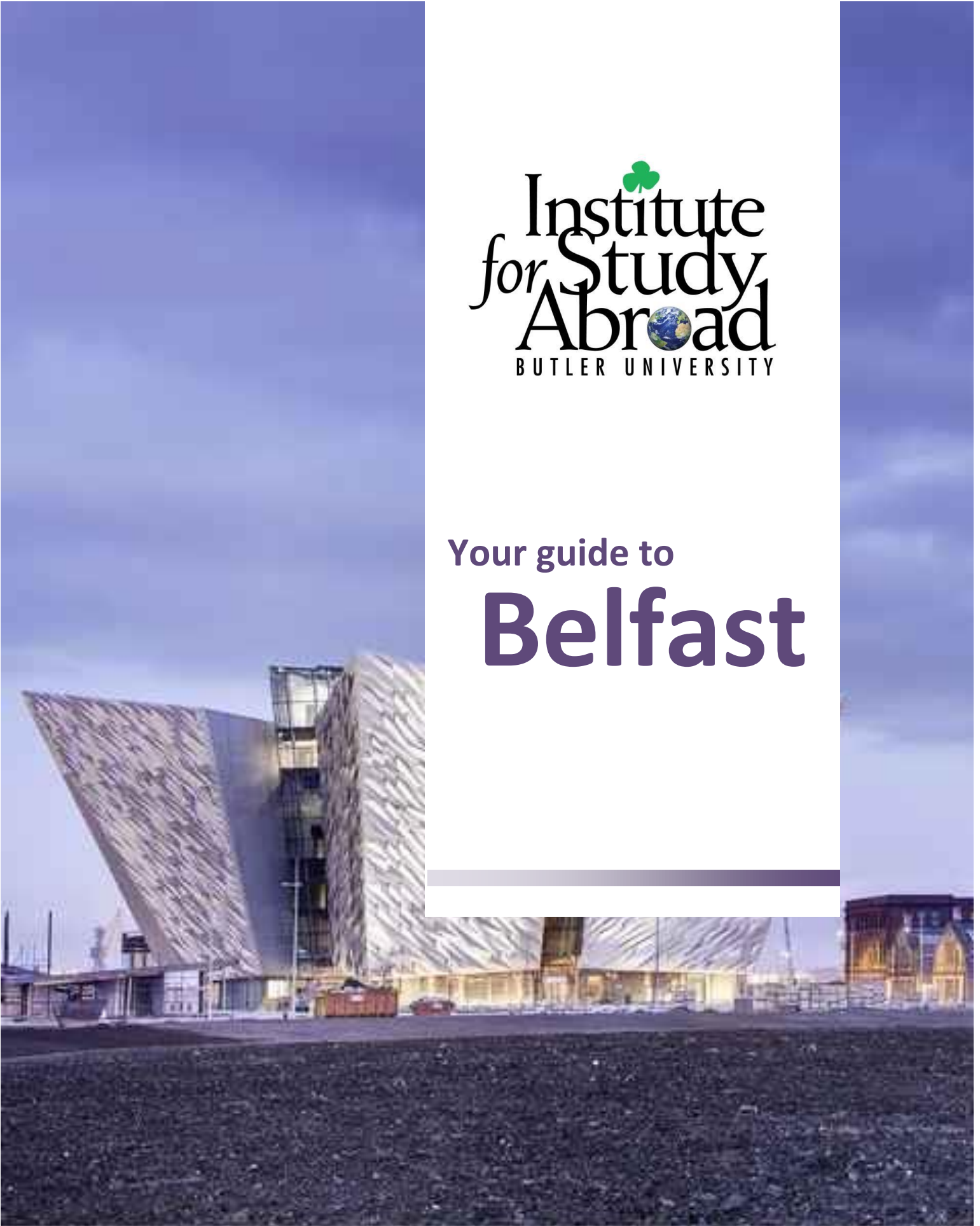


Your guide to

Belfast



Overview:

Belfast is a city undergoing vast changes. For too long it was lumped in with the likes of Baghdad, Bosnia and Beirut as places to avoid! But it is now a far cry from that place and the bad old days of “the Troubles”. Today, Belfast is a bustling and energetic city, and seems to be in a state of constant state of flux. A combination of hip hotels, impressive theatres and galleries, exquisite award-winning restaurants, and a great live music scene make it a vivacious destination.



Transport:

Airport:

Belfast International Airport is situated just 18 miles north-west of Belfast. **Airport Express 300** operates a 24 hour service between the airport and Belfast with buses departing every 15 minutes for the majority of the day on weekdays, with reduced frequencies at off peak times and weekends. The bus leaves from the bus stop located opposite the terminal exit. A single ticket costs £7.50 and a return costs £10.50.

George Best Belfast City Airport. City Airport is located 2 miles north-west of the city off the A2. **The Airport Express 600** operates every 20 minutes from outside the airport to the Belfast Europa Bus Centre adjacent to the Europa Hotel, in the heart of the city. The service, Airport Express 600, operates between 5.45am and 09.50pm, and costs £2.50 single and £3.80 return.

Bike Hire/ Bike Tours:

www.belfastbiketours.com/bike_hire/ Belfast Bike Tours meet at the main front gate at Queen’s University. Their tours run Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Saturday at 10.30am and 2.00pm. Bike hire is available 7 days a week. Rental will cost between £15+ daily and £15 - £60 weekly. Bikes come with a helmet and bike lock as standard. Bookings can be made online by emailing info@belfastbiketours.com

Buses:

You won't need to use public transport much in the city since everything is within walking distance. However, if you are feeling tired the bus timetables and routes can be found here:

<https://www.translink.co.uk/Routes-and-Timetables/>

Coaches:

Translink Goldline has a number of services to Northern Irish cities and towns such as Newry, Omagh, Derry, Downpatrick, Dungannon and Armagh. See their website for further details

<https://www.translink.co.uk/Services/Goldline/Timetables/>

Aircoach run a regular service from outside Jury's Inn to Dublin Airport. For timetables visit their website www.aircoach.ie.

Trains:

Trains go regularly from Belfast all over the country. You can easily get to Bangor, Derry, Larne, Portrush, Coleraine, Portadown and Dublin. See <https://www.translink.co.uk/Services/NI-Railways/Routes--Timetables/All-Timetables/>

Shopping:

Grocery shopping:

There is a **Centra** located on 66-70 Stranmillis Road which is only a 5 minute walk from Stranmillis College. You will find everything you need here from groceries to newspapers. There is an ATM in this store, and it would be the closest ATM to Stranmillis. In the city centre, there is a **Tesco Metro**, located on 2 Royal Avenue, Belfast, BT1 1DA. **Marks and Spenser's**, located on 48-52 Donegall Place is a more upmarket and expensive supermarket, and is located opposite Belfast City Hall.

Shopping:

Belfast has two main shopping centres in the heart of the city centre. **Victoria Square Shopping Centre** has plenty of clothing stores, food outlets and a cinema It is located in 1 Victoria Square, Belfast. www.victoriasquare.com. **Castlecourt shopping centre** is located on Royal Avenue, and contains several food outlets, clothing and homeware stores, pharmacies, opticians and department stores. A full list of shops can be found on <http://www.castlecourt-uk.com/>. **St. George's Market**, is located on 12-20 East Bridge Street, and is one of Belfast's oldest attractions having been built in 1890. This is a bustling spot every Friday- Sunday when it's doors open for a variety market on Fridays, City Food and Craft Market on Saturdays and the Sunday market.

Pubs and Clubs:

Brewbot: 451 Ormeau Road. Recently opened this summer, Brewbot is the first brewpub to open in Belfast! With a great selection of beers from all across the world, there is bound to be one you can take a liking to!



The Crown Liquor Saloon: 46 Great Victoria St. Known as one of the best bars in Northern Ireland, this bar is a great example of what a Victorian gin palace looks and feels like!



Medical Care:

Pharmacy:

- **Boots Pharmacy**, Great Victoria Street (beside the Europa Hotel) is about a 3/4 minute walk away from Jury's Inn.
- **Boots Pharmacy**, 35-47 Donegall Place is about a 10 minute walk away from Jury's Inn.

Medical Care/ Hospitals:

- Belfast City Hospital, Lisburn Road,
Tel: 028 9032 3241
- Royal Victoria Hospital, Grosnevor Road,
Tel: 028 9024 0503

Day trips from Belfast:



Take a look at www.discovernorthernireland.com for some of the best recommendations of places to go in Ulster and some of the best deals, events and festivals! Have a look at the National Trust website at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/local-to-you/northern-ireland/> for more ideas.

Derry – Known as the Maiden City due to the fact that its city walls have never been breached by an invader. Take a stroll around the city walls and visit the city's fantastic museums.

Dublin – Why not hop on the Enterprise train from Belfast to Dublin? Experience the sights and joys of the largest city on the island of Ireland. There are several trains that run daily from Belfast- Dublin (and back). www.irishrail.ie

Causeway Coastal Route – One of the most famous stretches of coast in the world. Home to the Giants Causeway, which is a UNESCO world heritage site, as well as the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge and Dunluce Castle. www.giantscausewaycentre.com

Activities in Belfast:

The Titanic experience - Titanic Belfast is the world's largest Titanic visitor experience and a "must see" visit in any tour of Belfast and Northern Ireland. It is located in Titanic Quarter, right beside the historic site of this world famous ship's construction. Housed in an iconic 6-floor building, this state-of-the-art visitor experience tells the story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end.

<http://www.titanicbelfast.com/>



Ulster Museum- located in the Botanical Gardens of Queen's University, the museum opened as the Belfast Natural History Society in 1821. The museum is home to a vast collection of history, art and natural sciences, and entry is free to all visitors. In 1998, the Ulster Museum, which includes Armagh County Museum, merged with the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum and the Ulster-American Folk Park to form the **National Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland**.

<http://www.nmni.com/um>



Crumlin Road Gaol - The Crumlin Road Gaol dates back to 1845 and closed its doors as a working prison in 1996. After extensive renovations, the Gaol has re-opened for guided tours.

www.crumlinroadgaol.com



Cinemas:

- **Movie House** Dublin Road 14-16 Dublin Road
- **Movies House** Yorkgate in the Yorkgate Leisure Complex
- **Odeon Cinema** in the Victoria Square Shopping Centre
- **Queen's Gilm Theatre** located at 20 University Square on the QUB campus; small, independent cinema that shows some great movies.

What's On:

Rugby: Ulster Rugby plays at the Ravehill Grounds on a regular basis. For more information on tickets and fixtures visit their website, www.ulsterrugby.com.

The Odyssey indoor arena is home to the Belfast Giants ice hockey team. The venue hosts world-class concerts, conferences and sporting events. www.odysseyarena.com

Local Press:

The Belfast Newsletter – The oldest paper in Ireland, it has been published daily since 1737

The Belfast Telegraph - More of a liberal Northern Irish daily



Here at IFSA-Butler Ireland, we really hope you have a wonderful experience in Belfast. Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any queries!