

► Attractions continued...

As part of a major renovation programme, the building is temporarily closed to the public. It will re-open in late 2009.

Donegall Square, Belfast, BT1 5GS
Tel. 028 9032 0202
www.belfastcity.gov.uk/cityhall

Belfast Hills

The Belfast Hills Partnership encompasses all the sites that let visitors experience the Belfast Hills, renowned for providing a unique backdrop to a thriving urban area. Being so close to the city, views over Belfast and beyond can be easily enjoyed at Cave Hill and Belfast Castle or Black Mountain. The Belfast Hills are thought to be inspiration for Jonathan Swift's "Gulliver's Travels" as the hills are the embodiment of a sleeping giant safeguarding the city.

163 Stewartstown Road
Dunmurry, Belfast BT17 0HW
Tel. 028 9060 3466
www.belfasthills.org

Exploris Aquarium

Exploris is Northern Ireland's only public Aquarium and seal sanctuary. It is located in Portaferry, on the shores of the Marine Nature Reserve of Strangford Lough. The Aquarium presents the wonders of the Irish Sea through an enjoyable and interactive experience.

The Ropewalk, Castle Street
Portaferry, BT22 1NZ
Tel. 028 4272 8062
www.exploris.org.uk

Giant's Causeway

This geological phenomenon sits in an area of outstanding natural beauty on the North Antrim coast and is a world heritage site. Guided tours operate June–August and the Causeway Coast Way coastal path can be explored all year round. A gift shop and a restaurant are open all year.

44a Causeway Road
Bushmills
Co. Antrim, BT57 8SU
Tel. 028 2073 1582
www.ntni.org.uk

Grand Opera House

Belfast's Grand Opera House is located on Great Victoria Street and is over 100 years old. There are two auditoriums, The Baby Grand and main Auditorium, both play host to companies from Great Britain and the world. The theatre offers a range of entertainment from operas and plays to pantomines.

Great Victoria Street
Belfast, BT2 7HR
Tel. 028 9024 0411
www.goh.co.uk

Parliament Buildings, Stormont

Stormont is a public park which remains open until 7.30pm. Pedestrians can walk from the main gates to the statue of Carson, along the Prince of Wales Avenue and can also enjoy the glen walk and visit the excellent facilities at the children's playground.

Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
Tel. 028 9052 1333
www.niassembly.gov.uk

Saint Patrick Centre

The St Patrick exhibition is a new 21st century interactive experience which tells the story of Ireland's Patron Saint. Bold graphics, sculptures, video and audio techniques allow visitors to explore how Patrick's legacy developed in early Christian times and reveals the artwork that was produced during this golden age. The centre also examines the major impact of many missionaries in dark-age Europe – a legacy that remains to this day.

Saint Patrick's Square
53a Lower Market Street
Downpatrick
County Down
BT30 6LZ
Tel. 028 4461 9000
www.saintpatrickcentre.com

Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park and City of Belfast International Rose Garden

Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park lies on the southern outskirts of Belfast and is one of the outstanding areas within the Lagan Valley Regional Park consisting of 128 acres of meadows, copses, woodland and gardens. It is one of the most popular parks in Belfast, attracting thousands of visitors each year to see the International Rose Garden and the rhododendron displays, listen to a band concert, use the children's playground or relax in the tranquil surroundings.

Upper Malone Road
Belfast BT17 9LA
www.belfastcity.gov.uk

Ulster Folk and Transport Museum

The Ulster Folk and Transport Museum is one of Ireland's foremost visitor attractions illustrating the way of life and traditions of the people of the North of Ireland. The award winning galleries of the Transport Museum display Ireland's most comprehensive transport collections from horse drawn cart to Irish built motor cars, from the steam locomotives of the 19th century to the history of ship and boat building.

At Cultra, 7 miles east of Belfast near Holywood with access by road, rail and bus.

Cultra, Holywood
Co. Down
BT18 0EU
Tel: 028 9042 8428
www.uftm.org.uk