



Belfast on the Web



These websites have been compiled with two aims in mind:

First of all, to provide pupils and teachers in schools throughout the Belfast Education and Library Board Area with a good starting point from which to research and locate information on their own city, country and culture in preparation for the exchange of materials with partner schools abroad.

Secondly, to enable international visitors to our website to gain an insight into our spirited capital city and the hinterland of Northern Ireland, a hidden gem just waiting to be discovered!

Gillian Stewart
Languages/International Team

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR TOURISTS AND VISITORS

<i>Belfast Welcome Centre</i>	www.gotobelfast.com	The Welcome Centre provides many brochures and guides as well as information on hotels, tours, attractions etc
<i>Belfast City Council</i>	http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk	Website of Belfast City Council with links to a wide range of information on Leisure, events, tourism, heritage and the community
<i>Cultural Tourism E-Bulletin</i>	http://www.ourism.belfastcity.go.uk/bulletin/ebulletin.htm	Sign up to receive the city's new cultural e-bulletin which provides regular updates about cultural tourism activities.
<i>Belfast City Hall Virtual Tour</i>	http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/cityhalltour	An online virtual tour of Belfast City Hall, one of the city's most distinctive and popular historical buildings. View the key features: Italian marble entrance hall, grand staircase, Council Chambre, the Great Hall and the dome which is modelled on St Paul's Cathedral in London
<i>Belfast Heritage</i>	http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/heritage	Lots of information on heritage buildings around the city of Belfast, interesting cultural walks such as the ' <i>Titanic Trail</i> ' which looks at Belfast's Edwardian landscape
<i>Belfast Nets</i>	http://www.belfast.net	Lots of news and information on tourism in Belfast and living in the city
<i>Belfast – Informationeurope.com</i>	http://www.informationeuropa.com/irelandpage4.html	Good overview of some of Belfast's most famous landmarks as well as links to information on other European countries
<i>European Commission in Belfast</i>	http://www.cec.org.uk/ni	Website of the European Commission's Office in Belfast and the role it plays in Northern Ireland

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND WEATHER

<i>Belfast City Airport</i>	http://www.belfastcityairport.com	Information on flight arrivals, departures and schedules
<i>Belfast International Airport</i>	http://www.bial.co.uk	Information on directions, flight schedules, airport facilities and news
<i>Port of Belfast</i>	http://www.Belfast-harbour.co.uk	Information on Belfast port, maritime links and services
<i>Belfast Hotels</i>	http://www.uk-hotels.org/belfast	Best way to get cheap rates, great discounts and late availabilities
<i>Cheap Belfast Hotels Discounts</i>	http://belfast.cheap-hotels-guide.com	A website offering information on the best deals and discount room reservations
<i>Belfast Hostels</i>	http://www.bootsnall.com/hostels.eu/nire/bel	Details of hostels in Belfast. Good for students, backpackers etc
<i>Belfast 5 Day Forecast</i>	http://www.met-office.gov.uk/weather/europe/uk/cities/belfast.html	Check out the latest weather conditions from the Met Office
<i>Weather Underground - Belfast</i>	http://www.wunderground.com/global/stations/03417.html	Daily weather forecast for Belfast

GETTING ABOUT IN THE CITY

<i>Translink Bus and Rail Services</i>	http://www.translink.co.uk	Visit the website to view bus and rail timetables for the greater Belfast area as well as the rest of Northern Ireland and obtain information on a range of discounted travel options
<i>Belfast by Bike</i>	http://www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk	This website gives an outline of cycling routes throughout Belfast.
<i>Irish City Cycle tours</i>	http://www.irishcycletours.com	Information on a circular cycle tour which takes you past some of Belfast's most historic buildings, along the River Lagan towpath, the city suburbs and the cycle lanes of the <i>National Cycle Network</i>
<i>Belfast Lough Tour</i>	http://belfastlough.bravepages.com	Details of different tours along Belfast Lough visiting different locations such as Holywood, Crawfordsburn, Bangor and wildlife sanctuaries

THINGS TO DO - LEISURE, SPORT AND SHOPPING

<i>Belfast Leisure Online</i>	http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/leisure	The leisure pages of the city council website gives details of leisure centre timetables and costs, how to enrol in classes and activities from fitness to dancing
<i>Belfast City Events Online</i>	http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/events	Information on main events including those of a festive and seasonal nature such as Halloween and Christmas.
<i>Belfast Zoo</i>	http://www.belfastzoo.co.uk	Website of the City of Belfast Zoological Gardens. Information on zoo history and a rundown of the 60 different species of animal including spectacled bears, Asian elephants, greater flamingos, gorillas, giraffes, (two recent births!), sea lions, penguins etc. Facilities include a children's farm, restaurants, shops and picnic areas
<i>Laganside</i>	http://www.laganside.com	Background to the city's location on the River Lagan from which Belfast gets its name – the Irish translation of Belfast is <i>Beal Feirste</i> meaning the mouth of the sandbank. Lots of information on the history and regeneration of the Lagan, the local community, development sites, an art trail and educational initiatives.
<i>Belfast Giant Ice Hockey Team</i>	http://www.belfastgiants.com	Website of Belfast's very own ice hockey team, top team in the UK league!
<i>Irish Football Association</i>	http://www.irishfa.com	This site covers all aspects of football in NI from grassroots level to the Senior International team.
CastleCourt Shopping Centre	http://www.westfield.com/castlecourt	Details of all the retailers in CastleCourt Shopping Centre, shopping hours, special offers, news and events

CULTURE AND THE ARTS - FESTIVALS, DRAMA AND EXHIBITIONS

<i>Culture and Arts</i>	http://www.belfastcapitalcity.com	Information on how the city of Belfast plans to support the development of its arts, culture and heritage over the next three years and details of how its citizens and visitors can get involved
<i>The Queen's Festival</i>	http://www.belfstfestival.com	The largest Arts Festival of its kind in Ireland and the second largest in the United Kingdom which takes place in October/November each year and attracts over 50, 000 visitors. Get all the details on this year's venues and performers representing all art forms including theatre, dance, classical music, literature, jazz, comedy, visual arts. Folk and popular music
<i>International Rose Festival</i>	http://www.parks.belfastcity.gov.uk	The Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park is home to one of the world's finest rose collections and hosts a great floral festival each July during which you can enjoy guided tours of the rose gardens to the tune of silver, flute, brass and accordion bands!
<i>Belfast Waterfront Hall</i>	http://www.waterfront.co.uk	Information on all of the events at Belfast's Waterfront Hall, runner-up in the 2002 <i>World's Best Congress Centre</i> Award. Events include contemporary, traditional and classical music, pantomime, drama, and Christmas highlights as well as conferences and exhibitions.
<i>The Grand Opera House</i>	http://www.goh.co.uk	Visit the website of Belfast's oldest and most beautiful theatre to obtain details of the current programme of performances by a wide variety of artists from London's West End companies to the Royal Shakespeare Company, touring European Ballet companies, Opera, Comedy and Drama

<i>Lyric Theatre</i>	http://www.lyrictheatre.co.uk	Although this site is still under construction the latest programme information is available for downloading
<i>The Odyssey Arena</i>	http://www.theodyssey.co.uk	Website of Belfast's premier entertainment centre, the biggest indoor stadium in Ireland, home to the Belfast Giants Ice Hockey Team and venue for major concerts
<i>W5</i>	http://www.w5online.co.uk	Situated in the landmark Odyssey complex, W5 is the only hands-on discovery centre in Ireland and has more than 100 interactive exhibits for all the family.
<i>Ulster Museum</i>	http://www.ulstermuseum.co.uk	A fine collection of Irish, British, European and American art in several galleries including works by Sir John Lavery and William Connor. There are also exhibits of ceramics, photography, natural history etc. Don't miss the museum's super collection of Spanish Armada jewellery and relics, recovered from the wreck of the 16-century ship, the Girona, located off the North Antrim coast!
<i>Kings Hall</i>	http://www.kingshall.co.uk	Ideal Home, Car show, Royal Agricultural Show, Craft Fair, Rare Breeds Show
<i>The Ulster Hall</i>	http://www.ulsterhall.co.uk	Home to the Ulster Orchestra, this hall is one of the oldest buildings in the city
<i>The Linen Hall Library</i>	http://www.linenhall.com	Website of the city's oldest and loveliest library. Situated in the heart of Belfast, the library houses Northern Ireland's most extensive archive of local history books and papers. Functions, exhibitions and events attract large crowds and visitors and shoppers can read the daily newspapers over a relaxing cup of coffee in the library's coffee house

CINEMA

<i>Queen's Film Theatre</i> University Square, Belfast	http://www.qftbelfast.com	Programme information on the best of contemporary and classic cinema from around the world. Specialises in art house and foreign-language films
<i>UGC Cinema</i> Dublin Road, Belfast	http://www.ugccinemas.co.uk	Ten screen multiplex
<i>Warner Village</i>	http://www.warnervillage.co.uk	Multiplex with 12 screens
<i>Sheridan IMAX Cinema</i>	http://www.belfastimax.com	A 5,000 sq ft screen showing 3D format films

PRESS AND BROADCASTING

<i>Belfast Telegraph</i>	http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk	Website of Northern Ireland's largest regional daily newspaper
<i>Irish News</i>	http://www.irishnews.com	The online version of the Irish News, another major regional daily newspaper
<i>News Letter</i>	http://icnorthernireland.icnetwork.co.uk	Website of the regional News Letter, one of the UK's oldest daily papers
<i>BBC Northern Ireland</i>	http://www.bbc.co.uk/ni	Website of the British Broadcasting Corporation in Northern Ireland, based in Ormeau Avenue, Belfast
<i>Ulster Television</i>	http://www.utv.co.uk	Northern Ireland's independent regional television company located in Ormeau Road, Belfast

A LEARNING CITY - EDUCATION

<i>Belfast Learning</i>	http://www.belfastlearning.com	Website of Belfast's Learning City Forum, a group of organisations working together to promote learning for everyone. Get the latest news on learning-related events and opportunities in Belfast.
<i>Queen's University</i>	http://www.qub.ac.uk	Visit the website of Queen's University to get information on all the courses available at undergraduate and postgraduate level as well as extra mural classes. Provides a local and global perspective on the university.
<i>School of Music, QUB</i>	http://www.qub.ac.uk	One of the liveliest concert giving organisations in Belfast, providing Queen's University with a wide range of musical events as well as concerts, festivals and workshops for the general public
<i>University of Ulster</i>	http://www.ulst.ac.uk	Website of the University of Ulster which has campuses in Belfast, Jordanstown, Coleraine and Magee. Plenty of information on courses and facilities as well as a section for graduates.
<i>Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education</i>	http://www.belfastinstitute.ac.uk	The website of Northern Ireland's largest provider of further education courses ranging from vocational and academic courses at all levels to degree level
<i>City of Belfast School of Music</i>	http://www.cbsm.org.uk	Website of the City of Belfast School of Music, administered by the Belfast Education and Library Board

OUT AND ABOUT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

<i>Northern Ireland Tourist Board</i>	http://www.discovernorthernireland.com	Lots of information on places of interest throughout Northern Ireland
<i>Tourist Net UK</i>	http://www.touristnetuk.com/ni	Holiday Guide to Northern Ireland – where to go, what to see, where to stay
<i>Online Guide to Northern Ireland</i>	http://www.guide-to-nireland.com/antguide.htm	Country Antrim Tourist Guide with information on historical sites, attractions, holiday resorts and tours
<i>County Antrim</i>	http://www.antrim.net	Good information on the tourist areas of County Antrim including history, culture, entertainment and accommodation
<i>Causeway Coast and Glens</i>	http://www.causewaycoastandglens.com	Website with plenty of information on this area of outstanding natural beauty, which includes the Giant's Causeway
<i>Coleraine Borough Council</i>	http://www.colerainebc.gov.uk	Visit this site for details on places to see, tourist attractions, events and accommodation along the beautiful north coast of Northern Ireland.
<i>The City of Lisburn</i>	http://www.lisburn.gov.uk	Information on things to do and see, leisure activities, events, shopping, food and drink, accommodation and history and culture of Lisburn.
<i>The Kingdoms of Down</i>	http://www.kingdomsofdown.com	Tourist information on the beautiful area of the Kingdoms of Down in South East Northern Ireland, famous for its mountains and mists, legends and charms
<i>Newry and Mourne-Gateway to the North</i>	http://www.newryandmourne.gov.uk	Information on this beautiful scenic area steeped in history, mythology and legend
<i>The Fermanagh Lakeland</i>	http://www.fermanaghlakelands.com	Information on the beautiful Lakeland of South West Northern Ireland, rich in history and culture, monastic island settlements and famous for the Belleek Pottery
<i>National Trust for Northern Ireland</i>	http://www.ntni.org.uk	The National Trust is the largest single private landowner in Northern Ireland and manages and conserves some of the most beautiful scenic areas, including coastline, beaches and major historic mansions and house. Visit the site for details of what to see and how to get there

<i>Ulster Historical Foundation</i>	http://www.ancestryireland.com	Website of the Ulster Historical Foundation founded in 1956 to promote interest in Ulster History and genealogy in particular
<i>Ulster American Folk Park</i>	http://www.folkpark.com	An open-air museum in County Tyrone which tells the story of emigration from Ulster to America in the 18 and 19 centuries and provides visitors with a 'living history' experience on its outdoor site. Journey between the Old and New Worlds on a reconstructed emigrant ship and explore 28 original buildings from both sides of the Atlantic.
<i>Ulster Folk and Transport Museum</i>	http://www.omagh.gov.uk/historypark.htm	Website of one of Ireland's foremost visitor attractions, on the eastern outskirts of Belfast. The open air museum enables you to recapture a disappearing way of life and gives an insight into traditional skills and Ulster's proud transport history, including ship and aircraft building.
<i>Ulster History Park</i>	http://www.omagh.gov.uk/historypark.htm	Website of the Open Air museum which features the houses and other monuments of Ulster from earliest times to Plantation times in the seventeenth century.
<i>The Ulster Plantation Centre</i>	http://www.theflightoftheearlsexperience.com	Information on the Ulster plantation Centre in Draperstown, what you will experience during your visit and how to get there. A stunning multi-media presentation on the journey through turbulent Irish history from the <i>Flight of the Earls</i> in 1595 to the present day with live action, animated and educational displays, all aimed at giving an insight into the past and promote a better understanding of modern day Northern Ireland.
<i>Somme Heritage Centre</i>	http://www.irishsoldier.org	This centre and its website examines the contribution of Irish, particularly Northern Irish, soldiers to the First World War and the slaughter at the Somme. The centre includes a reconstructed trench system.