

# Northern Ireland Causeway

**Tour Style:** Guided Trails  
**Destination:** Northern Ireland  
**Trip code:** XCLDW  
**Trip Walking Grade:** 2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Flanked by the wild Atlantic Ocean and lush green glens and valleys, the Causeway Coast gives us a taste of the very best of the North Irish coastline. Often cited as the 8th wonder of the world, it's home to the geological masterpiece of Giant's Causeway, as well as knee-knocking Carrick-A-Rede rope bridge, and wildlife rich Rathlin Island. This ruggedly unspoilt coast is full of character, charisma and craic. We've handpicked the very best of its walks to introduce you to a wealth of wildlife, wilderness and more. Enjoy being guided on the very best walks the area has to offer, and relax knowing all your accommodation, transport and meals are taken care of, you just need to put on your boots and enjoy the journey.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in the seaside town of Ballycastle
- All meals included.
- Guided walks each day
- Experienced HF Holidays Walking Leader
- All transport to and from the walks
- Return group transfer to Belfast
- A return flight from London is included in our "with-flight" price

- Regional flights are available on request

## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the stories and histories of Belfast with our local guide
- Explore the towering basalt columns of Giants Causeway UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Snap shots of wildlife on beautiful Rathlin island
- Test your metal on the Carrick-A-Rede rope bridge
- All meals included. Comfortable ensuite accommodation Belfast & Ballycastle
- Guided walks each day

## TRIP SUITABILITY

This Best of the Causeway Coast Guided Trail holiday is graded 2 which involves walks/hikes on good paths, and includes plenty of time for photography and sightseeing stops along the way. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness required to join this holiday. A sustained effort is required to complete this walk and provision cannot be made for anyone who opts out. Please be sure you can manage the daily mileage and ascent as listed. The walking day is normally 6-7 hours. It is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace. It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina.



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrival Day

Meet at the hotel reception 1830 for a quick introduction to the holiday before dinner. If you're in Belfast early, take time to visit the Titanic museum, it's well worth it, and if you've the energy after dinner, take a stroll to the famous Crown Bar, and enjoy the craic.

## Day 2: North To The Causeway Coast

Our local guide takes us on a discovery of the stories and histories of Belfast this morning, before we head north to the Causeway Coast, with time to explore the mystical "Dark Hedges" on the way. Time to relax at the hotel this afternoon, or join us for a walking tour of charming Ballycastle, our base for the rest of our holiday.

## Day 3: Giant's Causeway

This has to be one of the best walks in Northern Ireland, and leads from the clifftop ruins of Dunseverick Castle, to the geological wonder and world famous UNESCO site of Giant's Causeway. Plenty of time to explore as our walk takes us through the towering basalt columns (the tallest is 12m high and there are approx. 40,000 of these impressive hexagonal columns in total). Our transport picks us up from here and takes us on to Dunluce Castle for a short visit, before we head back to Ballycastle.

*Please note – entrance to the visitor centre at Giant's Causeway & Dunluce Castle has not been included in the price, as many of you will be entitled to free or reduced entrance fee if you have National Trust membership.*

*5.5miles (9km) with 1850ft (570m) of ascent*

## Day 4: White Park Bay & Ballintoy

Explore the spectacular beach and its rock formations at White Park Bay before following the Causeway Coastal Path past Ballintoy harbour to the viewing point at the Carrick a Rede bridge. Time to enjoy the dramatic scenery before heading for Ballintoy village for a well deserved cuppa or something stronger.

*6 miles (9.5km) with 850 feet (260m) of ascent*

## Day 5: Rathlin Island

Rathlin Island. The northernmost point of the [Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty](#), and home to tens of thousands of seabirds including guillemots, kittiwakes, puffins and razorbills. Stunning walking today, and plenty of free time this afternoon to visit the RSPB centre, the lighthouse, take a bus tour of the island, or to take the ferry back to Ballycastle and relax at our hotel.

*6 miles (9.5km) with 550ft (170m) of ascent*

## Day 6: Fairhead

Breathtaking views from the cliff tops of Fairhead on this wild and ruggedly beautiful walk. Fantastic views towards Ballycastle and Rathlin Island, and to picturesque Murlough Bay.

*4 miles (6.5km) with 870ft (270m) of ascent*

## Day 7: Glenariff

Home to Northern Ireland's most impressive waterfalls, we'll follow the forest trails that showcase the best of the park before joining a section of Moyle Way from Lara Lodge, to finish in the pretty Glenariff/Watertop Village. On our route home we'll make a stop to discover the stories and histories of Loughareema/The Vanishing Lake.

*7.5miles (12km) with 425feet (130m) of ascent and 1120feet (345m) of descent*

## Day 8: Departure Day

A morning group transfer takes us back to Belfast today, to the City airport, and afterwards (on request) to Great Victoria Street railway station.

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## ACCOMMODATION

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### The Clayton Hotel, Belfast

The Clayton Hotel, Belfast, is a comfortable 4\* hotel, in the perfect location. A short walk from the railway station, and easily reachable from the airport bus route, the Clayton is the ideal base for us to explore the city from. All rooms have tea/coffee making facilities, free wifi, TV, hairdryer etc. There's a swimming pool at the hotel too.

### Marine Hotel, Ballycastle

A cracking seafront location in the heart of charming Ballycastle, the 3\* Marine Hotel looks out over the town's beautiful beach and marina, and gives us the perfect base for our walks exploring the Causeway Coast. All rooms are comfortable en-suites, with tea/coffee making facilities, TV, hairdryer, and free Wi-Fi is available in the public areas.

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## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Food & Transport

#### Packed lunches

Our packed lunches will be too much food for some and not enough for others, if you feel you might need more food during the walk, please bring a supply of snacks to supplement this – it won't always be possible to buy these on the route. Your packed lunches will include: bread sandwiches or rolls with a choice of filling; some fresh fruit; fruit cake/flapjack or similar, crisps and/or yoghurt, fruit, biscuits.

#### Dietary Requirements

Our partner hotels can cater for most dietary requirements, but it is important you advise us of any allergies and dietary restrictions you have at the time of booking.

#### Luggage Transfers

When you change from one Hotel to another we will arrange for your luggage to be transferred for you. This is included in the cost of your holiday. Please remember that other people will need to move your suitcase so please pack thoughtfully with a maximum of 20 kilos. If you can limit your luggage to one bag, rucksack or suitcase that would be very helpful. Please make sure your bags are clearly labelled with your name and "HF Holidays".

#### Luggage Transfers

We will arrange for your luggage to be transferred for you. This is included in the cost of your holiday. Please remember that other people will need to move your suitcase so please pack thoughtfully with a maximum of 20 kilos. If you can limit your luggage to one bag, rucksack or suitcase that would be very helpful. Please make sure your bags are clearly labelled with your name and "HF Holidays".

### Joining Instructions

This holiday begins in Belfast. For those who have booked our "with flight" option, you will fly from London to Belfast City airport, from where you will be transferred to the Clayton Hotel.

Your holiday ends in Belfast. If you have booked our "with flight" option, we will take you back to Belfast city airport. If you have booked without-flight, you're welcome to either leave the holiday in Ballycastle, or to join

the group transfer back to Belfast on the departure day, and we will make a stop at the airport and at Great Victoria Street railway station on request (times to coincide with group flights).

## Essential Information

### Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment need to be suitable for the conditions. Safety and comfort are our priorities, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents
- Waterproof walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares)
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast-drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers
- Warm hat and gloves. Gaiters are an optional but useful extra
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Thermos flask for a hot drink
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre)
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar
- Small torch
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed)

### Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents
- Insect repellent
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Camera

## Trip Information

### Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance and any other personal insurance relevant to you and the holiday. It is particularly important with the possibility of flight changes and cancellations due to the challenging weather conditions that can occur on the islands and might impact your onward travel arrangements.

## Safety On Your Holiday

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests.

Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest while clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass.

**Please note:** If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you.

If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact

phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

## Useful Information

### Ticks

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

## HOW TO BOOK

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When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 5.30pm, Saturday: 9am – 1pm, Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

### PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

### NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit [hfholidays.co.uk/membership](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

### BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: National Westminster Bank, Account Name: HF Holidays Limited, Account Number: 48904805, Sort Code: 60-00-01, IBAN: GB90NWBK60000148904805

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

### MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the [Manage My Booking](#) function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

### YOUR FINAL BALANCE

Your final balance payment is due 6 weeks before departure if you are staying in an HF Holidays UK country house, 8 weeks before departure if you are travelling on one of our holidays in Europe and 10 weeks before departure if you are on a Guided Trail staying in one of our partner hotels or are travelling on a Worldwide holiday. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on [01702 427 236](tel:01702427236) or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://hfholidays.co.uk/insurance)

## PEACE OF MIND

### ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website [atol.org.uk](http://atol.org.uk)

### MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

## TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

## PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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