



Royal
Geographical
Society
with IBG

Artistry from Industry

A free self-guided walk in Belfast city centre



www.walktheworld.org.uk

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Walk the World is part of Discovering Places, the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad campaign to inspire the UK to discover their local environment. Walk the World is delivered in partnership by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) with Discovering Places (The Heritage Alliance) and is principally funded by the National Lottery through the Olympic Lottery Distributor. The digital and print maps used for Walk the World are licensed to RGS-IBG from Ordnance Survey.



The
Heritage
Alliance



Artistry from industry

Explore how Belfast's international heritage is shaping its future

Welcome to Walk the World! This walk in Belfast is one of 20 in different parts of the UK. Each walk explores how the 206 participating nations in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games have been part of the UK's history for many centuries. Along the routes you will discover evidence of how many Olympic and Paralympic countries that have shaped our towns and cities.

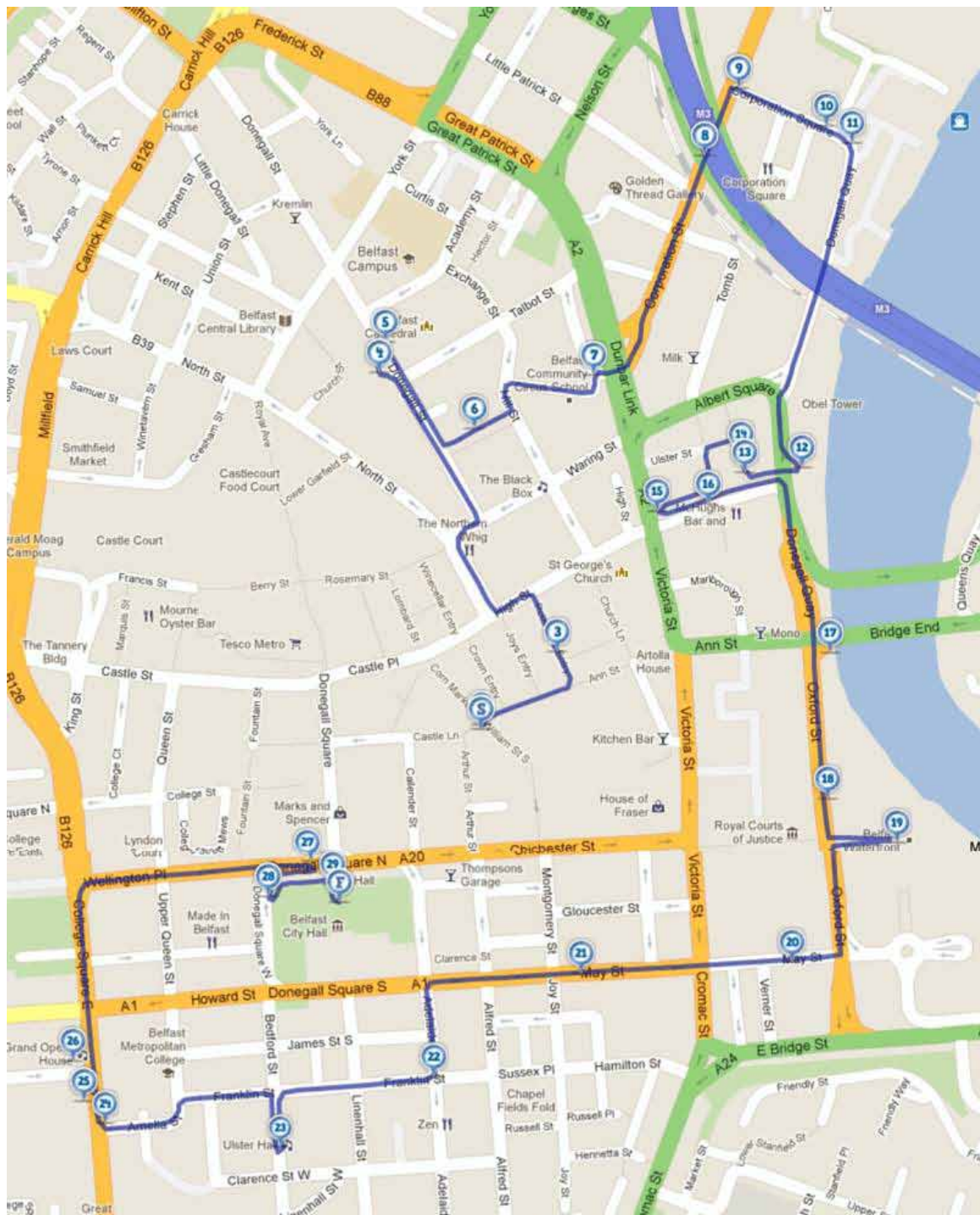
Birthplace of the Titanic and known as 'Linenopolis', in the 1900s Belfast was home to the world's largest linen industry and shipyard. For many years that followed, though, Northern Ireland's capital city was riven by political conflict and violence.



The Spirit of Harmony sculpture
Rory Walsh © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain

Since the end of the Troubles however, Belfast has begun a process of regeneration and renewal. It has been transformed from a city of industry to a centre of culture. This walk explores the international stories of Belfast's evolution. The city centre route takes in sights that include a 300-year old pub, a sinking clock, a giant fish on land and the giants Samson and Goliath! Each one reveals how despite an illustrious yet turbulent history, Belfast remains an international city looking to the future.

Route overview



Practical information

Location	Belfast, Northern Ireland
Getting there	<p>Train - The nearest station to the walk route is Belfast Central (between Stops 19 and 20). Great Victoria Street is also nearby (near Stop 24).</p> <p>Bus - There are many local services to the city centre including shuttle buses from both of Belfast's airports</p> <p>Car - Accessible from M2 motorway from the north of the city and the M1 from Dublin and the Republic of Ireland</p>
Start point	Spirit of Belfast sculpture, Arthur Square, BT1 2LB
Directions from railway station to the start	<i>From Belfast Central station</i> - turn right onto East Bridge Street. Continue downhill to the triangular junction and follow the pavement right into Cromac Street. Continue straight ahead into Victoria Street. At the junction with Chichester Street turn left. Keep the shopping centre on your right, then turn right into pedestrianised Montgomery Street. At the end bear left and the sculpture will be at the end of the path.
Finish point	Belfast City Hall, BT1 5GS
Onward journey	To return to Belfast Central station use Directions 30 (on page 41)
Distance	3 miles
Level	Gentle - a mostly flat city centre walk. Some pedestrianised streets and alleys.

Conditions

The city centre can be very busy, especially at weekends. There are a couple of major roads to cross and a riverside section.

Suitable for

Families - colourful artworks could amuse children. Take care of young children by the River Lagan

Dogs - must be kept on a lead

Wheelchairs - an entirely step-free route

Refreshments

There are plenty of cafés and shops in the city centre. The Belfast Barge (behind Waterfront Hall, Stop 17) has a café for refreshments on the River Lagan.

Facilities

Public toilets are available at:

- Lombard Street (opposite Corn Market near Stop 1)
- Church Lane (behind Belfast Cathedral, Stop 3)
- Custom House Square (Stop 13 to 15)
- Arthur Street and Arthur Lane (after Stop 21)

Other info

Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church is open to visitors on Wednesdays 2-4.30pm. Tours are available by prior appointment (Tel: 028 9071 5997)

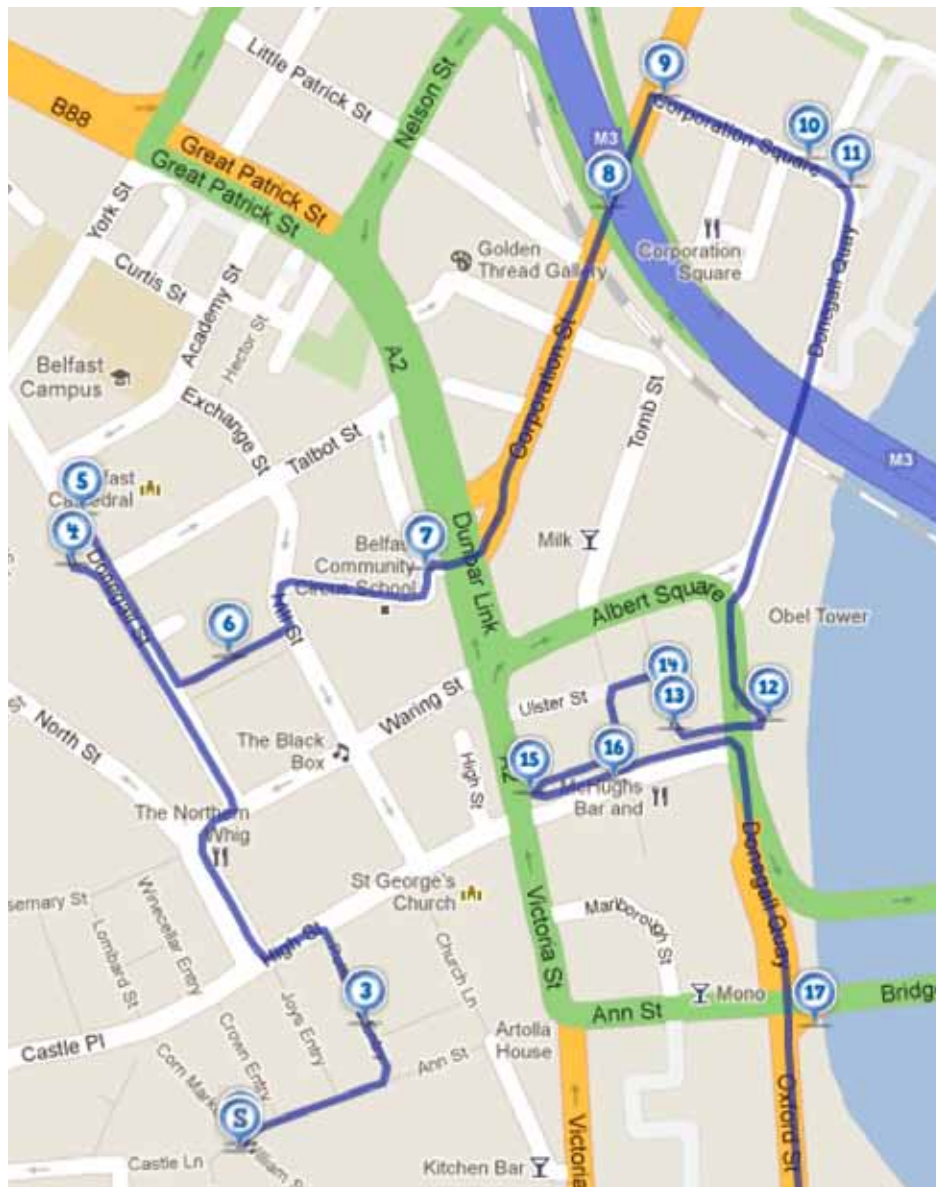
To find out more about the the **Titanic** and Belfast's shipbuilding heritage:

- **Titanic Belfast** museum (Tel: 028 9076 6386, website: www.titanicbelfast.com)
- **Titanic Dock and Pump House** (Tel: 028 9073 7813 website: www.titanicsdock.com)

Tourist Information

Belfast Welcome Centre, 47 Donegall Place, BT1 5AD (Tel: 028 9024 6609) - located 5 mins from the City Hall

Detail of the first half of the route



Stopping points

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Arthur Square | 9. Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church |
| 2. Spirit of Belfast, Arthur Square | 10. Harbour Commissioner's Office |
| 3. Pottinger's Entry | 11. View of Belfast Docks |
| 4. Spanish Civil War memorial | 12. The Big Fish and Lagan Weir |
| 5. Belfast Cathedral | 13. Queen's Square |
| 6. Commercial Court | 14. Belfast Custom House |
| 7. Dunbar Street artworks | 15. Albert Memorial Clock |
| 8. Wheels of Progress,
Corporation Street | 16. McHugh's Bar |
| | 17. Thanksgiving Square |

Detail of the second half of the route



Stopping points

- 18.** Dreams mural
- 19.** Waterfront Hall
- 20.** St George's Market
- 21.** John Boyd Dunlop plaque, 38-42 May Street
- 22.** Adelaide Street
- 23.** Ulster Hall
- 24.** The Crown Liquor Saloon
- 25.** Europa Hotel
- 26.** Grand Opera House
- 27.** Linen Hall Library
- 28.** Scottish Provident Building
- 29.** Belfast City Hall
- F.** Belfast City Hall grounds

Directions

These directions are for use with the Belfast walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Belfast

The Spirit of Belfast, Arthur Square

Directions 1 - Make your way to Arthur Square and stop by the large metal sculpture. Listen here to Track 2.

2. Spirit of the city

The Spirit of Belfast, Arthur Square

Directions 2 - Leave Arthur Square by turning into Ann Street. Head along Ann Street and look out for the small passageways on the left. Walk past the first two and turn into the third one called Pottinger's Entry. Stop by the Morning Star pub and listen to Track 3.

3. Entry to the past

Pottinger's Entry

Directions 3 - At the end of Pottinger's Entry turn left onto the High Street. Cross over at the traffic lights and head up Bridge Street. After a very short distance turn right onto Waring Street and then almost immediately cross the road at the traffic lights and walk up Donegall Street. Opposite the cathedral is a small park. Stop when you find a small statue among a few trees. Listen here to Track 4.

4. They shall not pass

Spanish Civil War memorial

Directions 4 - Cross over the road to Belfast Cathedral. Go inside if it is open or stop outside the front entrance. Listen to Track 5

5. Black Santa **Belfast Cathedral**

Directions 5 - From the Cathedral entrance turn left. Walk back down the left side of Donegall Street. Pass an alleyway on your left then stop by the entrance to a second alleyway with a murals on the walls. Turn into this alley and listen to Track 6.

6. Commerce and art **Commerical Court**

Directions 6 - After walking through Commercial Court turn left onto Hill Street. See how many plaques and period signs you can spot. Turn right onto Gordon Street. Stop at the end in front of the row of silver bollards. Listen to Track 7.

7. Penny for your thoughts **Dunbar Street**

Directions 7 - Cross over at the three sets of traffic lights slightly to the left. This is a very busy main road so take extra care. Turn onto Corporation Street which heads towards an overhead bridge. Stop underneath the bridge with the car park on your right. Look for a large envelope sculpture on one of the bridge columns. When you find it listen to Track 8.

8. Hidden journeys **Corporation Street**

Directions 8 - When you are ready continue under the bridge. Turn right on Corporation Square. Stop outside the church with the square tower. The church is open on Wednesday afternoons, in which case go in. If the church is not open remain outside. Listen to Track 9.

9. The Seamen's church **Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church**

Directions 9 - If you went into the church leave when you are ready. Fom the church door turn left. Stop in front of the building next door; the Harbour Commissioner's Office. Listen to Track 10.

10. A shipping palace

Harbour Commissioner's Office

Directions 10 - When you are ready head to the corner of Corporation Square as the road sweeps right. Stop by the set of railings. Look through them to the large yellow cranes. Listen to Track 11.

11. Samson, Goliath and Titanic

Belfast docks

Directions 11 - Follow Donegall Quay round to the right. Continue underneath the bridge and then turn onto the riverside path. Keep the river on your left and continue until you reach a large fish sculpture. Stop beside it to listen to Track 12.

12. Fish out of water

Lagan Weir

Directions 12 - With the river behind you cross over at the traffic lights. Continue towards a square with a clock tower. At the entrance to the square stop by a memorial fountain on the left. Listen to Track 13.

13. Animal and musical harmony

Queen's Square

Directions 13 - From the dance chimes continue across the square and turn right in front of the Customs House. Stand by the blue plaque on the wall outside. Listen to Track 14.

14. Posted abroad

The Customs House

Directions 14 - Once you have walked around the Customs House head towards the clock tower at the back of Queen's Square. Walk to the front of the clock tower so you can see a statue on the side and a long road is behind you. Listen to Track 15.

15. Foundations

Albert Memorial Clock

Directions 15 - When you are ready, return to the front of McHugh's and turn right. Cross back over the zebra crossing. Follow the riverside path with the Lagan on your left. Cross over the first bridge. At the second bridge stop by the metal sculpture of a woman holding a hoop. listen to Track 16.

16. A broad taste

McHugh's Bar

Directions 16 - When you are ready, return to the front of McHugh's and head back to the river. Cross back over the zebra crossing and turn right. Follow the riverside path with the Lagan on your left. Cross over the first bridge. At the second bridge stop by the metal sculpture of a woman holding a hoop. Listen to Track 17.

17. Beacon of hope

Thanksgiving Square

Directions 17 -Continue along the riverside road now called Oxford Street. Keep going until you see a mural of childrens' faces painted on a building on your left. Listen to Track 18.

18. Dreams for the future

Dreams mural

Directions 18 - Continue along Oxford Street with the mural on your left. Head towards the round shaped building by the river. Stop on the steps outside this building. and listen to Track 19.

19. The shape of things to come

Waterfront Hall

Directions 19 - Walk back to Oxford Street and turn left. At the first junction cross over at the traffic lights and turn right on to May Street. Stop outside the market building on the left and listen to Track 20.

20. Market forces

St George's Market

Directions 20 - Continue along the left hand side of May Street. Stop when you reach a red bricked building with a round blue plaque on the wall. The building is next to a tall white office block with a large glass front. Stop by the plaque and listen to Track 21.

21. The road ahead

38-42 May Street

Directions 21 - Continue along May Street and take the third left on to Adelaide Street. Continue to the junction of Franklin Street then stop and listen to Track 22.

22. Streets around the world

Adelaide Street

Directions 22 - Turn right and into Franklin Street. After a short while turn left into Bedford Street. Stop part way along outside the Ulster Hall and listen to Track 23.

23. A varied programme

Ulster Hall

Directions 23 - Retrace your steps and turn left back onto Franklin Street. Continue until you reach Amelia Street. At the end of Amelia Street is a colourful pub on the right hand side. Continue round the corner and stop in front of this pub. Listen to Track 24.

24. Crown jewel

The Crown Liquor Saloon

Directions 24 - Continue a short distance along Great Victoria Street and stop opposite the Europa Hotel on the other side of the road. Listen to Track 25.

25. The hardboard hotel

Europa Hotel

Directions 25 - Continue a short distance and stop across the road from the Grand Opera House. Listen to Track 26.

26. A grand design

Grand Opera House

Directions 26 - Continue along Great Victoria Street. Cross over Howard Street and Wellington Street. Then turn right into Wellington Place. Walk along the left hand side and stop when you reach the Linen Hall Library. Listen to Track 27.

27. Linenopolis

Linen Hall Library

Directions 27 - With the Library behind you cross the traffic lights to the left. Turn right and stop across the road from the ornate building on the corner of the square with 'Scottish Provident' written high up on the wall. When you have a good view of it listen to Track 28.

28. Wondrous walls

Scottish Provident Building

Directions 28 - Take your time to look at the wealth of detail on the Scottish Provident Building. Feel free to cross over the road for a closer look. When you are ready enter the grounds of Belfast City Hall. Stop when you have a good view of the front of the building. and then listen to Track 29.

29. Civic pride

Belfast City Hall

Directions 29 - Stay at the front of the City Hall grounds. Stop by the statue of Queen Victoria and listen to Track 30.

30. From a Queen to a President

Belfast City Hall grounds

Directions 30 - Feel free to explore the grounds of City Hall or head into Belfast city centre. To return to Belfast Central station go behind the City Hall and turn left onto May Street. When you reach St George's Market turn right to access East Bridge Street. Turn left onto East Bridge Street and the station is a short distance on the left hand side.

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Walk the World walk:

- **Nick Stanworth** for creating and researching the walk and taking photographs
- **Rory Walsh** editing the walk materials and taking photographs
- **Jenny Lunn** for editing the walk materials
- **Caroline Millar** for editing the audio files
- **William Dyson** for assistance compiling the walk resources
- **Albert Bridge, Alden Jewel** and **Man Vyi** for additional photographs

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The
Heritage
Alliance



Further information

Find out more about the walk story and places of interest along the route:

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

www.artscouncil-ni.org

Belfast Cathedral

www.belfastcathedral.org

Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival

www.cqaf.com

Go To Belfast

www.gotobelfast.com

Laganside Corporation Art Trails

www.laganside.com/arttrails.asp

McHugh's Bar

www.mchughsbar.com

Titanic Dock and Pump House

www.titanicsdock.com

The Belfast Barge

belfastbarge.com

Belfast Harbour

www.belfast-harbour.co.uk

Crown Liquor Saloon

www.crownbar.com

Grand Opera House

www.goh.co.uk

Linen Hall Library

www.linenhall.com

Titanic Belfast

www.titanicbelfast.com

Waterfront Hall

www.waterfront.co.uk



The UK is an island nation but we are by no means isolated -
we are a hub of worldwide connections.

Walk the World is an exciting series of free geographically-themed
walks that aim to show how the UK is linked with the 206 countries
due to compete at London 2012.

Each walk explores how the Olympic and Paralympic Nations
and their people have shaped our surroundings -
often in surprising ways.

The self-guided walks are fun, informative and inspiring.
Prepare to discover something new, to be surprised and
to find the unexpected.

Visit www.walktheworld.org.uk

Submit your own links

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Find out how to create your own walk