



Specialized Travel Services
Specialized Travel Services

1-800-664-7474
newyork@special-ireland.com
<https://www.selectexperiences.ie>



Northern Gems Itinerary

Day 1



Belfast International Airport - Arrival

Céad Míle Fáilte (a hundred thousand welcomes!).

Flight details to be advised.

Your Private Driver will meet you in the Arrivals Hall of Dublin Airport and transfer you to your hotel.



Belfast - The City

Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland. Its name originates from the Irish Béal Feirste, or "the mouth of the Farset" — the river on which the city was built and has now been superseded by the River Lagan.

the city is nestled between the River Lagan and Belfast Lough and ringed by the Belfast Hills. The core of downtown Belfast sits beside the West Bank of the River Lagan. The city revolves around a central point, Donegal Square, which holds the City Hall. All roads radiate out from there. Donegal Place, which extends northward from the square, leads to Royal Avenue, a prime-shopping district. Bedford Street, which extends southward from the square, becomes Dublin Road, which, in turn, leads to the Queen's University area. Nearly half a million people, a third of Northern Ireland's population, reside within Belfast City limits. With its large port, Belfast is a very industrialized city, often referred to as the engine room that drove the whirring wheels of the industrial revolution in Ulster.



City Tours Belfast - Hop-on/Hop-off

Soak up Belfast City on a Hop-on Hop-off Open Top Bus Tour. Experience Panoramic views from an elevated position as you travel between the peace lines and visit both sides of the political divide.

Hop-on/Hop-off at historical places of interest and all of Belfast's main sightseeing attractions.



Check into Belfast Hotel (TBD, 2 nights)

Day 2



Titanic Belfast

Titanic Belfast is located beside the Titanic Slipways, the Harland and Wolff Drawing Offices and Hamilton Graving Dock, the very place where Titanic was designed, built and launched in 1911. Titanic Belfast tells the story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to its maiden voyage and subsequent place in history. The self-guided Titanic Experience extends over nine interpretive and interactive galleries, which explore the sights, sounds, smells and stories of RMS Titanic, as well as the city and people who made her.



Belfast Botanic Gardens

Just a short walk away from the university lies this green haven, sloping down to the River Lagan. Its centrepiece, the Palm House, is a beautiful conservatory of cast iron and glass designed in 1939 by Charles Lanyon.



Day 3



Travel to Derry

Meet your private driver-guide and set off on one of the world's most breathtaking coastal drives – the Causeway Coastal Route. Your final destination will be Derry, where you will spend one night.



Giant's Causeway

The Giant's Causeway is composed of thousands of strangely symmetrical basalt columns which jut out to sea between Port Ganny and Port Noffer. Legend has it that the whole Causeway was built by the Irish giant, Finn MacCool, so as to travel dry-shod across the sea to Scotland. Generations of guides have embroidered the tale until it is hard to disentangle modern invention from ancient folklore. In fact the Causeway is a product of the volcanic activity, which altered the face of Ireland, Scotland, Iceland and Greenland many millions of years ago.

Flanked by the wild Atlantic Ocean and a landscape of dramatic cliffs, for centuries the Giant's Causeway has inspired artists, stirred scientific debate and captured the imagination of all who see it.

Visit Northern Ireland's only UNESCO World Heritage Site and learn how the Causeway was formed with one of their award-winning storytellers by booking Visitor Experience tickets. We have guided tours running every hour; or you can pick up an audio guide and unlock the secrets of this landscape at your own pace, with information available in 11 languages and options to suit all ages.



Dunluce Castle

Perched dramatically on the edge of a basalt cliff, Dunluce Castle is a must-visit destination on Northern Ireland's Causeway Coast. This medieval fortress, dating back to the 13th century, offers breathtaking views of the North Atlantic and a fascinating glimpse into the region's tumultuous history. Explore the castle's ruins, where legends of banshees and ghostly pipers abound, and discover the intriguing tales of the MacDonnell clan, who once called it home. With its stunning location and rich heritage, Dunluce Castle is an unforgettable stop for history enthusiasts and photographers alike.

pre-booking is not available - tickets are available on entry



Derry - The City

Northern Ireland's second largest city is located on the border with Donegal, Republic of Ireland. From the Irish Doire (meaning "oak tree") Derry, or the Maiden City, was renamed Londonderry in 1613 during the Plantation of Ulster.

Native city of poet and Nobel Prize winner Seamus Heaney, Derry has a strong literary, as well as musical tradition, evident in the vibrant art centre and an abundance of theatres and galleries. Derry is the only remaining walled city in Ireland, and is one of the finest examples of a walled city in Europe. Revelling in its cultural heritage, it also looks with pride and confidence into the future.



Check into Derry Hotel (TBD, 1 night)

Day 4



Glenveagh National Park

Glenveagh National Park lies in the heart of County Donegal, among the wild and rugged landscape of the Derryveagh Mountains. Its pristine habitats and protected wildlife, and its trails taking in the stunning Victorian Castle and Gardens along Lough Veagh, make Glenveagh the ideal escape for lovers of the natural world.



Donegal Town, Co. Donegal

Donegal Town is an attractive vibrant town overlooking Donegal Bay with a backdrop of the Bluestack Mountains on the Wild Atlantic Way. Traditionally a Market Town with a Diamond at its centre it is easily accessible for visitors and locals to explore the abundance of shops, dining, cultural and heritage attractions, bars and entertainment suitable for all tastes and ages.



Check into Donegal Hotel (TBD, 2 nights)

Day 5



Slieve League Cliffs

The Slieve League Cliffs (or Sliabh Liag in Gaelic), are situated on the south west coast. These are said to be one of the highest and finest marine cliffs in Europe, rising almost 2000ft (598m) from the Atlantic.



Glencolmille

Gleann Cholm Cille, anglicised as Glencolumbkille or Glencolmille, is a small district on the Atlantic coast of southwest County Donegal in Ulster, the northern province in Ireland. Named after Saint Colm Cille, it is also a civil parish in the historic barony of Banagh. Here, you'll see some of the most stunning coastal views in all of Ireland.

Also visit the Glencolmille Folk Village, a replica of a coastal thatched cottage village that offers a glimpse at life as it was lived in Glencolmille in past centuries.



Day 6



Ulster American Folk Park

Here you can explore rural Ulster and the American frontier as you walk in the footsteps of bold migrants who set sail for the New World. Learn about the lives left behind, the hardships endured on the journey and the pioneering spirit that led to new lives in a new world. Wander the pathways of rural Ulster and meet historical characters nestled in welcoming farmhouses as you hear about their lives in Ireland. Board the Brig Union ship and experience the cramped quarters where hundreds of people lived during the Atlantic crossing. Emerge in the New World and find out how Ulster peoples emigration had an impact throughout North America.



Check into Belfast Hotel (TBD, 1 night)

Day 7



Belfast International Airport - Departure

Your Private Driver will collect you from your hotel, and transfer you to the airport for your departure flight home. Safe travels!

