

GREAT BRITAIN- NORTHERN IRELAND

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++44**

Northern Ireland Tourist Board: St. Anne's Court, 59 North Street, Belfast BT1 1NB, Northern Ireland, UK Tel: (02890) 231 221 Fax: (02890) 240 960 E-mail: info@nitb.com Website: www.discovernorthernireland.com

Capital: Belfast

Background: Ireland, island in the North Atlantic Ocean, separated from Great Britain by St George's Channel on the south-east, the Irish Sea on the east, and the North Channel on the north-east. Politically, the island is divided into Northern Ireland, a constituent part of the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland. The island is divided into four historical provinces—Connaught (Connacht), Leinster, Munster, and Ulster—and 32 administrative units called counties. The Republic of Ireland consists of Connaught, Leinster, and Munster provinces, totalling 23 counties, and 3 counties in the province of Ulster. Northern Ireland consists of 6 counties divided into 26 districts, the remainder of Ulster. Northern Ireland is also known as Ulster, because it comprises six of the nine counties that constituted the former Irish province of Ulster.

Location: Northern Ireland, province, part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, situated in the north-eastern portion of the island of Ireland. Northern Ireland is bounded on the north and north-east by the North Channel, on the south-east by the Irish Sea; on the south and west it has a 488 km (303 mi) border with the Republic of Ireland. It includes Rathlin Island in the North Channel and several smaller offshore islands.

Map References: United Kingdom

Area: total: The total land area of Northern Ireland is 14,160 sq km (5,467 sq mi). Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland.

Population: Northern Ireland has a population (1999) of about 1,691,800, almost equally divided between urban and rural dwellers. The average population density is about 119 people per sq km (309 per sq mi), but the actual distribution of the population is very uneven; about 50 per cent of people in Northern Ireland are settled on the eastern coastal region, the centre of which is Belfast.

Nationality: North Irish

Ethnic Groups: Around two thirds of the people are the descendants of Scots or English settlers who crossed from the British mainland to north-eastern Ireland after 1607 in the Ulster Plantation. The remainder of the population is descended from the original Irish inhabitants, principally those native to the province of Ulster.

Religions: Religion, or rather religious affiliation, has been the key determinant in Northern Ireland's history, politics, and social life since the 17th century. At various times it has determined access to the franchise and jobs, standards of living, and education. In modern times it has come to symbolize the differing political aspirations of the descendants of the original Irish inhabitants and those of the settler community, differences which in the 1970s escalated into sectarian violence and terrorism.

The descendants of the Scottish and English settlers are predominantly Protestant; those of the original Irish inhabitants are overwhelmingly Roman Catholic. In the late 1990s around 58 per cent of the population regarded themselves as Protestant, and around 42 per cent as Roman Catholics. Roman Catholicism is the largest single denomination. The largest Protestant denominations are Presbyterian (21 per cent), the Church of Ireland (almost 17 per cent), and Methodist (4 per cent). Unlike England and Scotland, Northern Ireland has no established, or state, Church. The Church of Ireland, at one time a branch of the Church of England, was disassociated from it in 1871.

Languages: English is the sole official language. Unlike in the Republic of Ireland, there has been no official encouragement of the use of the Irish language (see Celtic Languages: Irish) in Northern Ireland until recent years, when there has been a cultural revival of it in several areas, including Belfast.

Economy: Northern Ireland's gross domestic product in 1995 was about US\$22,835 million. In general, the economy of Northern Ireland is based on agriculture and

manufacturing and is closely tied to that of the United Kingdom as a whole; almost 50 per cent of manufacturing output is sold to the rest of Britain; 25 per cent is sold locally.

The province has been particularly hard hit by the decline of traditional industries like shipbuilding, on which much of its prosperity and many jobs depended. The lack of economic opportunities, particularly for young people, played a role in the "Troubles", as the sectarian strife came to be known. At the same time, however, the threat of terrorism did not help efforts to attract investment and create new jobs in the 1970s and 1980s.

Considerable public expenditure has been devoted to urban renewal in Belfast and Londonderry (Derry). Various agencies have been established to attract new companies and encourage small business, backed by tax and other incentives. Helped by moves towards a peaceful settlement, several important new investments, notably by South East Asian concerns, were announced in the first half of the 1990s, including the period of paramilitary ceasefire in 1994.

Public finance comes predominantly from UK taxes (50 per cent, 1994) and UK government grants in aid (41 per cent); Northern Ireland also receives considerable funding from the EU.

Currency: 1 British pound = 100 pence

Railways: The Northern Ireland Railways Company provides passenger services on 357 km (222 mi) of railway track.

Ports and Harbors: Daily ferry and cargo shipping services, and airline services connect Northern Ireland with the rest of the United Kingdom. Passenger ferry services operate to Belfast; cargo services operate from Belfast, Larne, Warrenpoint, and Londonderry (Derry). A new port at Londonderry (Derry) opened in 1993.

Airports: Belfast International Airport at Aldergrove, 32 km (20 mi) west of the city.

Visa: required by all except the following nationals of: EU countries, Australian, Canadian, USA and Japanese.

200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250g tobacco; 1 litre of alcoholic beverages stronger than 22 percent or 2 litres of fortified or sparkling wine or other liqueurs; 2 litres of still table wine; 50g of perfume and 250ml of toilet water; other goods including souvenirs up to the value of £145.

Health: Tap water is safe to drink.

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

BELFAST

BENEDICTSHOTEL, 7-21 Bradbury Place, Shaftesbury Square, Belfast, BT7 1RQ, E-mail: info@benedictshotel.co.uk, Tel: +44(0)2890591999, Fax: +44(0)2890591990, www.benedictshotel.co.uk

COMFORT HOTEL, Antrim, 20 Dunsilly Road, Antrim BT41 2J, Telephone: 028 9446 2929, Fax: 028 9446 5801, E-Mail: info@comforthotelantrim.com, www.comforthotelantrim.com

CORR'S CORNER HOTEL, 315 Ballyclare Road, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, BT36 4TQ, T:028 9084 9221(From within the UK), F:028 90 832118, E:info@corrscorner.com, www.corrscorner.com

DAYS HOTEL BELFAST, 40 Hope Street, Belfast, BT12 5EE UK Phone: 44-28-90242494, Fax: 44-28-90242495, E-Mail: mail@dayshotelbelfast.com, www.daysinn.com

EUROPA HOTEL, Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7AP, Telephone: +44 (0) 28 9027 1066, Fax: +44 (0) 28 9032 7800

EXPRESS BY HOLIDAY INN, BELFAST UNIVERSITY ST. 106 UNIVERSITY ST, BELFAST, BT7 1HP, IRELAND, Hotel Reservations: 0870 400 9092, Hotel Front Desk: 44-28-90311909, Hotel Fax:44-28-90311910, Email: mail@exhi-belfast.com, www.ichotelsgroup.com

HILTON BELFAST HOTEL, 4 Lanyon Place, Belfast, BT1 3LP, United Kingdom, Telephone: 44 (0) 28 9027 7000, Fax: 44 (0) 28 9027 7277, Email: reservations.belfast@hilton.com, <http://www.hilton.co.uk/belfast>

HOLIDAY INN, BELFAST, 22 ORMEAU AVENUE, BELFAST, BT2 8HS, IRELAND, Hotel Reservations: 0870 400 9092, Hotel Front Desk: 44-870-4009005, U.K. Hotel Fax:44-28-90626546, Email: belfast@ichotelsgroup.com, www.ichotelsgroup.com

STORMONT HOTEL, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3LP, Telephone: +44 (0) 28 9065 1066, Fax: +44 (0) 28 9048 0240

PARK PLAZA HOTEL BELFAST, Park Plaza Hotel Belfast International Airport, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT 29 4ZY, Telephone: +00 44 28 944 57000 Fax: +00 44 28 944 23500 Email: reception@parkplazabelfast.com, www.parkplazabelfast.com

PREMIER INN, Belfast City Centre, Alfred Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT2 8ED, T: 0870 850 6316, F: 0870 850 6317, www.premierinn.com

RADISSON SAS HOTEL, BELFAST, The Gasworks3 Cromac Place, Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 2JB, Tel: +44 28 9043 4065, Fax: +44 28 9043 4066, info.belfast@radissonsas.com, www.radissonsas.com

RAMADA BELFAST, 117 Milltown Rd, Shaw's Bridge, Belfast, BT8 7XP, Northern Ireland, TELEPHONE: +44 (0) 28 9092 3500, FAX: +44 (0) 28 9092 3600, mail@ramadabelfast.com, www.ramadabelfast.com



TARA LODGE, 36 Cromwell Road, Botanic Avenue, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT71JW, telephone: +44 (0)28 90590900, email info@taralodge.com, www.taralodge.com

THE MERCHANT HOTEL, 35-39 Waring St. Cathedral Quarter, Belfast, BT1 2DY, Tel: +44 (0) 28 9023 4888, Fax: +44 (0) 28 9024 7775, E-mail: info@themerchanthotel.com, www.themerchanthotel.com

FERMANAGH

BELMORE COURT MOTEL, Tempo Road, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, N. IRELAND, BT74 6HX, Telephone: +44 28 6632 6633 Fax: +44 28 6632 6362 Email: info@motel.co.uk SKYPE: belmorecourtmotel, www.motel.co.uk

RESTAURANTS & BARS

BELFAST

ALDENS RESTAURANT Tel: 028 90650079 - 229 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, County Antrim, BT4 3JF

BEN MADIGAN BAR, Tel: 028 90729292 - 192-196 Cavehill Road, Belfast, County Antrim, BT15 5EX

CAFFE CASA, Tel: 028 90319900 - 14 College Street, Belfast, County Antrim, BT1 6BT

COUNTRY KITCHEN, Tel: 028 90740668 - 294 Cliftonville Road, Belfast, County Antrim, BT14 6LE

ESQUIRES COFFEE HOUSE, Tel: 028 90239239 - 90 Botanic Avenue, Belfast, County Antrim, BT7 1JR

GRILL ROOM, Tel: 028 90241001 - 16 Donegall Sq South, Belfast, County Antrim, BT1 5JD

KHAYBER RESTAURANT, Tel: 028 90813099 - 520 Saintfield Rd, Belfast, BT12 3GK

MANDARN PALACE RESTAURANT, Tel: 028 90301970 - 157 Upper Lisburn Road, Finaghy, Belfast, County Antrim, BT10 0LJ

NEX D'OR RESTAURANT, Tel: 028 90322711 - 13 Rosemary Street, Belfast, County Antrim, BT1 1QA

PATIO RESTAURANT, General Restaurants in Belfast, Tel: 028 90628118 - Unit 26, Kennedy Centre, Falls Road, Belfast, County Antrim, BT11 9AE

RANDALS COFFEE HOUSE, Tel: 028 90682600 - 569 Lisburn Road, Belfast, County Antrim, BT9 7GS

RATZ INTERCONTINENTAL RESTAURANT, 40-42 Bradbury Place, Belfast, County Antrim, BT7 1RT

ROSE OF SHARON RESTAURANT Tel: 028 90311941 - 314 Shankill Road, Belfast, County Antrim, BT13 3AB

WATER MARIGAN, Tel: 028 90326888 - 159-161 Donegall Pass, Belfast, County Antrim, BT7 1DT

LONDONDERRY

FITZROYS RESTAURANT, Tel: 028 71266211 - 3 Carlisle Road, Londonderry, County Londonderry, BT48 6JJ

KAM HOUSE, Tel: 028 71372166 - 14 William Street, Londonderry, County Londonderry, BT48 6EP

AIRPORTS/HELICOPTERS PORTS

BELFAST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT29 4AB, Tel. +44 (0) 2894484848, E-mail: infodesk@bfs.aero, website: www.belfastairport.com

CITY OF DERRY AIRPORT, Airport Road, Eglinton, Co. Derry, Northern Ireland, BT47 3GY, BT47 3GY, Tel. +44 (0) 2871 810784, Fax. +44 (0) 2871 811426, website: www.cityofderryairport.com

GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT3 9JH, Tel. +44 (0) 2890 939093, Fax. +44 (0) 2890 939094, website: www.belfastcityairport.com



AIRLINES & HELICOPTERS

BMIBABY, TEL. +44 (0) 8712 240224 or +44 (0) 8701 266726, website: www.bmibaby.com

EASYJET, www.easyjet.com

FLYBE, Tel. +44 (0) 8717 002000 or +44 (0) 1392 268513, website: www.flybe.com

JET2.COM, Tel. +44 (0) 9063 20660, or +44 (0) 8712 261737, website: www.jet2.com

RYANAIR, Tel. +44 (0) 8712 460000, website: www.ryanair.com

HISTORICAL SITES

ANTRIM

CARRICKFERGUS CASTLE, Marine Highway, Carrickfergus, Antrim, BT38 7BG, Tel. +44 (0) 2893 351273, Fax. +44 (0) 2893 355190, website: www.ehsni.gov.uk

DUNLUCE CASTLE, 87 Dunluce Road, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8UY, Tel. +44 (0) 2820 731938, Fax. +44 (0) 2820 732850, website: www.ehsni.gov.uk

BELFAST CASTLE, Cave Hill, Antrim, BT15 5GR, Tel. +44 (0) 2890 776925, Fax. +44 (0) 2890 370228, website: www.belfastcastle.co.uk

DOWN

HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE & GARDENS, The Square, Hillsborough, Down, BT26 6AG, Tel. +44 (0) 2892 682244 / 681309, E-mail: Hillsborough.castle@nio.x.gsi.gov.uk

ENTERTAINMENTS

ANTRIM

AQUASPORTS – RATLIN FAST FERRY, 4 Coleraine Road, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8EA, website: www.aquasports.biz

LAGAN WATERSPORTS CENTRE, 2 Rivers Edge, 13 Ravenhill Road, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT6 8DN, Tel. +44 (0) 2890 503130 (Liz)

MOBILE TEAM ADVENTURE, Tel. +44 (0) 2891 800809, Mobile: +447749 011283, website: www.mobileteamadventure.co.uk

FERMANAGH

CORRALEA ACTIVITY CENTRE, Upper Lough, Mac Nean, Belcoo, Co. Fermanagh, Tel/Fax. +44 (0) 2866 386123, website: www.activityireland.com

TUDOR FARM WATERSPORTS, 619 Boa Island Road, Kesh, Co. Fermanagh, Tel. +44 (0) 2860 631943 or +447788 928268



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