry.com)  
[charlene.lourensgriffiths@visitderry.com](mailto:charlene.lourensgriffiths@visitderry.com)






## On the bucket list

**N**orthern Ireland is a destination with a huge range of 'must see and do' activities from the moment you arrive. All this combined with a range of impressive venues that can host any event means your guests will remember their visit to Northern Ireland for years to come.

### TITANIC BELFAST

 [titanicbelfast.com](http://titanicbelfast.com)

WHERE: *Titanic Quarter, Belfast*

WHEN: *All year round*

EVENTS CAPACITY: *Up to 2000 guests / seat 800 for a banquet in the Titanic Suite*

A jewel in the crown of Belfast's Titanic Quarter, this award-winning experience stands on the same spot where the famous RMS Titanic was built and

launched in 1912. Over six floors and nine interactive galleries, guests can discover everything there is to know about the iconic cruise ship from the golden age of the ocean liner on the self-guided Titanic Experience tour. As the locals will tell you, and has been printed on many a T-shirt: "She was fine when she left here!"

The building is an architectural marvel that offers conference and banqueting facilities in a range of

distinct spaces, such as the Titanic Suite's exact replica of the famous Grand Staircase.

If you need even more room, the Titanic Exhibition Centre (TEC) is also situated within the Titanic Quarter and has 6,000sqm of event space / capacity for 3,000 guests.



## GAME OF THRONES® CASTLE WARD

 [gameofthrones-winterfelltours.com](http://gameofthrones-winterfelltours.com)

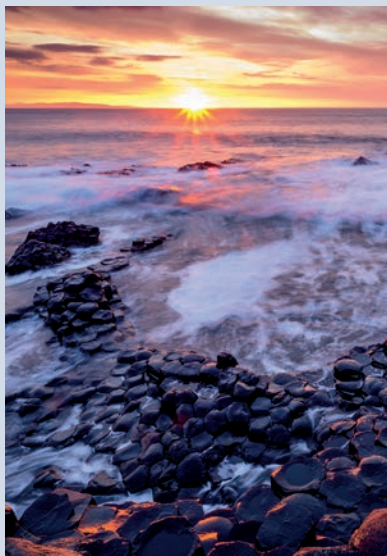
WHERE: *Strangford, County Down (just a 40-minute drive from Belfast)*

WHEN: *All year round*


EVENTS CAPACITY: *Up to 150 guests in the Stabeyard's theatre*

HBO's epic TV series Game of Thrones® (GoT) was filmed all over Northern Ireland, with its stunning landscape and historic buildings becoming the fictional settings of Winterfell, Dragonstone and The Iron Islands, among others.

In reality, Castle Ward was the 18th century home of the Ward family. But for the first two seasons of GoT, its farmyard became Winterfell, home of the Starks. You can also find the Whispering Wood nearby where Robb Stark's army ambushed Jamie Lannister's, as well as visit the 'penultimate very first episode' location scene where young Bran Stark was pushed out the Castle window. You can even dress like a member of the Starks for a tour of the grounds and test your archery skills in the same courtyard used by the Stark children in the first series.



## GIANT'S CAUSEWAY AND THE COASTAL ROUTE

 [discovernorthernireland.com/destinations/causeway-coastal-route](http://discovernorthernireland.com/destinations/causeway-coastal-route)

WHERE: *Bushmills (just over an hour's drive north of Belfast)*

WHEN: *All year bar July (distillery annual maintenance, some areas closed to tour)*

EVENTS CAPACITY: *Whiskey tastings and tours for groups of 15+ can be arranged with the Old Bushmills Distillery*

Giant's Causeway is one of the most iconic sights in Northern Ireland and the country's only Unesco World Heritage Site. It's an area of about 40,000 interlocking basalt



columns, formed by ancient volcanic eruptions. Local storytelling guides will regale you with the legend of brawling giants, Finn McCool and Benandonner, who built this causeway. Together, you take the slow road to a sheltered and secluded spot among the majestic basalt columns. Here you can sit and enjoy the waves and the views. It's a fitting place to toast famous giants with a 12-year-old malt, only available from Old Bushmills Distillery, just a stone's throw away. It will be a whisky on the rocks experience you won't forget.

## DERRY WALLS: UNLOCK THE WALLED CITY EXPERIENCE

 [visitderry.com/Unlock-the-Walled-City](http://visitderry.com/Unlock-the-Walled-City)

WHERE: *Derry-Londonderry*

WHEN: *All year round*

EVENTS CAPACITY: *Millennium Forum can host 1000 delegates in main auditorium / smaller events in eight function rooms*

The great walls of Derry-Londonderry (Ireland's only fully intact city walls) have witnessed centuries of drama. As you walk along and beside the walls your guides will highlight key events and tell you stories going back hundreds of years. They reveal what important events, such as the Plantation, the Siege, Emigration and the Troubles, that changed Irish, British and European history, meant for Derry-Londonderry's people and reflect on their present-day legacy.

The city's compact nature means venues like City Hotel (meeting space for up to 300 delegates) the Playhouse (meeting space for up to 180 delegates), the historic St Columb's Hall (330 capacity for banqueting) and Guildhall (220 for banqueting) are all within a five-minute walk of each other.





## ISLAND DISCOVERY AT FERMANAGH LAKELANDS

 [fermanaghlakelands.com](http://fermanaghlakelands.com)

WHERE: *Enniskillen, County Fermanagh*

WHEN: *Water taxi runs March to October*

EVENTS CAPACITY: *Boat tours up to 32 people and there's a range of venues nearby*

The best way to see the Fermanagh Lakelands is from the water, so hop in a boat ([ernewatertaxi.com](http://ernewatertaxi.com)) and explore the many islands of Lough Erne. And if that boat is skippered by Barry Flanagan, you will see and hear some fantastic stories.

Starting from Enniskillen, Ireland's only island town, Barry will choose your route, based on his knowledge of the Lough Erne's changing currents, seasons and



movements of wildlife. On Devenish Island you can experience the peace of the sixth century monastery.

For event space, the four-star Manor House Country Hotel has a range of boardrooms and suites for meetings, or the Fermanagh Lakeland Forum can host up to 900 delegates for a conference.



## HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE & GARDENS

[hrp.org.uk/hillsborough-castle](http://hrp.org.uk/hillsborough-castle)

WHERE: Hillsborough, County Down (20 minutes' drive south of Belfast)

WHEN: All year round, but daytime hire may not be available in peak seasons

EVENTS CAPACITY: Up to 120 (Throne Room)

Explore 100 acres of stunning gardens at Northern Ireland's only royal residence. Marvel at the beautiful rooms and glorious gardens and get an intimate glimpse behind the scenes into the personal living quarters of a working royal household. Many of the crucial talks that led to the Good Friday Agreement took place here.

The Castle's illustrious history and picturesque surroundings make it a perfect backdrop for corporate events, from intimate board meetings and workshops to award shows.

You can hold a meeting for 18 VIPs in the Privy Council Chamber or a reception for up to 120 in the Throne Room. Further event spaces include the Red Room and State Dining Room, host to countless world leaders.



## GLENSHANE COUNTRY FARM: SHEEPDOGS AT WORK

[glenshaneountryfarm.com](http://glenshaneountryfarm.com)

WHERE: The farm is a 50-minute drive from Belfast or 40 from Derry-Londonderry

WHEN: Spring is sheep shearing season if you want the full woolly experience

James McCloy is a fourth-generation shepherd with a highly-trained team of working sheepdogs and a wealth of farming knowledge. He takes great pride in his farm set deep in the beautiful, little-known landscape of the Sperrin Mountains. You can even hold a baby lamb (at the right time of year).

But it's his relationship with his dogs that is most striking. Seeing them up close, working together, communicating via body language, whispers and whistles, is amazing.

The farm has very welcoming three-bedroom onsite accommodation at Glenshane Country House. If you need more rooms, make it a day trip from Belfast or Derry-Londonderry. Both cities are less than 50 minutes from the farm.



## GLENARM CASTLE AND GARDENS

 [glenarmcastle.com](http://glenarmcastle.com)

WHERE: *Glenarm, Causeway Coastal Route, Co. Antrim (45 minutes from Belfast)*

WHEN: *All year round (seasonal opening hours for the Walled Garden)*


EVENTS CAPACITY: *Corporate venue hire available, from team-building to small meetings. Catering by an on-site chef*

Visit one of Northern Ireland's oldest Estates, home to the Earls of Antrim. With more than 500 years of heritage there are lots of stories to be told by George, the castle butler, as he guides you round.

Take a leisurely stroll through the Walled Garden filled with beautiful colour throughout the seasons before trying the local cuisine including the Glenarm Shorthorn Beef and Salmon.

Glenarm Castle is the perfect venue for any number of corporate activities; from executive lunches and dinners to product launches to team-building activity days and corporate meetings. Team-building activities could include clay pigeon shooting, fishing or archery.

## SHORTCROSS GIN'S DISTILLERY TOUR & TASTING

 [shortcrossgin.com](http://shortcrossgin.com)

WHERE: *Rademon Estate Distillery, County Down (30 minutes from Belfast)*

WHEN: *All year round*

EVENTS CAPACITY: *Visitor centre can host up to 150 people for a cocktail reception*

Rademon Estate comprises over 500 acres of land that dates to AD565.

History surrounds the estate; from 17th century Rademon House itself, through to the original courtyard, cottages and workers' bell.

Rademon Estate Distillery's first spirit, Shortcross Gin, was released in April 2014 and is inspired by its surroundings of lush gardens and



forest fauna. Gin experts will take you on a guided tour, where you'll learn all about foraged botanicals, and the distillery's unique gin and whiskey-making processes. After which, you'll get to enjoy a tasting of the handcrafted, award-winning gin next to three beautiful copper pot stills (*pictured*). The distillery's visitor centre is also available for corporate and private events.



## Homegrown talent

**N**orthern Ireland has a rich history of writers and poets, as well as some of the biggest names in Hollywood movies.



### MUSIC

Music is an important part of Northern Ireland's cultural history.

Belfast-born *George Ivan Morrison*, better known as Van Morrison, sang about a Brown Eyed Girl in 1967 and it became his best-known song. It's one of three songs included in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's '500 Songs That Shaped Rock and Roll', along with Madame George and Moondance.

In 1977 *The Undertones* burst

onto the music scene with their debut single Teenage Kicks. They went on to become one of the most successful bands in Northern Ireland.

*Gary Lightbody* is the lead singer of Snow Patrol (see main picture above). Their 2002 album Final Straw went five times Platinum in the UK and featured the hit song Run.

*Hannah Peel* is a musician and composer who has scored music for the documentary Game of Thrones®: The Last Watch. She has released five solo albums and two with her band The Magnetic North.

*David Holmes*, DJ and composer, has written film scores for major Hollywood productions such as the Oceans trilogy of films, directed by *Steven Soderbergh*.



## ACTORS

*Liam Neeson* is well known from the hit Taken films but first rose to prominence

in 1993's Steven Spielberg film *Schindler's List*, Oscar nominated for Best Actor.

Multiple award-winning actor, writer and director *Kenneth Branagh* was born in Belfast and has directed a film named after the city, due to be released in 2021. Its cast includes *Jamie Dornan* and *Dame Judi Dench*.

*Bronagh Gallagher* made her name on screen with small parts in some very big films, including Pulp Fiction and Star Wars: Episode 1, as well as a more prominent role in 1991's *The Commitments*.

*Jamie Dornan* was an award-winning villain in TV's *The Fall* before playing billionaire Christian Grey in the *Fifty Shades* films.



## TV

For 10 wildly successful years, the world's most popular TV show, *Game of*

*Thrones*®, called Northern Ireland its home. The legendary, Emmy Award-winning series owes its success in no small part to the jaw-dropping scenery of the numerous filming locations scattered across the country.

Two recent, but very different, examples of successful TV shows

filmed and set in Northern Ireland are *Derry Girls* and *The Fall*. Both *Derry Girls* and *The Fall* have been nominated for and won a host of television awards.

BBC BAFTA-nominated hit crime drama *Line of Duty* has also been filmed in Belfast and other locations throughout Northern Ireland since its second series.



## LITERARY

*Seamus Heaney* was a poet and playwright who received the Nobel

Prize for Literature in 1995. One of his best-known poems is *Death of a Naturalist*, is about how the reality of the world does not always match our expectations of it.

*John Hewitt* was a poet and contemporary of *Seamus Heaney*. He worked for the Belfast Museum and Art Gallery for 29 years. When he died in 1987 he donated his body to Queen's University Belfast for research.

*CS Lewis* is best known as the author of the *Chronicles of Narnia*, which have been recreated on stage, TV, film and radio many times over (see right for his statue in Belfast).





## SPORT

While football is probably Northern Ireland's most popular sport (thanks

*George Best!* pictured below far right) it's golf that has produced some of the most notable sporting successes of recent times.

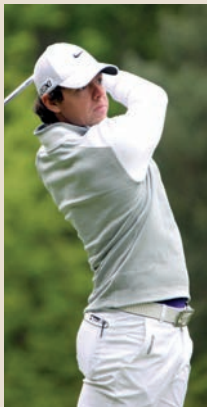
*Rory McIlroy*, from County Down's Holywood (pictured below middle) is one of the most successful golfers of the last decade. He spent 100 weeks at number one in the PGA rankings from March 2012 and is one of three players to win four majors by the age of 25, along with *Tiger Woods* and *Jack Nicklaus*. Other golfing successes include *Darren Clarke*, a veteran of the PGA Tour and winner of the Open Championship in 2011, as well as

*Graeme McDowell*, winner of the 2010 US Open.

Boxer *Carl Frampton* won the World Featherweight title in 2016, becoming the first fighter from Northern Ireland to win world titles in two weight classes.

Motorcycle racer *Jonathan Rea* has won the Superbike World Championship six times in a row from 2015 to 2020 and has the most race wins in the Superbike Championship.

*Jockey Brian Hughes* won the British jump racing Champion Jockey title for the 2019-20 season after riding 141 winners. *Brendan Rodgers* became manager of Premier League side Leicester after winning the domestic league and cup treble twice in charge of Celtic in Scotland. Northern Ireland also hosted the Giro d'Italia's opening stage in 2014.



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