

## Discovering Belfast and Beyond

### Buyers only

### Friday 22 - Sunday 24 September 2023

#### Day 1 Friday 22nd September 2023

**0915** Meet your guide (Location TBA)

**0930** Depart

**1000 Hillsborough Castle and Gardens**

On your visit you will hear stories of celebration, entertainment, diplomacy, and negotiation as you explore Hillsborough Castle's fascinating history and stunning State Rooms. From grand family home to charming royal residence, Hillsborough Castle has welcomed the world and witnessed pivotal moments in history for over three hundred years. Home to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland since the 1970s, Hillsborough Castle has played a central role in the peacebuilding process for 40 years. Hillsborough Castle's glorious gardens, developed from the 1760s onwards, are a joy to explore and include ornamental grounds, peaceful woodland, meandering waterways and picturesque glens.

**1100** Depart

**1130 Belfast Food Tour-Taste and Tour**

Discover the real Belfast, one bite at a time, with Caroline. She's passionate about Northern Irish food, about Belfast and about introducing visitors to both. Her tours take you into quiet streets and behind closed doors. Here you'll meet the people who are using fantastic local ingredients in innovative ways to create world-class products. These are producers with an infectious love for their food and drink. They want to share it, talk about it and help you enjoy it. It's a great way to encounter the real spirit of the people of Belfast – and enjoy some fabulous food. As Caroline says, "The Northern Irish welcome is legendary, so with the locals we meet along the way, guests get to experience the true spirit of hospitality here."

**1400** Depart for Banbridge

#### **1445 Game of Thrones Exhibition**

Created in official partnership with Warner Bros., the world's first and only Game of Thrones Studio Tour has arrived in Northern Ireland. Located at the authentic filming location of Linen Mill Studios in Banbridge, County Down, Game of Thrones Studio Tour invites you to experience the world of Game of Thrones like never before. Located just 30 minutes from Belfast (90 minutes from Dublin), this is an unbelievable opportunity for fans of the show to immerse themselves in an expansive collection of costumes, props, sets and weapons, and to discover the artistry that designed the Seven Kingdoms and brought the story of Game of Thrones® to life on screen. At over 100,000 sq. ft, the interactive experience reveals the world of Westeros, giving fans and visitors the chance to walk through iconic sets of King's Landing and Winterfell, as well as delve deep into the world behind the screen, from the earliest concepts to the jaw-dropping final cuts

#### **1600 Depart and check-in to your hotel- The Holiday Inn**

Return to Belfast for some free time

#### **1900 Dinner in one of Belfast City's award-winning restaurants**

#### **2100 Return to your hotel for overnight or enjoy the City's Nightlife!**

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

#### **0900 Depart for Armagh**

#### **0945 Long Meadow Cider**

Long Meadow Cider are third generation apple growers, growing apples for over 50 years on a 28acre farm near Loughgall village. In January 2014, the company diversified into the cider industry and have been winning many prestigious awards for their produce, namely the Great Taste Awards and Irish Food and Drink Blas Nah Eireann Awards. All their products are produced from apples grown on the home farm and are 100% natural as well as gluten free. Owned and operated by the McKeever family, visitors to the heart of Ireland's orchard county can enjoy guided tours of Long Meadow orchard from late 2017. Walking through the orchards, visitors will learn about the different apple growing systems and can pick apples at harvest time (Sept – Oct). Your guided tour will also feature a visit to the cider premises to include apple storage facilities, cider press and information on the fermentation process.

**1130 Depart for Derry-Londonderry**

**1330 Ebrington Hotel Site Visit and light lunch**

Excitement is building for the opening of the new Ebrington Hotel in June 2023. The new 152-bedroom hotel is set to transform the former Ebrington Barracks site in the city. The famous Ebrington clock tower is to take centre stage of the renovation of the building, with the hotel taking advantage of its amazing views of the peace bridge and city centre. As well as a hotel, the site will offer spa experiences to heighten the level of luxury on offer being the only spa hotel in Derry.

**1445 Tour of the NEW Visit Derry Visitor Centre**

A LegenDerry welcome awaits you at our brand-new state-of-the-art Visitor Information Centre in Waterloo Place. Immerse yourself in our interactive experiences and learn all about the history of the Walled City.

**1500 Commence Derry-Londonderry City Tour**

Meet your Derry-Londonderry walking Guide for a guided walking tour of Ireland's only completely walled city. Bringing the history of the walls to life and telling their stories in a sensitive way learn more about the varied and poignant stories of the city - The Bloody Sunday Story, the Apprentice Boys history, the traditions of the marching season, the famous murals and of course the walls themselves.

**1630 Tour of the Guildhall**

Sitting within reach of our famous 400-year-old Walls is one of the City's most recognisable - and arguably one of the most stunning - landmarks, the Guildhall. It has been in the heart of city life since 1887 and the auburn brick building is the anchor for the buzzing Guildhall Square. The Guildhall's most arresting feature is its collection of stunning stained-glass windows. Donated by London Companies, they represent everything from fishmongers to musicians.

**1630 New Derry Girls Exhibition at the Tower Museum**

The exhibition, featuring props from the multi-award-winning Channel 4 comedy. Aunt Sarah's pyjamas, Erin's diary and the famous Our Lady of Immaculate Conception school uniform are among the items which will be on display from as part of a new Derry Girls exhibition.

**1730 Check in to your hotel and freshen up before dinner**

**1900 Dinner in Browns Bond Hill**

Committed to local produce and supporting local suppliers, Browns Bonds Hill and its sister restaurants within the Browns Bonds Hill Collection are recommended by the Michelin Guide every year, in addition to that, they boast prestigious AA stars for culinary excellence. Famed for unique events hosted by Chef Patron Ian Orr from wine dinners to cookery demonstrations and midweek foodie offers which indulge diners in tasting menus with paired wines, a visit to Browns Bonds Hill is a must for any visitor to the northwest.

**2100** Return to your Derry-Londonderry hotel or enjoy the City's Nightlife!

### **Day 3 Sunday 23rd September 2023**

**0900** Depart for Belfast

**1100** Arrival

*Free time in the city for those not yet ready to depart*

*Delegates will make their own way to the airports*