



NORTHERN IRELAND

Capital: Belfast

Population: 1.7 million

Currency: British Pound (GBP) - Sterling £

Language: Irish, English

Time Zone: EST plus 4 hours

Electricity: 230V. 50Hz

Fun Facts



- The majority of people in Northern Ireland are Protestant.
- The RMS *Titanic* was built and launched from Belfast Harbor in Northern Ireland.
- Almost 46% of Northern Ireland's total population are under 30 years old.

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 makes up roughly half of the island's population. It is a countryside brimming with castles, monuments, monasteries, music, and art. Some castles and fortresses date back to the time of the Norman Invasion (year 1066) and continued to be fortified well into the 17th century. Many of these fortresses sit atop ocean-side hills and sprawling, lush fields. Their quiet and powerful history will leave their visitors standing in awe and amazement.

Northern Ireland was a spot of great political unrest through much of its history. Persistent struggles between Catholic and Protestant faiths have subjected the area to a great deal of unrest. The region is predominantly Christian with Roman Catholic and Protestant practitioners still making up a large portion of the population, and the country has maintained harmony for the last few decades.

The stories, art, and music that emerged as a result are part of the beauty of Northern Ireland's heritage. It has a great selection of art galleries and museums and frequently hosts many festivals and special exhibitions. Get to know more about St. Patrick and the history of his symbolic greatness as you submerge yourself in Irish culture. Enjoy the vibrant foods of Northern Ireland, known for its fresh produce, Bushmills Irish Whiskey, Finnebrogue venison, and the famous eels of Lough Neagh!

In Belfast, Northern Ireland's capital, savor the pride and joy of the city that birthed the famous ship, RMS *Titanic*. Today, Belfast remains a center for industry as well as higher education, art, and business. Although the city suffered greatly through such civil and political unrest, it has sustained a long period of calm and economic growth. See the marvelous variety in architecture from the "Edwardian" City Hall to the modern Waterfront Hall.

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, you dial your international access code (011 from the U.S.). Phone numbers in Northern Ireland are 10 digits in length. Dialing from the U.S.: 011+44+XX+XXXX XXXX.



CURRENCY AND BUDGETING

Throughout England/Northern Ireland, the currency is the pound sterling or also known as the British Pound (GBP).

1 Pound (£) = 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 in larger shops and restaurants. 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.



TO HELP YOU BUDGET:

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 £2.5.

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 desert and a non-alcoholic beverage start at approximately £25.



TIPPING

It is not customary to tip a percentage of the total bill in Northern Ireland. A few small coins are generally considered quite polite (£1-2).

For a taxi, round up the fare as the tip to the nearest whole dollar.

Tip hotel staff £0.50 for room service.



ELECTRICAL OUTLETS:

Voltage for outlets is 230V. 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. Irish facilities have 3-prong outlets with two flat prongs in line and one perpendicular.



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.

Month	Average High °(F)	Average Low °(F)
January	47.5	37.0
February	48.0	36.3
March	50.9	37.9
April	53.8	39.4
May	59.2	44.1
June	63.7	48.6
July	67.1	52.3
August	66.9	52.2
September	62.6	48.7
October	56.5	44.6
November	50.7	40.1
December	47.3	37.0

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

See examples in the Know Before You Go Europe document.



FOOD SPECIALTIES

Roast beef with Yorkshire pudding, fish and chips, afternoon cream teas.

A FEW WORDS OF THE LOCAL LANGUAGE



American to 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, **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, **Cup of tea:** Cuppa, **Pub food:** Pub grub, **Emergency room:** Casualty, **Washcloth:** Flannel, **Wallet:** Purse, **Purse:** Handbag.

Last updated 11/1/12