

PIUS Belfast

Free

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT

BELFASTPLUS.COM



EXPLORE MORE!

Your guide to beyond Belfast in Lisburn and
Castlereagh and Ards and North Down

Only a few minutes outside Belfast city centre lies a world of historic castles and houses, history and heritage, family fun and outdoor adventure. All you need to do is get out there and enjoy it.



Travel time by car

Belfast - Lisburn	9 miles	15mins
Belfast - Hillsborough	13 miles	20mins
Belfast - Bangor	13 miles	30mins
Belfast - Portaferry	30 miles	1 hour
Belfast - Dundonald	6 miles	20mins
Belfast - Newtownards	14 miles	30mins

Travel tips

Frequent trains run from Belfast to Lisburn and Bangor. Ulsterbus and Goldline express bus services run throughout Northern Ireland. Unlimited day travel cards and tickets are available from the Translink desk in the Visit Belfast Welcome Centre, or find your travel options online at translink.co.uk

Belfast Plus

Step off the beaten track

Reasons to visit don't end at our city limits. One of the great things about Belfast is that within a short drive from the city centre, you can discover a completely different world filled with lush valleys, a stunning coastline, country parks, magnificent estates, wonderful wildlife and historic attractions. Take a breather and discover some of the other fantastic things to see and do, all just a few minutes' drive outside the capital.

The Lisburn and Castlereagh area lies just 6-9 miles south of Belfast. Explore historic villages with exquisite architecture, quaint shops, charming cafés and atmospheric gastro pubs. Visit the Royal residence of Hillsborough Castle and its 98 acres of beautiful gardens or discover the history of the Irish linen industry in Lisburn. You can explore ancient archaeological sites, the rolling hills of Lagan Valley Regional Park, learn the art of brewing at Hilden Brewery or enjoy a day at the races at Down Royal. With a wide range of fascinating heritage sites, outdoor and indoor activities for all ages, superb shopping and a fantastic food scene, come and relax and unwind in Lisburn and Castlereagh.

Just 13 miles east of Belfast you can explore the Ards and North Down area. Make time to enjoy peaceful walks along the coast, experience great days out with the family and uncover fascinating tales from the area's unique history and heritage. Take a day to amble through Mount Stewart's world class gardens, wander the trails around Castle Park and Bangor Castle Walled Garden or climb Scrabo Hill with its stunning panoramic views of County Down. See nature at her best at the Castle Espie Wetland Centre or walk around the stunning shoreline of Strangford Lough. There's 16 miles of North Down Coastal path waiting to be explored, so come and experience Ards and North Down for yourself.



1

Lisburn and Castlereagh

Top 5 Must See and Do!

Hillsborough Castle and Gardens
The Square, Hillsborough BT26 6AG
This late Georgian mansion built in the 1770s is the official residence of the Royal Family when in Northern Ireland, and home to the Secretary of State. Take a tour to experience the Castle's fascinating history and explore the 98 acres of beautiful gardens in the surrounding grounds.
028 9268 1300
hrp.org.uk/Hillsborough



2

Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum
Market Square, Lisburn BT28 1AG
This award-winning museum is based in Lisburn's oldest building, a former 17th Century Market House. It brings to life the history of the Irish linen industry and its importance to Lisburn. Enjoy daily demonstrations of hand spinning and loom-weaving and browse the damask linen collections.
028 9266 3377
lisburnmuseum.com



3

Lagan Valley Regional Park
The Park Office, 3 Lock Keeper's Lane, Belfast BT8 7XT
The 4,200 acres park stretches 11 miles between Belfast and Lisburn. A blend of countryside, urban parks, heritage sites, nature reserves and trails, ideal for ramblers, joggers and off road cyclists. Download the audio trail from the website.
028 9049 1922
laganvalley.co.uk



4

Hilden Brewing Company
Grand Street, Lisburn BT27 4TY
A working brewery with licensed restaurant in the beautiful and historic setting of Hilden House. Learn about this ancient craft from a Master Brewer and sample award winning beers on a brewery tour.
028 9266 0800
hildenbrewing.com



5

Dundonald International Ice Bowl
111 Old Dundonald Road
Castlereagh BT16 1XT
Northern Ireland's only public Olympic size ice rink offers a great day out for all ages. The facility also offers Tenpin Bowling, a kids adventure play area or take the challenge to test your head for heights at Ireland's first 'Clip 'n' Climb'.
028 9080 9100
theicebowl.com



1

Ards and North Down

Top 5 Must See and Do!

Pickie Funpark
Marine Gardens, Bangor BT20 5AG
One of Northern Ireland's most popular visitor attractions, the park provides a fun day out, featuring an 18-hole mini-golf course, giant pedal swans, Pickie Puffer train, children's play area, children's electric car track and splash pads.
028 9145 0746
pickiefunpark.com



2

Crawfordsburn Country Park
Bridge Road, Helen's Bay BT19 1JT
Featuring two excellent beaches, spectacular scenery and views across Belfast Lough, Crawfordsburn Country Park provides a relaxing natural retreat. Enjoy tranquil walks through peaceful meadows and wooded glens and view a stunning waterfall.
028 9185 3621
visitardsandnorthdown.com



3

Scrabo Tower and Country Park
203a Scrabo Road
Newtownards BT23 4SJ
Standing tall, Scrabo Tower boasts incredible views over Strangford Lough and the surrounding countryside. There are walking trails taking in the fine beech woodlands and the disused quarries allowing visitors many opportunities to enjoy the surrounding countryside.
028 9082 3214
ni-environment.gov.uk



4

Ulster Folk & Transport Museum
153 Bangor Road
Holywood BT18 0EU
Step back 100 years to discover cottages, farms, schools and shops as you wander through the beautiful parkland of the Folk Museum. Explore majestic steam locomotives or experience the sensation of flight in the Transport Museum, bursting with all vehicles imaginable.
028 9042 8428
nmni.com/uftm



5

Mount Stewart House & Gardens
Portaferry Road
Newtownards BT22 2AD
One of the most inspiring and unusual gardens in the National Trust's ownership, the garden and recently refurbished house is well worth a visit. Explore at your leisure and uncover the wonderful stories of the family that still reside there.
028 4278 8387
nationaltrust.org.uk/mount-stewart



Drumbo Park

Lagan Valley LeisurePlex



Castle Gardens



We Are Vertigo



Island Arts Centre

Ulster Aviation Society



Coca-Cola Visitor Experience

Spruce Meadows



Hillsborough Fort



Ballance House

Streamvale Open Farm



Lyons Karting

Down Royal Race Course



Harry Ferguson Memorial

Lisburn and Castlereagh

Drumbo Park Greyhound Stadium
57 Ballyskeagh Road
Lambeg BT27 5TE
Enjoy the thrills and speed of greyhound racing at the trackside or from the comfort of your table while enjoying the excellent bar and restaurant facilities. Unwind with friends and enjoy the electric atmosphere of a race night.
028 9061 0070
drumbopark.com

Lagan Valley LeisurePlex
Lisburn BT28 1LP
The largest leisure pool in Northern Ireland is dominated by a great sunken pirate ship complete with water cannons and mast. Also cascading around the pool are a variety of long and fast exciting water rides, 25m competition pool, fitness suit, sports hall, squash courts and café also available.
028 9267 2121
lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

Castle Gardens & Lisburn Cathedral
Castle Street, Lisburn
Once the site of Lisburn Castle, the 19th century gardens and 17th century terraces have been recently restored. Take a tour to learn the history. Visit the architecturally interesting Lisburn Cathedral which is located close by and offers café facilities.
028 9266 3377
castlegardenslisburn.com

Ulster Aviation Society
Halfdown Road, Lisburn BT27 5RF
A unique array of 20 historic aircraft and exhibits celebrating Northern Ireland's aviation heritage. See commercial, Cold War and World War 2 aircraft, stroll among the displays, and observe restorations in progress in a historic hangar. Visits by prior arrangement only.
028 9048 0747
ulsteraviationsociety.org

Island Arts Centre
The Island, Lisburn BT27 4RL
Enjoy live theatre performances, music, dance and children's theatre from an array of national and international performers. Discover the XPLORART Sculpture Trail, browse gallery exhibitions or take part in one of the many creative classes or workshops. Located close by and offers café facilities also available.
028 9250 9509
islandartscentre.com

Coca-Cola Visitor Experience
12 Lissue Road, Lisburn BT28 2SZ
Come and explore, learn and have fun discovering the past, present and future of the world's number one soft drink. Free tours available to groups aged 12+ by prior arrangement only.
028 9264 2267
coca-colahellenicireland.com/
VisitorsExperience

Spruce Meadows Adventure Farm
112 Ravarnet Road
Lisburn BT27 5NF
Choose from a range of fun outdoor activities including quad biking, airsoft, fishing, bubble football, golf, archery and train rides. It caters for most ages and there is also an animal farm and on-site coffee shop.
028 9267 8392
spruce-meadows.co.uk

We Are Vertigo
Unit 1 Cedarhurst Road
Belfast BT8 7RH
NI's largest trampoline park and only indoor ski and adventure centre provides a great day of family fun. Bounce, ski, snowboard or explore the alpine soft play area with high and low ropes, electric quads and climbing wall. Lodge restaurant, coffee dock and spa facilities also available.
028 9064 1229
wearevertigo.com

Hillsborough Courthouse
The Square
Hillsborough BT26 6AG
Built as a Market House in 1760 to attract linen manufacturers to the area. The North Wing was used as a courtroom until 1986, and is now home to a display on the Irish Legal System. Now home to Hillsborough Visitor Information Centre and used for fairs, exhibitions and conferences.
028 9268 9717
visitlisburncastlereagh.com

Hillsborough Fort & Hillsborough Forest Park
Park Street, Hillsborough
Founded in 1630, the fort consists of a square enclosed by an earthen rampart level to form a parapet wall. William of Orange spent several nights at the fort on his way to the Boyne in 1690. The surrounding Hillsborough Forest offers 200 acres of woodland with tranquil walking trails and a picturesque lake.
028 9268 9717

Golf
There are a number of stunning parkland golf courses in the area including Lisburn, Rockmount, Castlereagh, Temple, Aberdelghy and Down Royal as well as great driving range facilities at Laganview Golf Centre - plenty of choice for both the experienced player and beginner.
visitlisburncastlereagh.com

Streamvale Open Farm
38 Ballyhanwood Road
Belfast BT5 7SN
Experience hands-on workings of a real farmyard and get up close to traditional farm animals. Other activities include a play area, history trail, quad rides, nature trail, pony rides and tractor rides. Don't miss trying the homemade ice cream in the café.
028 9048 3244
streamvale.com

Ballance House
118a Lisburn Road
Glenavy BT29 4NY
Ballance House is the restored birthplace of John Ballance, former Prime Minister of New Zealand 1891-1893. Now home to an exhibition on Ulster-New Zealand links, a tea barn and function room for events and markets.
028 9264 8492
ballance.utvinternet.com

Lyons Karting
112 Comber Road
Hillsborough BT26 6NA
Enjoy the thrills and excitement of karting at this fantastic, professionally run circuit. 400m track offering a variety of karts (160, 200 & 270cc) catering for all the family from age 8 upwards.
07592 398 066
lyonskarting.co.uk

Down Royal Race Course
Maze, Lisburn BT27 5RW
Established in 1685, Ireland's oldest horse racing venue hosts over 12 race meetings per year and is a premier hospitality venue. The highlights of the racing calendar are the Ulster Derby in June and the two-day NI Festival of Racing in November.
028 9262 1256
downroyal.com

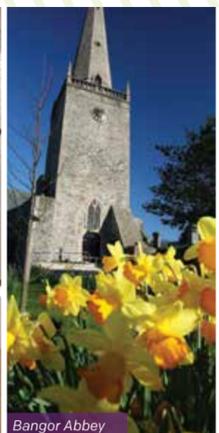
Harry Ferguson Memorials
One of the great inventors of the 20th century is remembered by a Memorial Garden opposite his birthplace near Dromore. A half life-sized sculpture depicting the engineer in his aeroplane is located on the A1 at Hillsborough.
028 9268 9717
harryfergusonmemorial.com



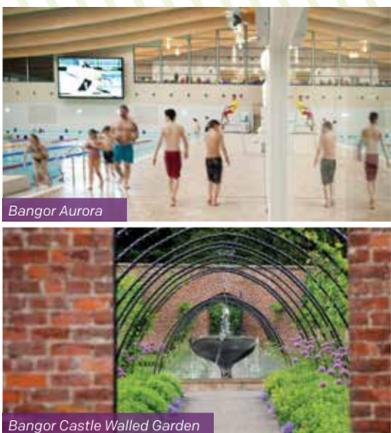
For all the latest events and all the things to see and do visit us online. BelfastPlus.com



Ards Crafts



Bangor Abbey



Bangor Aurora

Bangor Castle Walled Garden



Castle Espie



Eden Pottery

Grey Abbey



Nendrum Monastery

North Down Coastal Path



The Somme Heritage Centre

The Ark Open Farm



North Down Museum

Strangford Lough

Ards and North Down

Ards Arts Centre
Conway Square
Newtownards BT23 4NP
The Centre aims to bring art to life in the Borough by presenting a programme of leisure classes, exhibitions and performances of dance, drama and music. The event programme also features festivals and one off workshops.
028 9181 0803
ardsarts.com

Ards Crafts
31 Regent Street
Newtownards BT23 4AD
A contemporary craft retail and design centre, provides a showcase for locally produced traditional and modern crafts. 'The Space' exhibition area provides an annual calendar of craft showcases and demonstrations by local and invited makers.
028 9182 6846
visitardsandnorthdown.com

Bangor Abbey
Newtownards Road
Bangor BT20 4JB
Founded by St Comgall in 558AD, the Abbey grew to become one of the most important seats of learning in Ireland. Two of its most famous students, Columbanus and Gall, travelled throughout Europe setting up monasteries.
028 9127 0069
visitardsandnorthdown.com

Bangor Aurora Aquatic and Leisure Complex
3 Valentine Road
Bangor BT20 4JT
Situated in the heart of Bangor and offering a great family day out. The complex features a 50 metre swimming pool, leisure waters with flumes and sidewinder slider, extensive gym facilities, soft play area and café.
028 9127 0271
bangoraurora.com

Bangor Castle Walled Garden
Valentine Road
Bangor BT20 4BT
An award-winning walled garden situated within the tranquil grounds of Castle Park. The garden is divided into four different sections, each with its own horticultural personality.
028 9127 0069
visitardsandnorthdown.com

Castle Espie Wildfowl and Wetland Centre
78 Ballydrain Road, Comber
Newtownards BT23 6EA
This wonderful centre is set on the shores of the stunning Strangford Lough. Get up close to Ireland's largest collection of native and exotic waterbirds and migrant birds whilst taking in stunning estuary views.
028 9187 4146
wvt.org.uk/wetland-centres/
castle-espie

Cockle Row Cottages
Main Street, Groomsport BT19 6JP
Set within the picturesque Groomsport Harbour, the Cottages are the perfect place to spend an afternoon. Open just in time for Easter, these lovingly restored fisherman's cottages host free weekend entertainment from Easter Sunday to Sunday 7 September.
028 9127 0069
visitardsandnorthdown.com

Eden Pottery
218 Abbey Road, Millisle BT22 2DH
Eden Pottery is famed for its striking designs, using traditional methods to hand craft and decorate pottery. The gallery is a wonderful creative space where you can craft your own masterpiece with specially cut sponge shapes in the Paint-Your-Own Studio or simply sit back and relax with home-made cakes and coffee.
028 9186 2300
edenpotteryshop.co.uk

Experience Ards and North Down Tours
Throughout Ards and North Down Why not book on to one of our excellent tours, where you will be sure to enjoy a unique peek into some of the areas hidden gems. The extensive range of bus, boat and walking tours throughout the area are all lead by local, knowledgeable guides.
028 9127 0069
visitardsandnorthdown.com

Grey Abbey
Main Street, Greyabbey BT22 2QN
Founded in 1196 by John de Courcy's wife Affreca, the Abbey is steeped in history and is a fine example of Anglo Norman Cistercian architecture. Visitors can wander the lawns taking in the wonderful ruins of what is a fascinating building, walking in the footsteps of monks, or discover some of the remedies from the medieval physic garden.

Nendrum Monastery
Mahee Island, Comber BT23 6EP
Regarded as the best example of a pre-Norman monastic site in Northern Ireland, the monastery dates back to the 5th Century. The visitor centre houses interactive displays, models, artefacts and videos.
028 9181 1491
visitardsandnorthdown.com

North Down Coastal Path
Holywood to Portavoe
Stride out along this beautiful shoreline walk from Holywood to Portavoe near Groomsport. You can enjoy a variety of geological features, some 400 to 500 million years old making them among the oldest in Ireland, or identify the many different wild flowers and shrubs.
028 9127 0069
visitardsandnorthdown.com

North Down Museum
Castle Park Avenue,
Bangor BT20 4BT
Travel from the Bronze Age to the present day through a series of exhibitions, each dedicated to a particular era of history. Key artefacts on display include Bronze Age Ballycroghan Swords, the Bangor Bell and the Raven Maps, the only complete folio of Plantation era maps in Ireland.
028 9127 1200
northdownmuseum.com

The Ark Open Farm
296 Bangor Road
Newtownards BT23 7PH
See lots of cute and cuddly rabbits, chicks, guinea pigs, pet lambs, kid goats and ponies to ride. You can get up close and have lots of interaction, supervised by our friendly helpful staff. The Ark Farm specialises in animals no longer seen in Northern Ireland's fields.
028 9182 0445
thearkopenfarm.co.uk

Strangford Lough
Be sure when in the region to visit this area of outstanding natural beauty, explore around its shoreline, on its waters or find out what lies beneath. What better way than as a foot passenger on the Strangford ferry or visit Northern Ireland's only Aquarium, located in Portaferry which will reopen during the summer of 2016.
visitardsandnorthdown.com



For all the latest events and all the things to see and do visit us online. BelfastPlus.com

Make the most of your visit by taking the time to explore and enjoy the **Belfast Plus** experience.

LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH | ARDS AND NORTH DOWN

Why not drop in to one of our Visitor Information Centres...



Visit Belfast Welcome Centre

9 Donegall Square North
Belfast BT1 5GB
+44 (0)28 9024 6609

Ards Visitor Information Centre

31 Regent Street
Newtownards BT23 4AD
+44 (0)28 9182 6846

Bangor Visitor Information Centre

Tower House, 34 Quay Street
Bangor BT20 5ED
+44 (0)28 9127 0069

Hillsborough Visitor Information Centre

The Old Courthouse, The Square
Hillsborough BT26 6AG
+44 (0)28 9244 7640

Lisburn Visitor Information Centre

15 Lisburn Square
Lisburn BT28 1AN
+44 (0)28 9244 7622

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Make the most of your visit

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