

# Why Belfast?



Béal Feirste, meaning “mouth of the sand-bank ford” or “mouth of the river” is the capital city of Northern Ireland. It stands on the banks of the River Lagan on the East Coast of Northern Ireland, just 90 minutes north of Dublin Airport. Belfast is sometimes known as ‘the wildcard destination’ or the world’s best kept secret – so get here before the rest of the world does!

Lonely Planet declared Belfast and the Causeway Coast the #1 region to visit in the world in 2018. The vibrant and thriving capital of Belfast has undergone an era of regeneration and features a wide array of award-winning restaurants, bars and tourist attractions.

## Places to visit & things to do:

- **Game of Thrones Tours:** <https://www.gameofthronestours.com/>
- **North Antrim Coast, Giant’s Causeway, and Carrick a Rede Rope Bridge:** <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/giants-causeway>
- **Bushmills Distillery**, the oldest licensed distillery in the world: <https://bushmills.com/distillery/>
- **Toast the Coast Tours:** Celebrate local food on the Antrim Coast, enjoying local people, stories, and stunning scenery: <https://www.toastthecoastni.com/>
- **Taste and Tour in Belfast:** Food & drink tours within Belfast City Centre: <https://tasteandtour.co.uk/>
- **St Georges Market:** One of Belfast’s oldest attractions and one of the best markets in the UK & Ireland, with fresh produce, arts, and crafts every weekend: <https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/tourism-venues/stgeorgesmarket/stgeorgesmarket-about.aspx>
- **Belfast City Hall:** One of Belfast’s most iconic buildings, Belfast City Hall first opened its doors in August 1906 and is Belfast’s civic building. <https://visitbelfast.com/partners/belfast-city-hall/>
- **Golf** – two world renowned golf courses: Royal County Down & Royal Portrush <https://www.royalcountydown.org/> and <https://www.royalportrushgolfclub.com/>

## Awards:

- **Best Food Destination** by the World Travel Market (2018)
- **#1 Region to Visit in the World** by Lonely Planet (2018)
- **Tourism ‘Rising Star Award’** by National Geographic (2017)
- **Best UK City** by the Guardian & World Travel Observer (2016)
- **‘Worlds Leading Visitor Attraction’** - Titanic Museum (2016)
- **#1 Golf Course in the World** by Golf Digest - Royal County Down (2018)
- **Northern Ireland’s Hotel of the Year** by Britain’s AA Hotel Awards - The Fitzwilliam Hotel Belfast (2019)

## Accessibility:

- **George Best Belfast City Airport** — 5 minutes from city center
- **Belfast International** — 30 minutes from the city center
- **Dublin Airport** — 90 minutes’ drive from Belfast city center

