

NORTHERN IRELAND

Belfast Castle

Northwest of downtown and 400 feet above sea level, on Cave Hill, stands Belfast Castle. The 200 acre grounds include a public park, which is ideal for walking, jogging, picnicking, or just enjoying the view. The castle, which affords panoramic views of Belfast Lough and the city, was built in the late 1800's as a family residence. It was a gift to the city in 1934 by the Earl of Shaftesbury. The Scottish baronial architecture features a six story square tower. Its cellars have been transformed into a Victorian arcade, including an antiques and craft shop, a bar, and a bistro restaurant.

Location: Signposted off the Antrim Rd., 2 1/2 miles (4km) north of the city center, County Antrim

More Information: www.belfastcastle.co.uk

Opening Times: Daily 9am-6pm

Nearest Travelodge: Stay at the Belfast Central Travelodge from as little as £29 a night, visit www.travelodge.co.uk for the best deals.

Belfast Cathedral, The Cathedral Church of St Anne

Whilst in Belfast why not visit the Cathedral?

Location: Belfast Cathedral, Donegall Street, BT1 2HB

More information: www.belfastcathedral.org

Opening times: The Cathedral is open to visitors from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on weekdays and for a short period before and after services on Sundays.

Nearest Travelodge: Stay at the Belfast Central Travelodge from as little as £29 a night, visit www.travelodge.co.uk for the best deals.

Ballyholme Beach

Ballyholme Beach is now Bangor's largest sandy beach following the transformation of the marina area throughout the 1990s. Depending on the tide, bathers can walk out to sea for several hundred metres before the water reaches their waists, although the area has in recent years become renowned for leisure pursuits somewhat more adventurous. Ballyholme is Bangor's wind-surfing paradise. The beach is still ideal for families and has a plentiful supply of sandcastle-building materials. Just behind the beach is a large grassy area for the children to play.

Location: Groomsport Road, Bangor, Northern Ireland BT20 3TA

Nearest Travelodge: Stay at the Belfast Central Travelodge from as little as £29 a night, visit www.travelodge.co.uk for the best deals.