



Fáilte Feirste Thiar  
PROMOTING WEST BELFAST TOURISM  
[www.visitwestbelfast.com](http://www.visitwestbelfast.com)

# AUTUMN GUIDE

## TREOIR AN FHÓMHAIR

[www.visitwestbelfast.com](http://www.visitwestbelfast.com)



## Fáilte go dtí Iarthar Bhéal Feirste | Welcome to West Belfast

Visit West Belfast this Autumn to experience breathtaking views, amazing visitor experiences, action packed family adventures and our world famous west Belfast hospitality.

Packed full of urban escapes, family adventures, world class tours, and our dynamic and historic Gaeltacht Quarter, West Belfast is a must see destination for anyone visiting Ireland.

This publication provides visitors with a snapshot of activities to experience in west Belfast this Autumn.

### 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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# FÁILTE GO DTÍ AN CHEATHRÚ GAELTACHTA

## WELCOME TO BELFAST'S GAELTACHT QUARTER

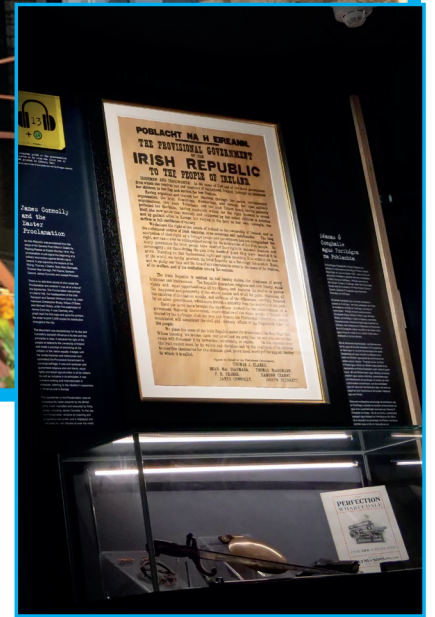
### WEST BELFAST

- 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*







## 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.





## **Andersonstown Leisure Centre**

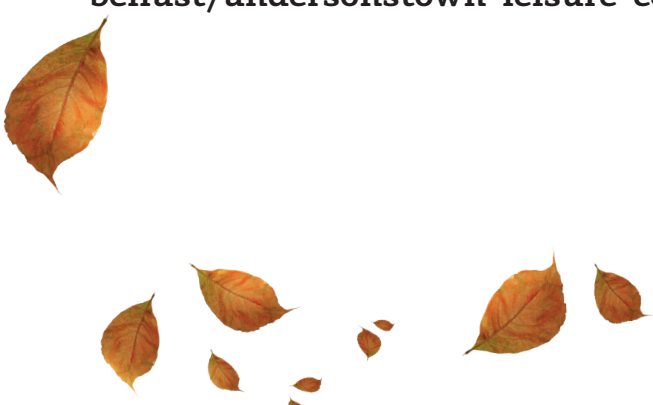
Cost | Family (2 Adults + 2 Children) £31.20 (Under 5s go Free)

Located on the Andersonstown Road, Andersonstown Leisure Centre Aqua Park boasts a surf simulator and one of the largest indoor aqua parks on the island.

Enjoy a fun-filled day out for all the fam-ily at the new aqua park which includes an adventure play area with water jets, slides, rope bridges and lots of family water fun.

The Little Lagoon is the perfect spot for toddlers to splash around and for the thrill seekers, the centre offers 3 world class high-speed water slides Torrent, Vortex and drop slide The Abyss.

For more information go to:  
<https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/belfast/andersonstown-leisure-centre>







## **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.







## Cultúrlann McAdam Ó'Fiaich

Cost | Free to visit, contact centre for tours

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

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 Biá café and restaurant where visitors can enjoy a relaxed & homely atmosphere mixed with great hearty food.

The Gaeltacht Experience welcomes visitors into a vibrant Irish language community giving you a taste of life in the Gaeltacht Quarter of Belfast. Perfect for large groups, the experience pro-vides a 3 course meal with live music throughout, a brief talk on the history of An Chultúrlann and the Gaeltacht Quarter, an Irish Language taster session, followed by a lively Céilí with Bean an Tí, Máire Uí Bhruadar.



[www.culturlann.ie](http://www.culturlann.ie)





## **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](http://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.







## Féile na Carraige

13th - 22nd October

A week long festival of debates, reflection and heated discussion, tied in with top quality music, drama and sports.

The Féile programme of events prioritise the primary aims of the Féile: participation, politics and community. thus, the events and projects being showcased during the Féile aim to create space and encourage people to think critically and take control of their own destiny.

While Féile Na Carraige intends to challenge, inspire and involve as many people as possible in a way that normalises a can-do culture of solidarity and collaboration, it also seeks to entertain and foster a sense of enjoyment and craic.

The festival is embedded in the local area and gives a platform to younger activists and transformative new community projects that have developed.







## Féile an Phobail Draíocht Halloween Festival

23rd - 28th October

Féile An Phobail, Ireland's biggest community arts festival celebrate the ancient pagan tradition of Samhain.

This year's festival welcomes the return of the very popular and extremely spooky Haunted House and massive Lantern Parade & Fireworks display in Falls Park, Belfast. The festival runs from Monday 23rd October with other events including:

Short story and art competitions, arts and crafts, live music, storytelling, drumming and more will feature throughout the week during the festival.

For more information go to:  
[www.feilebelfast.com](http://www.feilebelfast.com)







## Roddy McCorley Republican Heritage Centre

Cost: £7 per person for museum admission

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.

Located in the heart of west Belfast at the foot of the Belfast Hills, the new centre comprises of a world class museum, restaurant, bar and lounge and function and events space.

The impressive new Museum showcases a spectacular collection of artefacts and memorabilia as curated by the Roddy McCorley Society over the past 40 years. The collection charts the Republican struggle for independence dating back to the 1798 Rebellion, through the revolutionary period before and after 1916, right up to the Peace Process of the 1990s.







## 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](http://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](http://www.visitwestbelfast.com/publications)







## 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](http://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







## Dine Out In West Belfast

Chase away the Autumn chill, 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](http://www.visitwestbelfast.com)







## **The Balmoral Hotel**

[www.balmoralhotelbelfast.co.uk](http://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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