



The Giant's Causeway

# Northern Ireland: Culture, Landscapes and Cuisine

4 – 8 September 2022



Jon Baines  
tours



Dunluce Castle (Heiko Schuff, Unsplash)

**Northern Ireland now sits firmly at the table of cultural, stunningly beautiful and vibrant destinations. Explore Belfast, County Down and County Antrim, which encompass Titanic history, poignant murals, art deco elegance, clean modern lines, magnificent landscapes and old-world charm.**

Drive on one of the world's great touring routes, the Causeway Coastal Route, which hugs the road between Belfast and Derry, and visit the birthplace of Sir Hans Sloane. Learn more about the politics during and after the Troubles,

reconciliation and the Good Friday Agreement and visit the Guild Hall in Derry, where the Agreement was signed. Hear stories of Northern Ireland as you drive along the spectacular North Antrim coast from tour leaders who lived and worked in Northern Ireland. Along the way, meet and talk with fascinating locals, guides and academics and sample world-class local cuisine and whiskey.

There is the option for a post-tour extension to Liverpool – please contact us to register your interest.

## Tour Leaders

**Dr John Richardson** is an Emeritus Professor of Primary Care and General Practice. He also worked for three years as an occupational physician in Northern Ireland. He has led study tours worldwide and was a medical escort to parties of war widows and veterans on journeys of remembrance for the Royal British Legion. He has also run many history of medicine battlefield tours. He has visited more than 80 countries and worked in 41 of them as a doctor. John has previously led tours for Jon Baines to China, Central Asia, India, Turkey, Central America, Ecuador and the Galapagos, Namibia, Ethiopia, Indochina and Burma. He has also given lectures on cruises.



**Susi Richardson** has travelled widely across the world with John either as an expedition nurse, or as a nurse on war grave pilgrimages for the Royal British Legion, or as co-tour leader for Jon Baines Tours.

The Titanic Museum, Belfast



## Day 1: Belfast (Sun, 4 Sept) **D**

**Pm:** Arrive in Belfast and check into the Titanic Hotel. Take a short walking tour with a member of the Belfast Titanic Society around the site of the old Harland and Wolff shipyard, including the main parts of the slipways where Titanic was built. Continue inside the hotel (the old Harland and Wolff Offices) and visit the old drawing offices.

**Eve:** Drinks in the Drawing Rooms, followed by a welcome dinner in the Wolff Grill.

smoked salmon from a local smoker who has been in business for over 100 years, and more, with a small glass of wine. The next stop is for Northern Ireland's first gin. Sit in a private mahogany carved booth in Belfast's most famous pub, a Victorian gin palace. Then head underground to one of the world's top chocolatiers for a 'top ten in the world hot chocolate' and brownie. Off to a traditional bar dating back to 1720. Pour your own glass of stout (glass of white wine or beer is also an option) and enjoy the best Irish stew in Belfast.

## Day 2: Belfast (Mon, 5 Sept) **B D**

**Am:** Explore Belfast, including City Hall and the Linen Hall. Continue to visit the Murals on the Falls Road and visit Culturlann. Continue to Shankill Road and hear stories of Belfast during the Troubles.

**Pm:** Take part in a guided culinary tour and start by stepping into a foodie's treasure trove – a deli dating back to 1897. Enjoy a selection of Northern Irish artisan produce, including the hand rolled butter served in Claridges,

**Eve:** Walk down a narrow but atmospheric entry, steeped in Victorian history. Climb the stairs and imbibe in secret speakeasy style with a taste of Ireland's most famous export in the form of an Irish coffee. Enjoy a whiskey tasting and learn how to make Irish coffee.

## Day 3: Belfast / County Down (Tue, 6 Sept) **B L**

**Am:** Take a self-guided tour of the Titanic Experience Museum with commentary.

**Pm:** Drive to Killyleagh via Stormont Parliament

Stormont Parliament Buildings





Visit Killyleagh Castle

Buildings and enjoy lunch at the Dufferin Arms, which is a James Joyce Award pub. See Killyleagh Castle and the Rectory, the home of the Assyriologist Reverend Edward Hincks, one of the decipherers of Mesopotamian cuneiform. See the memorial of Vice-Admiral Sir Henry Blackwood. Visit the Sir Hans Sloane Centre, meet the Director Elizabeth Crilly and hear of the life of Sir Hans Sloane. Learn of the centre and of the Hamilton legacy. Return to Belfast.

**Day 4: Belfast / Derry (Wed, 7 Sept)** B D

Am: Drive with a specialist local guide along the North Antrim coast to the Giant's Causeway and see Dunluce Castle.

Pm: Visit Derry; on a guided walking tour visit the beautiful historic Guild Hall and the People's Gallery, and walk along the city walls. Return to Belfast.

Eve: Enjoy a farewell dinner.

**Day 5: Belfast (Thur, 8 Sept)** B

Am: Option to visit SS Nomadic and return to the Titanic Experience. Depart Belfast.



Sample Irish coffee



The hotel reception area

## The Titanic Hotel

This stylish hotel is located in the heart of Belfast's Titanic Quarter in the legendary Harland & Wolff Headquarters and Drawing Offices that were once the nerve centre of the largest shipyard in the world. The building is listed due to its special architectural and historical importance. The magnificent dual Victorian Drawing Offices, with their three-storey high barrel-vaulted ceilings, are the only surviving example of this type of shipyard architecture in the world.

The entire White Star Line fleet was designed in the Drawing Offices and constructed on the

slipways outside, including the legendary liners *Olympic*, *Titanic* and *Oceanic* and naval warship *HMS Belfast*. The hotel was designed in close consultation with conservation architects, incorporating as many original features as possible and retaining art deco and nautical elements throughout.

The hotel features airy, elegant bedrooms with an art deco inspiration. Dining options include a cocktail bar and a stately restaurant, which is a destination in its own right. With a painstaking restoration completed in September 2017, the heritage-listed building is now a glamorous symbol of Belfast's golden age.



Drawing Office Two



Dunluce Castle (top); A view from Dunluce Castle (above)

**The tour cost is £985 per person sharing a room**

**The tour cost is £1,175 per person with a room to yourself**

**The cost includes:**

- Four nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms at the Titanic Hotel
- Tour leaders John and Susi Richardson
- Local speakers and / or specialist guides on days 2, 3 and 4
- Comprehensive briefing notes
- All breakfasts
- Dinners on days 1, 2 and 4 and lunch on day 3
- All transport as per the itinerary
- A full programme of cultural visits, all admission fees & all earphones for guiding
- Tips

**Additional nights at Titanic Hotel: £120 per room per night, subject to availability**

**Cost excludes:**

- Travel to Belfast and airport / port to hotel transfers
- All personal extras such as portering, laundry, and drinks
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance

**Travel to Belfast**

There are direct flights to Belfast from London Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton and Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

There are options to travel by ferry. From Liverpool this takes eight hours and there are two crossings outbound (one day time and one overnight) and one inbound (overnight). There are five crossings per day from Stranraer in Scotland, which takes just over two hours.

**Extension to Liverpool**

We are arranging a post-tour extension to Liverpool including two nights' accommodation, dinner, a tour and visits. Please contact us for further details.

# About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.

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Belfast City Hall (top); A mural for Peace Day on the "Peace Wall" in West Belfast; County Antrim near Dunluce Castle; The Guild Hall and War Memorial, Derry (above)



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