

## **Belfast & Causeway Coastal Route 2 Day Itinerary**

### **Day 1**

#### **Morning**

##### **Titanic Belfast**

Queens Road, Belfast BT3 9DT (W: [www.titanicbelfast.com](http://www.titanicbelfast.com))

The recently opened £97m Titanic Belfast brings RMS Titanic home to Belfast. The iconic building (shaped like ship's bows) comprises of 9 galleries over 4 floors and allows the visitor to travel through time from Edwardian 'Boomtown Belfast' (telling the stories of the workers who built her, the passengers who travelled on her, and her fateful voyage) to the present day with video footage of where she lies at rest.

#### **Afternoon**

##### **Exploration of Queen's Quarter**

Belfast's established cultural district, Queen's Quarter boasts a choice of venues; the Whitla, Mandela and Elmwood Halls are all a stone's throw from the Lanyon Building, one of Belfast's most recognisable facades. The Botanic Gardens are used as an outdoor venue for events such as Belfast Mela Festival. The area is home to the internationally acclaimed Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in November 2012. Completely reconstructed and reopened in May 2011, The Lyric Theatre continues to attract a dedicated audience while the refurbished Crescent Arts Centre remains core to the area's cultural offering.

To include visit to Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast BT9 5AB (T: 0845 608 0000) (W: [www.nmni.com](http://www.nmni.com))

Located in Belfast's Botanic Gardens, the Ulster Museum re-opened in 2009 following an extensive £17 million refurbishment. With 8,000 square metres of public display space, the museum is the largest museum in Northern Ireland and one of the components of National Museums Northern Ireland. Exhibits include material from the collections of fine art and applied art, archaeology, ethnography, local history, numismatics, industrial archaeology, botany, zoology, geology and the Spanish Armada

#### **Evening**

Check out Cathedral Quarter: Belfast's Cathedral Quarter is *the* area for a great night out, offering a range of fantastic pubs, restaurants and entertainment venues. Creative learning and cultural opportunities abound in the Cathedral Quarter thanks to the many arts and cultural organisations in the area. The Cathedral Quarter's dynamic mix of activities - against the backdrop of some of the city's oldest and most beautiful streets and buildings - sets it apart as one of Belfast's most exciting places to work, visit and live.

## Day 2

Rated one of the world's top five road trips, the Causeway Coastal Route stretches for 120 miles from Belfast Lough to Lough Foyle.

Visit – Carrickfergus Castle (1 April – 31 Oct opened daily 1000-1800)

Marine Highway, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim BT38 7BG (W: [www.doeni.gov.uk/niea](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea))

For more than 800 years, Carrickfergus Castle has been an imposing monument on the Northern Ireland landscape whether it is approached by land, sea or air. Originally built in 1177 by John de Courcy it has been altered throughout the centuries and has been in use as a garrisoned property until as late as 1928. The castle now houses historical and other displays as well as cannons from the 17th Century to the 19th Century.

Visit – Dunluce Castle

87 Dunluce Road, Bushmills, Co Antrim BT57 8UY (W: [www.ni-environment.gov.uk](http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk))

Dunluce Castle is sited dramatically close to the edge of a headland, along the North Antrim coast. Surrounded by jaw dropping coastal scenery, this medieval castle stands where an early Irish fort was once built and where its history can be traced back to early Christians and Vikings. Visit and take a peek at medieval Irish life.

Visit - Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, 119a Whitepark Road

Ballintoy, Co Antrim BT54 6LS (W: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk))

Fishermen used to erect a rope bridge to Carrick-a-Rede island over the 30m-deep and 20m-wide chasm to check their salmon nets. Today, the National Trust operates a two-handed-railed bridge across the gorge, allowing visitors access to the rocky island.

Visit – Giant's Causeway

44a Causeway Road, Bushmills, Co Antrim (W: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk))

Formed over 60 million years ago, when molten lava cooled suddenly on contact with water, the

Giant's Causeway is an awe-inspiring landscape of mostly hexagonal basalt columns. Look out for the

distinctive formations of the Camel, the Wishing Chair and the Harp.

Visit - Old Bushmills Distillery – NO FILMING PERMITTED

Bushmills, Co Antrim BT57 8XH (W: [www.bushmills.com](http://www.bushmills.com))

Distilling whiskey in the Bushmills area is a time-honoured tradition: in 1608, James I granted a royal licence to Sir Thomas Philips for the production of "uisce beatha" (water of life in Gaelic, or whiskey as we know it today). Discover the secrets which have made Bushmills whiskey world-famous.