



MEJDI TOURS

MEJDI Tours Group Departure

Tour: Discover Northern Ireland: An Indepth Look at the Troubles in Dual Narrative

Dates: June 4-10, 2021; November 5-11, 2021

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival - Belfast, Northern Ireland

Arrive in Belfast. Learn about the innovative and engaging Titanic Belfast Museum, an exploration of emigration, and the shipyards and maritime industry that shaped this historic city. The Titanic was launched in 1911, the Home Rule crisis was about to start raging, the suffragettes movement both in the UK and the U.S. as well as globally was flourishing. It was a time of protest and uncertainty. Explore Belfast Castle and enjoy a discussion with an academic about the Plantation of Ulster and the history of the conflict. Join the group for a welcome dinner and contextual discussion to set the tone for the next few days in Belfast.

Hotel: Clayton Hotel, Belfast (D)

Day 2: Belfast

This morning, hear competing political narratives of Ireland's national history from two former combatants one from the Republican side and the other from the Loyalist side. Explore the Crumlin Road Gaol, a notorious prison rich in history and intrigue. This afternoon, check out the University Quarter of the city, the Botanical Gardens, Queen's University. We then travel to East Belfast to explore the boyhood haunts of C.S. Lewis, his church, his home, his school and C.S. Lewis Square. Then, make a brief visit to the \$30 million Skainos project, a post conflict, social justice, shared space urban village.

Hotel: Clayton Hotel, Belfast (B)

Day 3: Belfast

Continue on today with your two guides to tour the Loyalist and Republican memorials and colorful political murals of the Falls and Shankill Road. Engage in a walk down the Peace Wall, an ever-changing message board of political slogans and graffiti and a litmus test for

current sentiments in the surrounding neighborhoods. Conflicts cause immense pain and leave human tragedy, we listen to the stories of loss, the painful rebuilding of life's of victims of the conflict from both sides. After lunch on your own, we meet with a local organization that has been working toward Catholic-Protestant reconciliation, listen to a group reshaping the narrative of the conflict with a younger generation. Then take time for reflection at the Art of the Troubles gallery in the Ulster Museum. After dinner, unwind at a local pub in town, share a pint with new friends, and tap your foot to some live Irish music.
Hotel: Clayton Hotel, Belfast (B, D)

Day 4: Dunluce Castle & Giant's Causeway

Visit the City Hall in Belfast and learn about the current political structure today from two city councillors from different traditions. Then, take a trip up the Antrim Plateau, past the Glens to the northern coast of Ireland. Start with Dunluce Castle, one of the most impressive in Northern Ireland. For lunch, stop at Bushmills distillery, the world's oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world. Afterwards, enjoy brisk coastal breezes at the swaying Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge and visit Giant's Causeway, whose hexagonal volcanic formations have earned it's distinction as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There, hear charming tales of the Celtic giant for whom the site was named. Over dinner, learn about efforts for joint ventures with Catholics and Protestants in the city of Derry.

Hotel: Maldron Hotel Derry. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Derry/Londonderry

In Derry, learn about the events of the Battle of the Bogside and Bloody Sunday. See the Free Derry Corner, and walk through the People's Gallery, a series of political murals dedicated to the victims of the Troubles and local civil rights. Then, walk the ramparts of Derry's walls, constructed during the Plantation of Ulster to defend the English and Scottish settlements. This afternoon, explore the Unionist narrative in a city that defines itself primarily as Catholic and Nationalist.

Hotel: Maldron Hotel Derry (B)

Day 6: Belfast

Begin the day with a discussion on conflict resolution, the role of memory, the power of language and the complexity of Brexit. Then, transfer back to Belfast for some time at leisure. Meet the group for a farewell dinner and an evening of traditional Irish music and dancing to close out your trip.

Hotel: Clayton Hotel, Belfast (B, D)

Day 7: Departure

Depart for home today. *(B)*

