

A photograph of the Belfast City Hall, a grand neoclassical building with a prominent green dome and a tall clock tower. The building is set in a large, open green square where many people are sitting on the grass, some in groups. Bare trees are visible in the foreground and background, suggesting a cool season. A teal banner is at the top of the image.

Northern Ireland Belfast

Belfas

Belfast is the capital and the largest city of Northern Ireland. Most of Belfast is in Count Antrim, but parts of East and South Belfast are in County Down. It is on the flood plain of the River Lagan.



By population it is the 4-th largest city in the United Kingdom and 2 largest on the island of Ireland. It is the seat of the devolved government and legislative Northern Ireland Assembly. The city of Belfast has a population of 579,276 and lies at the heart of the Belfast urban area. Belfast was granted city status in 1888.



Today, Belfast remains a centre for industry, as well as the arts, higher education and business and is the economic engine of Northern Ireland. Belfast city centre has undergone considerable expansion and regeneration in recent years, notably around Victoria Square. Belfast is served by two airports: George Best Belfast City Airport in the city, and Belfast International Airport 15 miles west of the city. Belfast is also a major port, with commercial and industrial docks dominating the Belfast Lough shoreline.



**VICTORIA
SQUARE**
BELFAST
RESISTIBLE



The architectural style of Belfast's buildings range from Edwardian, like the City Hall, to modern, like Waterfront Hall. Many of the city's Victorian landmarks, including the main Lanyon Building at Queen's University Belfast and the Linenhall Library, were designed by Sir Charles Lanyon.



The City Hall was finished in 1906 and was built to reflect Belfast's city status, granted by Queen Victoria in 1888. The Edwardian architectural style of Belfast City Hall influenced the Victoria Memorial in Calcutta, India. The dome is 173 ft high and figures above the door state "Hibernia encouraging and promoting the Commerce and Arts of the City" .



Parks and gardens

Parks and gardens Sitting at the mouth of the River Lagan where it becomes a deep and sheltered lough, Belfast is surrounded by mountains that create a micro-climate conducive to horticulture. From the Victorian Botanic Gardens in the heart of the city to the heights of Cave Hill Country Park, the great expanse of Lagan Valley Regional Park to Colin Glen, Belfast contains an abundance of parkland and forest parks.



Colin Glen, Belfast contains an abundance of parkland and forest parks.



The zoo houses more than 1,200 animals of 140 species including Asian Elephants, Barbary Lions, a White Tigers ,three species of penguin, a family of Western Lowland Gorillas, a troop of Common Chimpanzees, a Red Panda and several species of langur. The zoo also carries out important conservation work and takes part in European and international breeding programmes which help to ensure the survival of many species under threat.

