



NORTHERN IRELAND

Capital: Belfast
Population: 1.7 million
Currency: British Pound (GBP) – £ Sterling

Language: English, Irish Gaelic
Time Zone: EST plus 4 hours
Electricity: 240V. 50Hz

Fun Facts



- The majority of people in Northern Ireland are Protestant.
- The RMS Titanic was built and launched by the Harland and Wolff Shipyard in Belfast in 1912.
- Giant's Causeway was formed some 50-60 million years ago as a result of repeated outpourings of volcanic basalt, but legend has it that the Irish warrior Finn MacCool built this causeway to Scotland.

Northern Ireland's culture and history are as rich as the land is green. For a country that has endured such political strife and turmoil, its peace and beauty still astound visitors time after time. Located on the northeastern tip of Ireland, Northern Ireland is a country of the United Kingdom and makes up roughly 3% of the UK's population, and 30% of the island's population. Since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, Northern Ireland is largely self-governing. For many years the country was the site of a violent and bitter inter-communal conflict – the Troubles – which was caused by divisions between nationalists, who see themselves as Irish and are predominantly Roman Catholic, and unionists, who see themselves as British and are predominantly Protestant.

But this is also a land of blue mountains and forest parks, mazy lakes and windswept moors, white Atlantic sands, and an inland sea. In fact, it's a country that is just pretending to be small. Dozens of small towns are hidden away among the green places of the countryside, and fishing villages string out along the shores. The towers and steeples of parish churches mark the high ground beyond trimmed hedgerows. The weather can be fickle, but the rain keeps the land a magical emerald green and, when the wind blows the clouds to sea, the sky like the mountains is blue.

Belfast, Northern Ireland's capital was the engine-room that drove the whirring wheels of the industrial revolution in the region. The development of industries like linen, rope-making and shipbuilding doubled the size of the town every 10 years. The world's largest dry dock is in Belfast and the shipyard's giant cranes tower over the port. Today, Belfast remains a center for industry as well as higher education, art, and business. It has a great selection of art galleries and museums, and frequently hosts many festivals and special exhibitions.

Sport plays a major part in Northern Ireland society. Football/Soccer is probably the most popular sport followed closely by Gaelic football. Rugby, cricket and hockey tend to be organized on an all-Ireland basis with Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland often fielding a single team. And then there is golf – think of Darren Clark, Graeme McDowell and Rory McIlroy to name just a few! Northern Ireland is also gaining renown for the reputation of its local food producers, and traditional food crafts such as butchery, bakery and distilling, have a long and proud history here. Most traditional dishes have their roots in potatoes and bread, and farming families used to eat at least one Ulster Fry a day. Also popular are Champ, Irish Stew, soda and wheaten bread, Ardglass potted herring and Lough Neagh eel. And of course Bushmills Irish Whiskey.

You will be delighted by the richness of the Irish culture and feel a sense of warmth from the people of this great and unique region!



VISAS AND PASSPORTS

Visas to Northern Ireland are not required for U.S. citizens. If you hold a passport from another country, please check with your local consulate about requirements for travel to Northern Ireland. All passengers traveling internationally are required to have a passport. Please carry proper identification (your passport) on you and do not leave it in your suitcase or hotel room.

European law requires you to carry your passport with you at all times.



COUNTRY CODES

The country code for Northern Ireland is 44. When calling to Northern Ireland from overseas, dial your international access code (011 from the U.S./Canada) followed by the country code, area code, and phone number. Phone numbers in Northern Ireland are 10 digits in length. Dialing from the U.S./Canada: 011 44+##+##### ####.



CURRENCY

Throughout the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland the currency is the Pound Sterling or also known as the British Pound (GBP).

Bank hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Some branches are open Saturday mornings.

1 POUND (£) STERLING = 100 Pence (p)

- Banknote denominations: £5, £10, £20, £50
- Coin denominations: 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1, £2

For the most current exchange rates, please go to our Web site at www.globusfamily.com/currency.

Credit cards are accepted in Northern Ireland, and you should have no problems using them. Visa and MasterCard are most accepted. Smaller shops may ask you to pay in cash or have a minimum amount required to use a credit card.

Visitors from outside the European Union can have the value-added tax (VAT) refunded at the end of their trip. Ask for a tax-free shopping form with each purchase and follow the instructions for completion.

Bank hours:

- Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm. Some branches are open Saturday morning.



BUDGETING AND SHOPPING

The following budget guidelines are just approximate values or starting values for meals and are per person. Actual prices will vary widely by restaurant and city within a country but below are some averages as provided by our experienced personnel.

The approximate cost of a soft drink/mineral water/coffee is £2.50.

An average lunch consisting of a salad or sandwich and a soda or water starts at approximately £8.

A steak dinner at a mid-range restaurant with dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage starts at approximately £25.



TIPPING

Tipping is common in the United Kingdom. A tip of 10% is usually acceptable. Some restaurants add an optional service charge to the check which is in lieu of tipping the service staff directly. However, tipping in pubs for drinks ordered at the bar is not customary.

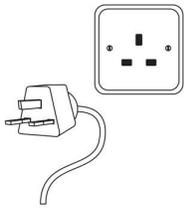
For taxis, round up the fare as the tip even if it is only a small amount. Tipping for taxis is generally not expected.

Tip hotel staff £0.50 for room service.



ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

Voltage for outlets is 240V. North American voltage is generally 110V. Therefore, a converter may be necessary for your travels. Adapters will be necessary to adapt your plug into the outlet but may not convert the voltage, so both devices are necessary.



Type G



TEMPERATURES

It doesn't rain as much as you may think in Northern Ireland, though you can expect rain at any time. July and August tend to be the warmest months while April and May, may be the driest. Weather is unpredictable in Northern Ireland, so we recommend rain gear for your travels.

To help you plan, below are average low and high temperatures for Belfast.

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
36/43°F	36/45°F	37/48°F	39/54°F	43/59°F	48/64°F	52/64°F	52/64°F	48/61°F	45/55°F	39/48°F	37/45°F

To convert to Celsius, subtract 32, then multiply by 5 and then divide by 9.



FOOD SPECIALTIES

Ulster Fry, Irish Stew, Champ, Lough Neagh eel, potato bread, wheaten bread, Ardglass potted herring, buttermilk.



A FEW WORDS OF THE LOCAL LANGUAGE

American/British English:

Elevator: Lift, **Apartment:** Flat, **Yard:** Garden, **Trunk:** Boot, **Truck:** Lorry, **Bartender:** Barman, **Cell phone:** Mobile, **check:** Bill, **Bill:** Bank note, **Trash can:** Bin, **Sidewalk:** Pavement, **Drugstore:** Chemist, **Band-Aid:** Plaster, **Bathroom/Washroom/Restroom:** Toilet/WC/loo, **Highway:** Motorway, **Subway:** Tube/underground, **Taxi:** Cab, **Traffic circle:** Roundabout, **Crosswalk:** Pedestrian crossing, **Movie theater:** Cinema, **Orchestra seats:** Stalls, **Sweater:** Jumper, **Pants/slacks:** Trousers, **Pantyhose:** Tights,

Sneakers: Trainers, **Line:** Queue, **Mail:** Post, **Napkin:** Serviette, **Fries:** Chips, **Potato chips:** Crisps, **Eggplant:** Aubergine, **Dessert:** Pudding, **Jelly:** Jam, **Cookie:** Biscuit, **Liquor:** Spirits, **Dark ale:** Bitter, **Beer:** Lager, **Emergency room:** Casualty, **Washcloth:** Flannel, **Wallet:** Purse, **Purse:** Handbag.

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