



The British Dam Society

Accompanying Persons Tours

Leaving Queens University Belfast at 10.15am returning at approximately 5pm.

Thursday 4th September 2014	
9.30am 10.00am 11.00am	Pick up from Halls Coffee at Stormont Castle Coffee Shop Stormont Castle Tour (approx 1 hour long)
12.00pm 12.30pm 1.45pm	Coach pick up from Stormont Merchant Hotel at the Great Room for 2 course lunch Coach pick up from the Merchant
2.00pm 4.00pm	Titanic Belfast Tour (approx 2 hours long) Coach pick up from Titanic and back to Halls
5.30pm 6.00pm 7.30pm	Pick up from Halls Binnie Lecture at Andrews Gallery Titanic Belfast Reception and Gala Dinner Titanic Belfast
Friday 5th September 2014	
Before 10am	Free Time Some information on local interest will be provided
10.15 am	Whitla Hall coach departure for Dam inspection tours
Saturday 6th September 2014	
Before 9.00am	Breakfast at the Halls
9.30am	Ulster Museum visit
11.00am	Coffee at the Ulster Museum
12.00noon	Botanical Gardens
1.00pm	Lunch at Whitla Hall

Thursday 4 September 2014

You will be picked up from the halls at 9.15am and driven to the coffee house below which is situated within the grounds of Stormont

Storm in a Teacup.



This cleverly named bistro is perfectly poised in the upper gate house of Stormont Estate, home of NI's iconic Stormont Parliament Building.

It's equally elegant, albeit smaller scale façade gives way to a glam interior boasting glistening chandeliers and quirky cafe twists on art classics - think George Washington gazing through a glazed doughnut or Constable's The Haywain hauling a French Fancy Food runs from stylish breakfasts to hot and cold lunches and a BYOB bistro on Fri and Sat.



You will then be taken to Stormont Parliament Buildings for a tour at 11.00am which will last approximately 1 hour.

Parliament Buildings

The Parliament Buildings, commonly known as Stormont because of their location in the Stormont area of Belfast, are the seat of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Northern Ireland Executive. After the shelving of plans to build a "Ministerial Building", the headquarters of government was in effect Stormont Castle, a baronial castellated house in the grounds and which was originally meant to have been demolished to make way for the "Ministerial Building". Stormont Castle served as the official residence of the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland and was the meeting place for the Northern Ireland cabinet.



Stormont Castle – Parliament Buildings

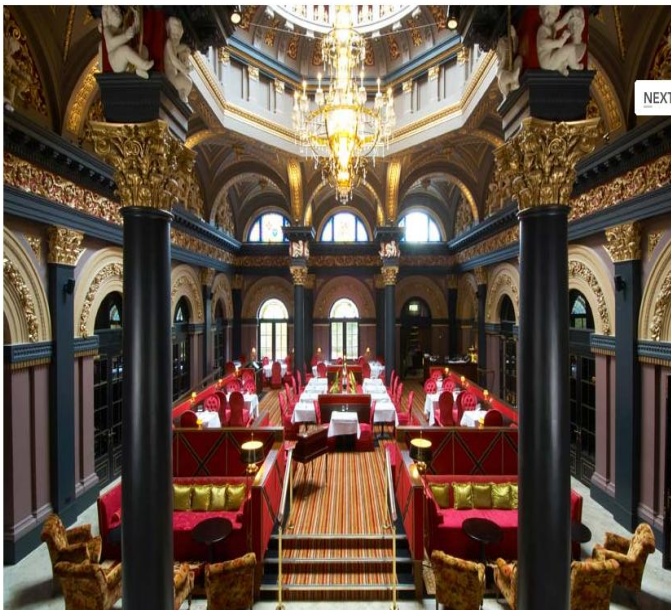
You will be collected from Stormont Parliament Buildings just after 12.00 noon and taken to the Merchant Hotel for a two course lunch with wine in the Great Room

Lunch at the Merchant



The five star Merchant Hotel in Belfast is a harmonious blend of Victorian grandeur and Art Deco inspired sleek modernity. Situated in the heart of Belfast city centre's historic Cathedral Quarter, the grandeur of the original Grade A listed building is complemented by an elegant Art Deco inspired wing with a multitude of exciting amenities. These include a stunning luxury spa, a rooftop gymnasium with panoramic city views, a dedicated meeting and events suite and a fabulous jazz bar. The Merchant Hotel is also home to the exclusive fashion boutique, Harper. As Northern Ireland's only stockist of Valentino, Celine and Christian Louboutin of Paris, Harper at The Merchant Hotel is a must visit for every fashionista.

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



You will be collected from The Merchant hotel at 1.45pm and taken to the Titanic Building for 2pm where you will have a tour of galleries which will last approx 2 hours. You will be collected at 4pm and returned to the Halls.

Titanic Belfast.



One hundred years after the birth of the world's most famous ship, Titanic Belfast has become a major new tourist attraction for Northern Ireland. The venue accommodates nine galleries of interactive exhibition space, including a dark ride, underwater exploration theatre, recreations of the ship's decks and cabins and a luxurious conference & banqueting suite with capacity for up to 1000 guests. The building opened to critical acclaim on 31 March 2012.

<http://titanicbelfast.com/Home.aspx>

Friday 5 September 2014

Before 10am you will have some free time as the coach will not collect you until 10.15am from the Whitla Hall where you will proceed to the Dam inspection tours information on this to be advised.

Saturday 6 September 2014

You will leave the Halls at 9.30am for a stroll down the road where you will visit the Ulster Museum for approx 1½ hours.

You will then have coffee in the Ulster Museum before walking around the Botanical Gardens before returning to the Whitla Hall for lunch.



The Ulster Museum, located in the Botanic Gardens in Belfast, has around 8,000 square metres of public display space, featuring material from the collections of fine art and applied art, archaeology, ethnography, treasures from the Spanish Armada, local history, numismatics, industrial archaeology, botany, zoology and geology. It is the largest museum in Northern Ireland,^[3]



Botanic Gardens is home to the Palm House and the Tropical Ravine. The Palm House contains a range of tropical plants, hanging baskets, seasonal displays and birds of paradise, and is one of the earliest examples of a glasshouse made from curved iron and glass. It shows how advances in glasshouse technology allowed horticulturists to grow exotic plant species during the Victorian period.

The building was designed by Sir Charles Lanyon, who also helped design parts of nearby Queen's University. The foundation stone was laid in 1839 and the two wings were completed in 1840 by leading ironmaster, Richard Turner. The dome was added in 1852.

The Tropical Ravine contains some of the oldest seed plants around today, as well as banana, cinnamon, bromeliad and orchid plants. It was built in 1889 by the park's head gardener, Charles McKimm, and his staff.

