



*Private Houses  
and Gardens  
of  
Northern  
Ireland*

Saturday 26 - Wednesday 30 June 2021

Join us on our tour of Northern Ireland from our comfortable base in Belfast. The city's architecture reflects the affluence and wealth enjoyed from the linen trade and its status as a major urban centre. These commercial links continue to prosper and following a protracted period of conflict the city is peaceful once again and undergoing a radical programme of redevelopment and renovation.

Its history is inextricably bound with the fortunes of the Harland and Wolff shipyard and the tragic loss of the SS Titanic. The Titanic Experience charts the history of the ship from its inception to its demise in the icy waters of the North Atlantic on 15 April 1912. Visits outside of the city will include the wonderful gardens of Castle Coole and a journey up the north Antrim Coastline to the breath-taking Giant's Causeway, a unique configuration of naturally created stone columns.

## SATURDAY 26 JUNE 2021

We will depart from our local pick-up point and travel by coach to Gatwick airport for the 10.30 flight with EasyJet to **Belfast** which is due to arrive at 12.00. *Please note that flights are not included in the tour price and that these flight times are subject to reconfirmation by the airline.* Upon arrival we will be met by a local coach and travel to the centre of Belfast to visit **The Titanic Experience**. This exhibition consists of nine galleries re-telling the Titanic story from the building of the ship in Belfast in the 1900s through to her tragic end. This self-guided visit features full-scale reconstructions as well as dramatic special effects. Lunch may be taken on arrival in one of the onsite eateries.

Following the visit, we will travel by coach to the centrally located **Europa Hotel** for 4 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation. After some time to freshen up, **dinner** will be taken in the hotel restaurant.

## SUNDAY 27 JUNE 2021

Today we will enjoy a full day of visits in Belfast with a local guide. Our morning will start with an **orientation tour** of Belfast to include the City Hall, the Opera House and the Cathedral Quarter. The **City Hall** was designed by Alfred Brumwell Thomas and completed in 1906. It has strong connections with the creator of the ship the Titanic, William Pirrie, who was Lord Mayor in 1896. His suite of rooms are known as 'the Titanic Rooms' as craftsmen who worked on them also worked on the liner. Today, the Hall is the home of Belfast City Council. The Opera House (to be viewed externally only due to expected closure) was completed to designs by Frank Matcham and opened to the public in December 1895. Despite a turbulent history it has remained a centre for entertainment in times of peace and war and its opulent Victorian structure is a mark of Belfast's cultural history. The **Cathedral Quarter** was formerly the centre of Belfast's trade and warehousing district, which developed directly from the city's linen and shipbuilding industries. The area still retains some of Belfast's oldest buildings including St Anne's Cathedral. After a period of decline in the last century the area has emerged in recent years as Belfast's cultural quarter. St Anne's Cathedral, also known as Belfast Cathedral, is

built on the site of the former Parish Church of St Anne. The new cathedral was constructed around the former parish church, which was then demolished in 1903. The only remaining feature of the parish church is the Good Samaritan window in the Cathedral Sanctuary.

We will continue with a visit to the to the **Ulster Museum**. The Museum's exhibits have evolved over a number of years and today boast an excellent applied arts collection of ceramics, glass, silverware, furniture and wood, costume, textiles and jewellery. The fine arts collection is of significant national and international importance and includes works by Gainsborough, Reynolds and Turner, plus Irish paintings from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. 20<sup>th</sup> century and modern art is well represented by both British and foreign artists to include Francis Bacon and the sculptor Henry Moore. Following the visit there will be free time for lunch.

In the early afternoon we will travel to the south east of Belfast to visit **Mount Stewart House and Gardens** (National Trust). The magnificent gardens were planted in the 1920s by Lady Londonderry and have evolved around a series of 'outdoor rooms'. The mild climate encourages the many rare and unusual plants to thrive and the gardens offer a variety of colour all year round. The House has been the home of the Londonderry family since the 18<sup>th</sup> century and its primary exhibit is George Stubbs' famous painting of the race horse 'Hambletonian'. We will return to our hotel in central Belfast for an evening at leisure.

## MONDAY 28 JUNE 2021

After breakfast at the hotel we will set off by coach with our driver, who also acts as a guide, to the **Giant's Causeway**. A series of 40,000 stone columns forming steps leading from the foot of the cliffs into the sea, many of the columns are six sided and some are 40 feet tall. Created during volcanic activity some 60 million years ago, local legend attributes the Causeway to the Irish Giant Finn MacCool, who crossed the Irish Sea to fight a rival Scottish giant. The hues of red sandstone, white chalk, black basalt and blue clay mingle with touches of sea pink to create a unique seascape of outstanding beauty. *Please note it is a steep walk to and from the causeway but there is a shuttle that provides transport at a small charge.*

### WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE 2021

We will then continue to **Old Bushmills Distillery** which professes to produce the best whiskey in Ireland! We will have a **guided visit** of the distillery followed by a tasting and there will be free time for lunch following the tour.

This afternoon we will continue to Glenarm for a **private visit** of **Glenarm Castle**. Built in 1636, it is one of the oldest estates in Northern Ireland and has been the home of the McDonnell family since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The current owner is Viscount Dunluce. **The Walled Garden**, situated in the grounds of the Castle, is one of the oldest gardens in Ireland, dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Originally laid out to supply the castle with fruit and vegetables, the garden has been extended over the years and is now filled with an array of flowers and specimen plants. **Tea/coffee and cake** will be served following the visit and at the end of the afternoon we will return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

### TUESDAY 29 JUNE 2021

This morning we will travel by coach to **Enniskillen** to visit **Castle Coole**. Located in a 700 acre estate Castle Coole is one of Ireland's finest neo-classical houses. It was designed by James Wyatt for the first Earl of Belmore and the excellent craftsmanship employed has resulted in magnificent state rooms displaying luxurious Regency furnishings. We will enjoy a **guided visit** followed by some time at leisure to enjoy the grounds. Lunch may be taken in the tea rooms.

In the afternoon we will continue with a visit to **Belleek Pottery**, home to the world famous Belleek Fine Parian China. The building, nestled on the banks of the River Erne was the home of production from the 1857 to 1988 and has since been refurbished to include an award winning visitor centre. A highlight of our visit is the opportunity to view the Belleek International Centre Piece, one of the oldest and most precious pieces of Belleek ever made, the urn shaped vase is intricately decorated with flowers and Irish harps, while the scrolled base supports three Irish Wolfhounds, all of which were made and joined by hand. We will return by coach to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

We will check out of the hotel after a leisurely breakfast and travel by coach to the Ards Peninsula for a **private visit** to **Grey Abbey House**. The house has been the home of the Montgomery family for 400 years and is the third to be built on this site overlooking Strangford Lough. A fine Georgian country house, it contains interesting architectural features including a cantilevered staircase and some watercolour paintings by Lady Charlotte Herbert, the wife of one of the Montgomery line. In the grounds of the house are the ruins of a former Cistercian Abbey which was founded in 1193 by Affreca, wife of John de Courcy.

We will enjoy a **private guided visit** of the house prior to a **farewell lunch** (this visit is subject to availability). Late afternoon we will transfer to Belfast airport for the return flight to the UK which is due to depart at 18.25 and arrive in Gatwick at 19.55. *Please note that these flight times are subject to reconfirmation by the airline.* On arrival at Gatwick, we will be met by our local coach for the return journey to our original pick-up point.

*N.B. As this tour has been planned many months in advance, the final itinerary may vary slightly from the above.*



Heritage  
GROUP TRAVEL

Heritage Group Travel  
Charlotte House  
12 Charlotte Street  
Bath BA1 2NE  
Tel: 01225 466620  
[heritage@grouptravel.co.uk](mailto:heritage@grouptravel.co.uk)

# The Arts Society Arun

## TOUR PRICE

**£795** per person sharing a twin/double room (Please note that flights are NOT included)

**£160** single room supplement

### PRICE INCLUDES

Coach transfers to/from London Gatwick  
Executive coach travel in and around Belfast as per itinerary  
4 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation  
Dinner in the hotel restaurant on the first evening  
Refreshments at Glenarm Castle  
2 course lunch on the final day  
Services of a local guide for a walking tour of Belfast  
Guided visit of Old Bushmills Distillery  
Private visit of Glenarm Castle  
Guided visit of Castle Coole  
Guided visit of Belleek Pottery  
Private visit of Grey Abbey House  
All entrance fees and charges

*Please note that entrance charges to National Trust properties are not included as these are free of charge to National Trust members upon production of a valid membership card*

### OPTIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking that each tour participant carries full travel insurance (optional for the UK) and it is your responsibility to ensure that you have adequate insurance for this tour. We have arranged a scheme with specialists Travel & General Insurance Services Limited who are fully authorised and regulated by the FCA (firm reference number 304788) full details of which can be found on the FCA website [www.fca.org.uk](http://www.fca.org.uk). Please call Travel & General on 0203 794 2954 for a quote.

### HOTEL DETAILS

4 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation at:

#### Europa Hotel

Great Victoria Street, BT2 7AP, Belfast  
[www.hastingshotels.com](http://www.hastingshotels.com)

### MINIMUM NUMBERS

The price of the tour is based on a minimum of 25 participants

### IDENTIFICATION

Please note that photographic identification will be required for the flight (ie passport, driving licence, etc).

### SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

EasyJet currently operates a convenient service between London Gatwick and Belfast and it is our intention to use these flights next year assuming that schedules are similar. The tour price shown **excludes** airfares as these are not yet known, but in order to book seats at the best fares as soon as they become available we are asking for an early deposit of **£350** per person. We will pass on the airfare at cost price plus an admin fee of £10 per person, and in the unlikely event that the tour does not materialise **or** that the fares at the time of booking exceed £200 per person, your deposit will be refunded in full. Please indicate on the booking form if you would prefer to make your own travel arrangements, but we would ask you **not** to book your flights until you have received written confirmation that your booking has been accepted and that the tour will be going ahead.

### BOOKING & FINAL TRAVEL DETAILS

To reserve your place on the tour, please send your completed booking form and deposit of **£350** per person, together with your insurance premium (if required), to **Heritage Group Travel** as soon as possible and no later than **Monday 02 November 2020**. You will receive a confirmation of your booking combined with an invoice for the final balance, together with your insurance policy if requested. *Please note that no reminder will be sent for the final balance.* The final travel details (itinerary, hotel details, flight ticket and luggage label) will be available approximately 10-14 days prior to travel. The final balance is due by **Friday 16 April 2021**.

### YOUR FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Our ATOL Number is 3707.

All the flights and flight-inclusive tours in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: [www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate](http://www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate)

