

TEN SQUARE STAYCATION ITINERARIES

BELFAST FOR THE FAMILY

There is such a huge variety of family friendly activities available in Belfast, it's difficult to know where to start, so here we have picked a few of our favourite "must visits" for you to plan into your "staycation". There's so much to see and enjoy with the kids – opening hours for certain attractions may have altered due the recent situation, so do call ahead to check they are open.



ULSTER FOLK & TRANSPORT MUSEUM

Can you imagine what life was like for the people of Belfast more than a century ago? Now you can almost step into their shoes at the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum. The museum has gained global acclaim as one of the best interactive displays and is divided into two distinct parts, consisting of the Folk Museum and the Transport Museum.

TITANIC BELFAST



Everyone knows the tragic story of the Titanic on some level, thanks largely to the Hollywood portrayal – but very few know the full story. Titanic Belfast is the biggest Titanic museum on the planet and one of the most impressive architectural masterpieces in Belfast. This 6-storey structure contains no fewer than nine galleries. Here, you will be able to immerse yourselves in a truly visceral experience, telling the story of the Titanic. Titanic Belfast is situated next to the Titanic Slipways, Harland Wolff Drawing Offices and Hamilton Graving Dock. This is exactly where the ship was conceptualized, and eventually took her maiden, and only, voyage in 1912.

SS NOMADIC

The famous White Star Line ships have a proud history – and luckily for all of us, one of them has been fully restored for us to admire in all her glory. The SS Nomadic is the last remaining vessel and is on display to the public in the Hamilton Dock – right where she was born. Built at the Harland & Wolff Shipyard in the shadow of the Titanic and Olympic, the ship nevertheless played an important role in the Belfast shipping industry. The docking yard is situated in close proximity to Titanic Belfast – a museum dedicated to the most famous ship ever to set sail, also part of the White Star Line.



W5



W5 - Belfast's premier interactive science centre, that will also teach you a thing or two and keep the children entertained and stimulated for hours. From climbing walls to robots, as well as temporary displays and daily demonstrations, this is one place where you can easily spend an entire day - make sure you plan appropriately to fit in everything else you may have planned.

BELFAST ZOO

Ireland's natural wildlife may not be terribly exciting, but that doesn't mean you can't still experience the abundance of creatures on show at the Belfast Zoo. Established in 1934, it has put itself on the map as one of the top destinations for locals and tourists in Northern Ireland. The zoo attracts a quarter million visitors each year, so getting there early is advisable to avoid the crowds. As one of the best family outings, the zoo has won many accolades in the past, including 'Best Visitor Experience' in 2010 and 2013 in the Northern Ireland Tourism Awards.





BELFAST CASTLE

Whether you're a history buff or just interested in observing some of Ireland's most famous landmarks, the Belfast Castle should definitely be on your list of places to visit. Situated on an outcrop named Cave Hill, and overlooking the

city below, the castle is steeped in tradition and a fair amount of superstition. Although castles have graced the landscape above Belfast since the 12th century, this particular structure was built in 1860s by the 3rd Marquis of Donegall. The construction of the castle went well beyond the original budget, and when the Marquis fell on hard times, there was a stage where it looked as though it would remain incomplete. Luckily, things turned out well, and today the castle remains as a popular tourist destination.

CAVE HILL COUNTRY PARK

Cave Hill Country Park, awarded the Green Flag Award, which recognizes the best open spaces in the United Kingdom from 2009 to 2015, is where you will find an abundance of cultural and outdoor activity. From a host of archaeological sites and walking paths to the Cave Hill Adventurous Playground and Belfast Castle, this is a must-see for any visitors to Northern Island. Situated up high on Belfast Cliffs, with magnificent views of Belfast Lough and the surrounding city, the park gets its name from the five caves that scatter the area. Among the archaeological sites you will find one of the most breathtaking views, from the McArts Fort. With a vantage point of over 350m above sea level, make sure your cameras are well charged.





CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL

Having recently completed its renovations, this 19th century heavily constructed prison is now open to visitors for the first time in its history. The prison has housed thousands of prisoners over the years since it was opened in 1846. The prison was finally shut down in 1996.

ST ANNE'S CATHEDRAL

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ST GEORGE'S MARKET

Indoor markets in large cities are always a great attraction. Named as the UK's Best Large Indoor Market in 2014 by the National Association of British Market Authorities, the St. George's Market should be one of the primary places to visit when in Belfast. Construction of the market took 6 years to complete, and finally opened to the public in 1896.

ULSTER MUSEUM

Set on the beautifully lush grounds of the Ulster Botanic Gardens, and only one mile from the city centre, The Ulster Museum is the perfect stop-off point, whether you're travelling alone, in a group or with the family. The museum boasts 8,000 square metres of space with top quality displays, from Ancient Egypt all the way back to the time of the dinosaurs, as well as more contemporary displays of fine art and applied art.



Phew! And there you have it! A comprehensive, family friendly trip around the real highlights of Belfast, with a ton of memories banked for the whole family. This is a great staycation itinerary for those looking to not have to travel from your central base, but hunting a variety of attractions to enjoy. Mission accomplished!