

THE WORLD AROUND US — GEOGRAPHY · P4–P7

Belfast — Béal Feirste

Capital of NI — P4–P7

Belfast — key facts

1

Capital of Northern Ireland

Population approximately 350,000 (city); 670,000 (metropolitan area). Located on the River Lagan where it meets Belfast Lough. Founded as a town in the 17th century; granted city status in 1888.

2

Shipbuilding and linen

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Belfast was a global industrial powerhouse. Harland & Wolff built the Titanic. Belfast was the world's largest producer of linen — 'Linenopolis'. Tobacco and rope-making were also major industries.

3

The Lagan

The river that flows through Belfast. The waterfront has been transformed since the 1990s — the SSE Arena, the Waterfront concert hall, and Titanic Belfast all line the river.

4

Murals and wall art

Belfast is famous for its political murals — particularly along Falls Road (Republican) and Shankill Road (Loyalist). These tell the story of communities and the Troubles. Many are now historical and tourist sites.

5

Cultural revival

Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, Belfast has been transformed. New buildings (Titanic Belfast 2012, MAC arts centre 2012). Major film and TV production. Vibrant music and food scene.



6

The Cathedral Quarter

Historic centre of Belfast nightlife and culture. Cobbled streets, traditional pubs (Duke of York), and modern arts venues like The MAC.

7

Black Cab Tours

A unique Belfast tourism experience — black taxis driven by people who lived through the Troubles, giving personal tours of the murals and political history. Often described as one of the most powerful experiences a visitor can have in NI.

