



**Northern Ireland Gourmet Tour
4th June to 10th June 2012**

Day 1 – Monday 4th June 2012 - Arrive into Belfast.

Arrive into ***Belfast International Airport***, where you will be greeted by your driver guide and escorted to your awaiting motor coach.

Travel into Belfast City, where your first port of call will be the ***Titanic Belfast*** – Opening in April 2012, Titanic Belfast® is a "must see" visit in any tour of Belfast and Northern Ireland. It is located in the heart of Belfast, right beside the historic site of this world-famous ship's construction. Housed in an iconic, 6-floor building, this state-of-the-art visitor experience tells the story of the Titanic, from its conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through its construction and launch, to its famous maiden voyage and tragic end. The story is brought up to the present with the discovery of the wreck and into the future with live links to contemporary undersea exploration.



The Titanic Quarter in Belfast

Afterwards continue to a central location to meet a local tour guide for the "***Belfast Bred***" walking tour – A walking tour with a difference: on Belfast Bred you'll discover the city's fascinating culinary history in the company of Barney, a chef from RMS Titanic – and you'll sample some great local produce along the way. Defrosted after 99 years frozen in an iceberg, Barney has just two and a half hours to search contemporary Belfast for the finest ingredients to recreate the famous ship's launch menu. If successful, Barney will cook the Titanic Centenary dinner in 2012. Just remember it's a walking tour – so please wear a comfortable pair of shoes!

Rest your legs after the tour and have a drink (payable direct) at ***the Crown Bar***, which was built in the 1800s. With beautifully crafted woodwork, leather seats, colored tile work, and artfully-placed mirrors, the saloon shares a spot on the Golden Mile of Belfast.



The Crown Bar

Overnight at the Malone Lodge Hotel, Belfast. (B&B Basis).

<http://www.malonelodgehotelbelfast.com/>

Day 2 – Tuesday 5th June 2012 – Hillsborough.

This morning after breakfast, travel to the family home of our tour guide and author of 'The Shamrock and Peach' cook book for a cooking demonstration and to learn how to make traditional Irish breads followed by tea/coffee scones and a light lunch. The family home has been recently built in an old world Irish farmhouse style and nestled in the roaming fields of the Irish countryside. (Photos of the home are included in the Farm chapter of The Shamrock and Peach cook book).

Meet an elected politician at **Hillsborough Castle**, followed by a specially organized tour of the famous historic castle and grounds. The castle is located downtown the charming town of Hillsborough giving the opportunity to stroll or enjoy the pubs, coffee shops and unique gift stores before dinner.



Hillsborough Castle



Hillsborough Fort and village

Dinner at 'the Plough' restaurant (payable direct) in Hillsborough and be greeted by owner and chef 'Derek Patterson'. 'The Plough' is the host of the famous 'Oyster Festival' with enchanted cobbled street car park connected to the Castle.

Return to Belfast for overnight at the **Malone Lodge Hotel** (B&B Basis).

Day 3 – Wednesday 6th June 2012 - Belfast to Donegal.

Depart Belfast after breakfast and travel northwards to the Antrim Coastline. Visit the **Giants Causeway**, where more than forty thousand many-sided columns of basalt of varying heights are slotted neatly together, beehive fashion, stretching along the shore and forming a pavement out to sea . . . small wonder that this astonishing natural phenomenon has been described as the 'eighth wonder of the world'.



Giants Causeway

<http://www.giantscausewayireland.com/>

It's an amazing sight and one which has inspired visitors for hundreds of years, but its origins go back much further. Created over 60 million years ago after intense volcanic activity, the Giant's Causeway was formed as a result of fast-cooling lava. Today it is a World Heritage Site, managed by The National Trust

Travel to **Bushmills Village** - Bushmills was formerly known as Portcarnan, it developed with the water powered industries of the 1600's to become one of the main centre's for corn, flax, spade and whiskey production. The river once powered seven mills along its stretch through the village and one of the first mills in County Antrim existed here.

Enjoy a 2 course lunch at ***Bushmills Inn*** - Like a fine malt, the Bushmills Inn Hotel has matured across the years. The original coach house and stables are thought to date back to 1608, the same year that the Bushmills distillery was granted the first ever licence to distil whiskey. Over time the Inn took on many guises, from boarding house to bicycle factory. Careful redevelopment however has reawakened the Inn.



Bushmills

<http://www.bushmillsinn.com/>

Continue for a short **photo stop** outside Dunluce Castle, which 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.



Dunluce Castle

Continue westwards towards Donegal for dinner & overnight at ***Harvey's Point Hotel***. (Dinner B&B).

<http://www.harveypoint.com/gallery/>

Day 4 – Thursday 7th June 2012 - Donegal to Enniskillen.

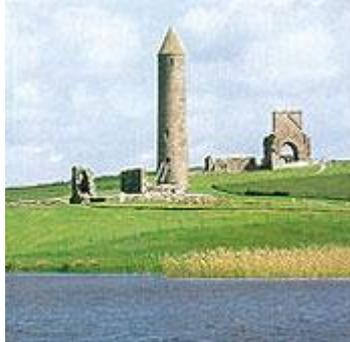
Enjoy a full Irish Breakfast at the hotel before traveling towards Belleek, Co. Fermanagh. Here you will visit ***Belleek Pottery Visitor Centre*** established in 1857 - Visitors can discover the secrets that made Belleek Pottery one of the most enduring success stories of Irish craftsmanship. The tour covers all parts in the pottery making process including: mould making, basket making, floral design, kiln firing and decoration.



Belleek Pottery

<http://www.belleek.ie/visitors-centre/pottery-tour.aspx>

After coffee, travel to Devenish Island (weather permitting) an impressive scenic monastic island set in beautiful Lough Erne. Devenish features a sixth century ruined Augustinian abbey with figures & sculptures and a distinctly Irish round tower. The round tower, defense against Viking attacks, stands at 100ft tall – internal ladders inside the tower mean the visitor can climb to the top and marvel at the spectacular views. A superb and unique photo opportunity!



Devenish Island

After this photo op we then travel a short distance to the renowned **Lough Erne Golf Resort**, home to US Open winner Rory McElroy, to enjoy light lunch or beautiful tea option hosted by Celebrity Irish Chef Noel McMeel, winner of the 'Irish Chef of the Year award' for 2011. Hear Chef McMeel's philosophy on Irish food and taste the results!



<http://www.loughernereresort.com/dining/>

Relax and enjoy the Fermanagh Lakeland scenery before setting off to the historic town of Enniskillen and the beautiful Westville Hotel, our setting for dinner and lodging for the night where we will enjoy an evening of Irish music and storytelling.

Overnight at the Westville Hotel on a B&B Basis.

<http://www.westvillehotel.co.uk/>

Day 5 – Friday 8th June 2012 – Omagh & Enniskillen.

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before visiting the **Ulster American Folk Park**, located near Omagh, Co. Tyrone - The museum tells the story of emigration from Ireland to America in the 18th & 19th centuries and provides visitors with a "living history" experience on its outdoor site. Costumed demonstrators go about their everyday tasks in a traditional manner in authentically furnished buildings. See demonstrations on traditional Irish and American crafts and agriculture including spinning, printing, blacksmithing and textiles.

The group will see some traditional cooking methods in the Mellon House of various bread products such as Treacle Bread, Wheaten Bread, Pancakes & Soda Farls. In the West Pennsylvania Farmhouse, the group will also see some traditional cooking methods within a New World immigrant of various bread products including: Corn Bread, Spiced Muffins and one or two other New World bread items will be cooked and sampled by the group.



Folklife in Tyrone



McNeen House, Co. Cavan

After an enjoyable day in Tyrone we will travel to Neven Maguire's award-winning **MacNeen House and Restaurant**, nestled in the foothills of the Cuilcagh Mountains, Blacklion, Co. Cavan. Originally opened as MacNeen's Bistro in 1989 by Neven's parents, Joe and Vera Maguire, the Bistro was named after the spectacular MacNeen Lakes nearby.

Award winning chef, Neven Maguire, took over the restaurant in 2003 and re-opened MacNeen's Bistro as MacNeen House & Restaurant in 2007. A warm welcome awaits you from Neven and Amelda Maguire to experience what leading food writer Georgina Campbell calls "a national treasure." We will enjoy a special menu and meeting with chef Neven.

<http://www.nevenmaguire.com/>

Return to the Westville for overnight.

Day 6 – Saturday 9th June 2012 - Enniskillen to Belfast.

Depart Enniskillen after breakfast and travel back towards Belfast City via Dungannon, stopping off at the Linen Green Center for several hours of leisurely shopping and eating. The Linen Green is a purpose built outdoor designer outlet center that houses beautiful Irish crafts and produce in a relaxed setting with cafes and a restaurant all at hand. No need to worry about traffic or hassle; pick up that Irish souvenir in comfort and style before heading back to Belfast.

Once back in Belfast we will be stopping in the 'Queen's quarter' of the city to enjoy the Botanical gardens and the newly refurbished Ulster Museum, all within walking distance of each other. Stroll the leafy streets in this university district of the city and stop for coffee at any one of numerous stylish cafes before completing our journey.



The Linen Green Shopping



Belfast Botanical gardens

Then, end the day at the very comfortable and award winning 5 star **Culloden Hotel Resort and Spa** for dinner and reflections on a superb week.

http://www.gotobelfast.com/explore_belfast/the_quarters/queens_quarter.aspx

<http://www.hastingshotels.com/culloden-estate-and-spa>



The Culloden Hotel & Spa

Day 7 – Sunday 10th June 2012 - Transfer to Belfast Airport

Today you will be transferred to Belfast International Airport in time to check in for your departure flight.

Slan Abhaile (Safe Home).