



Fáilte Feirste Thiar
PROMOTING WEST BELFAST TOURISM
www.visitwestbelfast.com



SUMMER GUIDE

WWW.VISITWESTBELFAST.COM

Belfast (or Béal Feirste to give it its Irish name) is Ireland's second city and is unlike any other place on this Island. Ask anyone about Belfast and they'll tell you which part of it is the most bustling, happening and vibrant. Without a doubt, it's the West!

Known throughout the world as a hotbed of political invention and a platform for social progress; West Belfast is now a must see destination for any tourist in Ireland.

This publication provides visitors with a snapshot of activities to experience in west Belfast the Summer. These activities range from family adventures to world class historical and cultural tours, experiences and festivals.

ACCESS

West Belfast is accessible by foot, car, bus, train and cycling.

We are 100 miles from Dublin & 70 miles from Derry.

CAR

West Belfast has multiple access points from Westlink and M1 motorways.

TAXI

All seven Belfast Taxi CIC routes through West Belfast depart from the King Street depot in the city centre.

BUS

The new Translink Glider service departing City Centre travels along West Belfast's main arterial routes Falls Road, Andersonstown Road and Stewartstown Road until it reaches the Colin Transport Hub.

BY FOOT

West Belfast is only a few minutes walk from Belfast City Centre. Exit from Castle Street, or Grosvenor Road to reach The Falls Road.



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[@FailteFeirste](https://www.instagram.com/failtefeirste)



FÁILTE GO DTÍ AN CHEATHRÚ GAELTACHTA

WELCOME TO BELFAST'S GAELTACHT QUARTER

WEST BELFAST

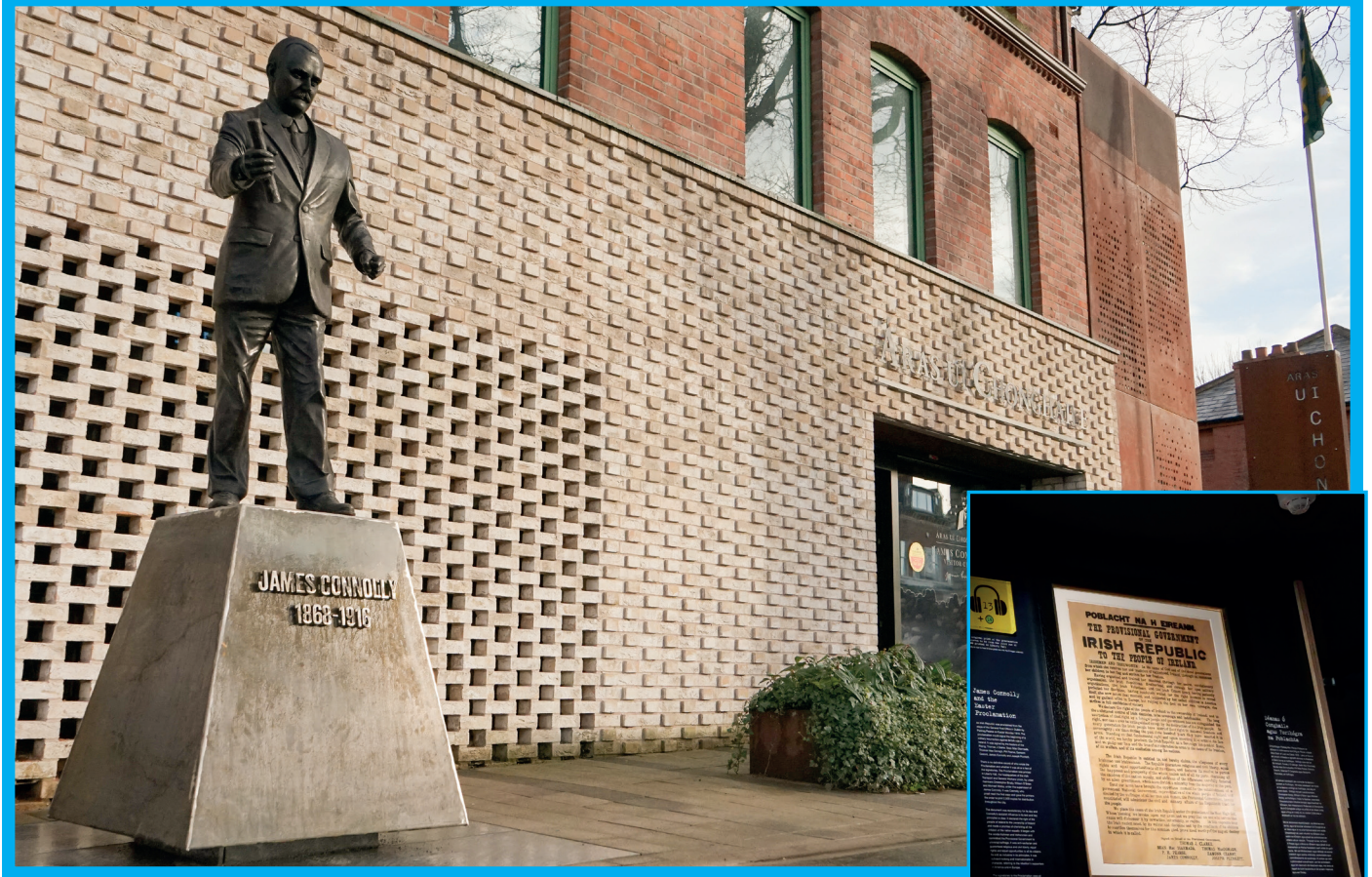
- 1 Black Taxi Depot *Iosta na dTacsaithe Dubha*
- 2 Raidió Fáilte *Raidió Fáilte*
- 3 St Peter's Cathedral *Ardeaglais Pheadair*
- 4 International Wall *An Balla Idirnáisiúnta*
- 5 The Conway Mill *Muileann Mhíic Con Midhe*
- 6 Bobby Sands Mural *Múrmhaisiú Bobby Sands*
- 7 Clonard Monastery *Mainistir Chluain Ard*
- 8 St Mary's College *Coláiste Ollscoile Naomh Muire*
- 9 An Chultúrlann *An Chultúrlann*
- 10 Farset International *Brú Óige Idirnáisiúnta na Feirste Youth Hostel*
- 11 The Bog Meadows *Anaclann Dúlra Chluain an Bhogaidh Nature Reserve*
- 12 Belfast City Cemetery *Reilig Chathair Bhéal Feirste*
- 13 Milltown Cemetery *Reilig Bhaile an Mhuilinn*
- 14 Kennedy Centre *Ionad Uí Chinnéide*
- 15 Felons Club *Cumann na Meirleach*
- 16 Colin Glen Forest Park *Páirc Foraoise Ghleann Chollann*
- 17 Gruffalo Trail *Conair an Ghrufalo*
- 18 Roddy McCorley *Cumann Sóisialta Rodaí Mhíic Corlaí Social Club*
- 19 Falls Park *Páirc na bhFál*
- 20 Peace Walls *Na Ballaí Síochána*

- 21 Balmoral Hotel *Óstán Balmoral*
- 22 Black Mountain *An Sliabh Dubh*
- 23 Divis *Duibhis*
- 24 Colin Glen Allotments *Garraithe Scóir Ghleann Chollann*
- 25 James Connolly Statue *Dealbh Shéamuis Uí Chonghaile*
- 26 Johnny Caldwell Statue *Dealbh Johnny Caldwell*
- 27 James Connolly Visitor Centre *Áras Uí Chonghaile*



- Place Names of West Belfast
- Divis - Duibhis (The Black Ridge)
 - Shankill - An tSeanchill (The Old Church)
 - Falls - Tuath na bhFál (The territory of the enclosures)
 - Ballymurphy - Baile Uí Mhurchú (Murphy's Townland)
 - Whiterock - An Charraig Bhán (The White Rock)
 - Turf Lodge - Lóiste na Móna (The Turf Lodge)
 - Andersonstown - Baile Andarsan (Anderson's Town)
 - Ladybrook - Sruthán na Bantiarna (The Lady's Brook)
 - Finaghy - Baile an Fhionnachaidh (Townland of the White Field)
 - Poleglass - An Poll Glas (The Green Hollow)
 - Dunmurry - Dún Muirigh (Muirloch's Fort)
 - Twinbrook - Cill Uaighe (the name of an ancient church which formerly stood in the neighbouring townland)

- Tourist Information
- Church
 - Art Piece
 - Mural
 - Peace Wall
 - Historic Building/Place
 - Historic Person
 - Coliste Meeting Point
 - Graveyard/Monument
 - Hospital
 - Leisure Centre
 - Accommodation
 - Black Taxi Bank



Áras Uí Chonghaile | The James Connolly Visitor Centre

Cost | £10 per person | Free for citizens of Belfast

An award-winning modern, inspirational, visitor centre based in the heart of Belfast's Gaeltacht Quarter and located only yards from where James Connolly lived on the Falls Road. The centre offers a thought provoking insight into James Connolly's life, his politics and the impact he had on the history of the Island of Ireland.

The James Connolly Experience immerses you into the life and history of one of Ireland's greatest trade union and political leaders. Áras Uí Chonghaile's brand new audio tour guides you through the world class exhibition, to the unique library, Leabharlann Uí Chonghaile and through the art and historic collections.

Lasting approximately 40 minutes, the tour introduces you to many interactive features and historic artefacts including the RTÉ video archive, the Transatlantic Voyager and an original Irish Proclamation and the rare printing blocks the printed it.



Antrim GAA games at Corrigan Park |

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) is Ireland's largest sporting organisation. It is celebrated as one of the great amateur sporting associations in the world. It is part of the Irish consciousness and plays an influential role in Irish society that extends far beyond the basic aim of promoting Gaelic games.

Antrim, our county team play their games at Corrigan Park in West Belfast. On any given weekend you can have the opportunity to watch Antrim Footballers and Hurlers compete against other county teams both in the Allianz Leagues, Ulster Championship and All Ireland Championship.

For match schedule and tickets go to:
www.antrim.gaa.ie



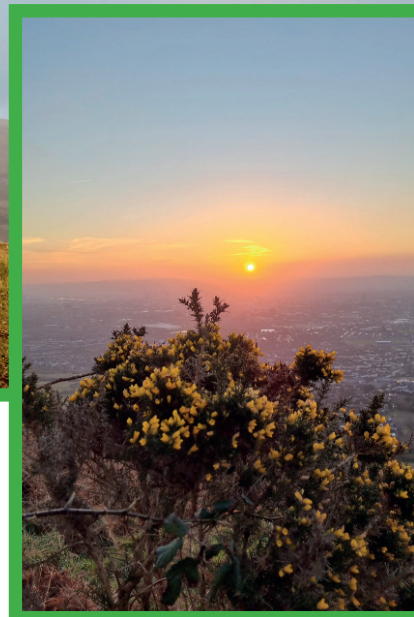
An Ceathrú Gaeltachta | The Gaeltacht Quarter

The Gaeltacht Quarter is Belfast at its most unique and daring. Belfast dates back to an ancient fort which once controlled the ford across the river Lagan. In fact the name of the city is derived from the Gaelic Béal Feirste roughly translated as “the mouth of the sandbank”.

Nowhere is this historical legacy more potent and vibrant than along the Falls Road where the Irish language has flourished, igniting a range of 21st century cultural experiences. This area is the Gaeltacht Quarter.

Join Slí na Gaeltachta, a guided walking tour through the heart of this historic area and discover the fascinating story of the Irish language in the Gaeltacht Quarter or visit An Chultúrlann, Belfast’s leading culture and arts centre and immerse yourself in the Gaeltacht Quarter Experience. Designed to give visitors an authentic taste of Irish culture, heritage and history, visitors will come away from the tour having experienced the language, music, dance and west Belfast’s renowned friendly welcoming atmosphere.

**For available tours go to:
www.visitwestbelfast.com**



Belfast Hills - Cnoic Bhéal Feirste

Cost | Free

Surrounding the city lie the majestic Belfast Hills, where urban city life meets rural tranquility.

Resting in the heart of the Belfast Hills, Divis Mountain and Black Mountain provide a beautiful backdrop to the city's skyline. Explore this rich, varied archaeological landscape and discover how it is home to a host of wildlife. The walking trails through heath, on stone tracks, along boardwalks and road surface offer a diverse array of terrains to interest all walking levels. On a clear day, there are views of Strangford Lough, the Mourne and Sperrin mountain ranges and as far as Donegal and Scotland.

Located at the foot of the Belfast Hills connecting North and West Belfast is the picturesque Springfield Dam. Enjoy the tranquil surroundings of the large pond connected by a wooden bridge that overlooks an abundance of wildlife from swans, ducks and cormorant to heron and moorhens complete with pontoons attracting local angling fishermen.



Bog Meadows Nature Reserve & St James' Community Farm

Cost | Free to visit (Donations accepted)

Bog Meadows Nature Reserve

Meandering its way from the mountains to the motorway lies the last surviving remnant of the extensive flood plain of the river Blackstaff covering 50 acres and comprises a mosaic of reedbeds, meadows, ponds, woodland streams and hedgerows.

During the Autumn months the Bog Meadow Nature Reserves, a variety of waders are attracted to the ponds when water levels are low. Winter is the best time to see the variety of ducks, geese and swans that overwinter here.

St James' Community Farm

St James' Community Farm is a fantastic initiative led by volunteers and residents. The community farm has been in operation for over six years and has recently launched a new community hub.

The farm houses many farm animals including goats, sheep, ducks, chickens and many more.



Colin Glen Forest Park | Páirc Foraise Ghleann Coilín

Book at www.colinglen.org

Tucked away at the foot of the Belfast Hills is Colin Glen Forest Park, where your urban adventure awaits. Spread over two sites is a land of storytelling and a state-of-the-art sports park.

Enjoy beautiful scenery in what is affectionately known as Belfast's Green Lung. Walk with wildlife or zipline through the trees, follow Ireland's official Gruffalo Trail or take a heritage trail through an oasis of tranquillity.

Travel through the forest, twisting and turning while you control the speed on Ireland's First Alpine Coaster. Climb the 100ft tower and zip through the trees, at up to 50mph on Ireland's Longest Zipline, taking in the mind-blowing views over the city and valley of County Down! The new world class attractions are located at our Mountain Entrance in the 200-acre forest park with views over Belfast City and beyond.



Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich

Cost | Free to visit

Cultúrlann Mc Adam Ó Fiaich is Belfast's leading Irish language, arts and cultural centre on the Falls Road in West Belfast.

Based in a former Presbyterian church, the building has had a number of incarnations during its often troubled history. As an arts centre, it is at the heart of the thriving Gaeltacht Quarter in Belfast.

An Cultúrlann houses An Ceathrú Póilí book and gift shop, West Belfast's tourist information point and Dillon art gallery, a contemporary art space named after famed local artist Gerard Dillon

While visiting, take a break and enjoy a relaxed & homely atmosphere mixed with great hearty food in Bia Loch Lao restaurant.

For more information go to:
www.culturlann.ie



Féile 35

an Phobail

WELCOMING THE WORLD



Féile an Phobail **Flagship August Festival** 3rd - 13th August

In the city of Belfast, the month of August means its Féile time!

The biggest community arts festival in Ireland celebrates 35 years from 3rd to 13th August.

Over the years, Féile an Phobail has developed enormously and is now the biggest community arts festival in Ireland, with over 300 events including concerts, drama, art exhibitions, lectures, carnival parades, parties in the park, sport and visual arts.

Falls Park events will return as well as the magnificent Carnival Parade and Party in the Park. One of the major highlights of Féile every year is the massive Debates and Discussions programme at St Mary's University College as well as a packed programme of family themed events.

Full festival programme will be launch in advance of the Summer extravaganza.

For more information go to: www.feilebelfast.com



Roddy McCorley Republican Heritage Centre

Opening Summer 2023

Discover the story of over 200 years of Irish Republicanism. A story told through the prism of a unique collection of locally gathered and curated historical artefacts from The Society of United Irishmen of 1798 through to the present day.

Extend your experience with a visit to The Roddy McCorley restaurant, a new modern restaurant serving the finest locally sourced Irish cuisine with a modern twist providing spectacular 360° views over Belfast Lough and as far as the majestic Mourne Mountains.

The new visitor centre will include:

- World class museum of locally sourced historical artifacts
- Modern restaurant with rooftop terrace
- The Corrib Bar & Lounge
- Functions and events
- Entertainment programme

Keep a look out on Roddy McCorley Republican Heritage Centre social media channels for more information.



West Belfast Mural Trail

Cost | Free to visit

Along the Falls Road are the walls murals of west Belfast. Described as Europe's largest public art gallery our world famous murals highlight political and social issues across the globe and pay tribute to revolutionary leaders including Frederick Douglas, Nelson Mandela and Bobby Sands.

The best way to experience the artwork is with our West Belfast Mural Map, available to download at www.visitwestbelfast.com. With this map you can spend an entire day meandering your way through the streets of west Belfast being captivated by the people and communities that inspired our renowned artists.

Download Map Here:

www.visitwestbelfast.com/publications

Copies can also be found at:

- Visit Belfast Welcome Centre
- Áras Uí Chnoghaille The James Connolly Visitor Centre
- Cultúrlann Mc Adam Ó'Fiaich
- West Belfast Black Taxi Depot, King Street
- Fáilte Feirste Thiar office, Falls Road



Political Tours

Cost | Coiste Walking Tour £10pp |
TaxiTrax £26 for a group of 4

Coiste Irish Political Tours

Your Coiste Irish Political Tour Guides will be former political prisoners from the republican community, who will weave their personal account of the British/Irish conflict into the wider history of this centuries old conflict.

For Bookings go to: www.coiste.ie

TaxiTrax Black Taxi Tours

The award winning TaxiTrax Tours are the Largest and Original taxi tour company in Belfast. Guides will take you through sites of historical and political interest, explaining the significance of the Belfast murals. Eyewitness accounts that have not yet reached the History Books. Real stories from real people living real lives.

Belfast black taxi tours will entertain, educate, enlighten and challenge.

For bookings contact: 07892 716660



Eat out in West Belfast

Treat yourself to some self-love and indulge in dining out in one of our many West Belfast Restaurants.

With a selection of mouth-watering menus catering for a variety of tastes and requirements, serving a diverse range of dishes to tickle your taste buds whether you're seeking scrumptious steaks, Vegan feasts and delicious dining experiences with Mexican, Italian and Mediterranean influences interspersed with fine Irish cuisine.

Full selection of restaurants available at www.visitwestbelfast.com



The Balmoral Hotel

www.balmoralhotelbelfast.co.uk

Situated ten minutes from Belfast City centre with convenient access to the M1 motorway (allowing you to explore the regions most famous attractions) the Balmoral hotel offers 42 stunning rooms to ensure you relax during your stay.

Enjoy casual dining in our Lady Anne restaurant, a steak with the unique dining experience in the renowned Stix & Stones or relax with a drink in our cocktail lounge or Greenan bar.

Balmoral Hotel is only a 10 minute walk from the Colin Glen Forest Park, a short 5 minute drive from Belfast City Centre and Titanic Belfast and only 10 minutes from Divis and Black Mountain car park.



Retail Therapy

Boasting a number of large shopping centres and many more retail spaces to explore.

Kennedy Centre

Located in the heart of West Belfast with excellent links to M1 & Westlink motorways, the Kennedy Centre is home to 45 stores ranging from fashion and beauty to entertainment and dining. Stores include anchor tenant Sainsburys and Argos, Iceland, Costa Coffee, O'Neills and 26 West Bar & Grill.

The Kennedy Centre first floor is a leisure haven boasting a foodcourt area (Burger King, Subway and banjaxed Fried chicken) opposite Funky Monkeys Soft Play Area, a Family Entertainment Centre and Omniplex Cinemas.

Park Centre

With over 35 retail outlets to choose from, Park Centre provides you with a safe shopping experience. Shops include Louis Boyd, O2, JD Sport, Iceland, Boots and much more.

Diary Farm Shopping Centre

Located on the Stewartstown Road in the highly populated Colin Area, this bustling shopping centre offers quality Retail Units and Office Space within an ever growing catchment population. Enjoy family fun time at Roar & Explore or dine out at the exciting new Urban fire restaurant.



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