

## Exploring the Causeway Coast

### Buyers only

### Friday 22 - Saturday 23 September 2023

#### **Day 1 - Friday 22nd September 2023**

**0845** Meet your guide

**0900** Depart for the Causeway Coastal Route

**0945** Arrive at Ballygally Castle Hotel

Ideally located on the scenic Antrim coast, only 26 miles from Belfast and close to Larne, the Ballygally Castle faces the soft, sandy beaches of Ballygalley Bay. The Castle dates back to 1625 and is unique in that it is the only 17th Century building still used as a residence in Northern Ireland today. The hotel is reputedly haunted by a friendly ghost and brave guests can visit the 'ghost room' in one of the towers to see for themselves.

**1030** Depart

**1200** Giant's Causeway & Visitor's Centre

Giant's Causeway, renowned for its polygonal columns of layered basalt, is the only World Heritage Site in Northern Ireland. Resulting from a volcanic eruption 60 million years ago, this is the focal point for a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has attracted visitors for centuries. From the visitor centre, follow the tarred roadway and footpath which descends a steep slope. This will take you to 'The Stookans' - or Windy Gap, as locals call it. Here the walker is often exposed to the wild Atlantic elements. Continue along the tarred roadway and quickly the first signs of the hexagonal causeway stones will appear.

**1330** Leave the Giants Causeway for a short walk to the Causeway Hotel for lunch.

**1445** Depart for Castlerock

**1515** Chocolate Manor

The Chocolate Manor is a luxury artisan chocolate producer & Artisan Food Emporium based in Castlerock. The Chocolate Manor has grown from humble beginnings in a home kitchen on the North Coast of Ireland to working with 5-star restaurants and receiving commissions for members of the Royal Family. In 2015, the first range of printed chocolate bars to enter the retail sector of Northern Ireland were courtesy of The Chocolate Manor which allowed customers to bring their words to life through the delight of personalised chocolate. Alongside this, there is a

selection of 50g bars available in milk and white chocolate which showcase local slang such as, “What’s the Craic’ or ‘Bout Ye”. The expert team of chocolatiers at The Chocolate Manor are devoted to their love of chocolate and believe it should be shared and as such, they offer scheduled and private workshops running hands-on crafting workshops for adults and children, chocolate tastings, and educational sessions on the origins of chocolate and Ireland’s North Coast connection to the indulgence of chocolate. A visit to The Chocolate Manor is a must, not only for the pleasure of enjoying Geri’s delicious chocolates but also to share an experience with family or friends.

**1615 Depart for your hotel**

**1645 Check in to your hotel located on the Causeway Coast**  
Freshen up before leaving hotel for Ballycastle Music Trail

**1730 Ballycastle Trad Trail**

This is an exciting new cultural experience set in Ballycastle drawing inspiration from nearby Rathlin Island, Scotland, and the Glens of Antrim. ‘Step into the Tunes’ and walk with two experienced musical guides through old Ballycastle’s oldest pubs and soak in the stories and history of traditional music in the area. Ballycastle is located at the top of the island of Ireland and as such boasts of strong links with Scotland tied together by our musical and cultural heritage.

**2000 Dinner in Central Wine Bar**

**2200 Return to your hotel for overnight**

## **Day 2 - Saturday 23rd September 2023**

**0900 Depart the Causeway Coast**

**1100 Arrive in Belfast**

**1100 Titanic Distillers**

The first distillery in Belfast for 87 years is now open! In the heart of the Maritime Mile, where the Titanic once stood is Thompson Dock and Pumphouse – the home of Titanic Distillers. Once dwarfed by the great ship, the Pumphouse stood in the shadows. Now you can come and walk in the footsteps of the shipyard workers, the air thick with stories of former glory, and experience the new spirit of Belfast’s famous docklands. Just a five-minute walk from the Titanic Hotel, explore the true home of Titanic. Learn first-hand about the characters that have shaped and inspired the Titanic Distillers story and whiskey.

**1230 Lunch in the City (Optional)**

*Delegates will make their own way to the airports*